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## ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 6 - 12 Aug 2019

### Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

#### OVERVIEW

During 6 – 12 Aug 19, one CAT 2<sup>1</sup> and two CAT 4<sup>2</sup> incidents of armed robbery against ship were reported to the ReCAAP ISC.

The CAT 2 incident occurred on board a chemical tanker while underway waiting for pilot at approximately 5 nm north of Tanjung Priok, Jakarta, Indonesia. Six perpetrators armed with knives boarded the tanker and assaulted the Chief Engineer. The alarm was raised and the perpetrators escaped empty-handed.

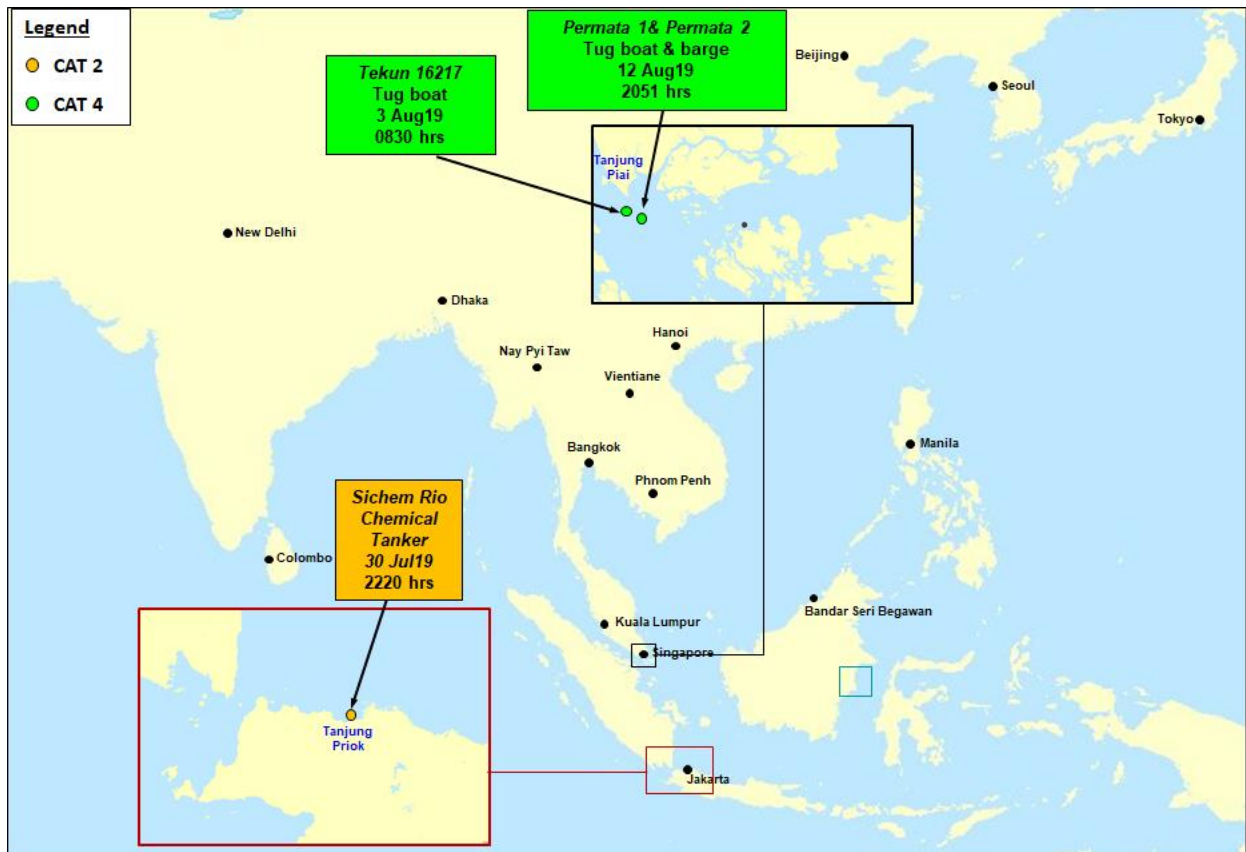
The two CAT 4 incidents occurred to tug boats towing barges while underway in the Singapore Strait. Both incidents occurred south of Tanjung Piai, Johor, Malaysia and involved perpetrators who boarded the barges from small boats. They escaped after stealing some scrap metal from the barges.

The location of the three incidents is shown in the map next page, and description tabulated in the attachment.

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<sup>1</sup> The ReCAAP ISC classifies CAT (Category) 2 incident as moderately significant. Under this category, the perpetrators are likely to be armed with knives/machetes and in some incidents armed with guns. The crew is threatened or held hostage temporarily and, in some cases, the crew suffered injury and physical violence.


<sup>2</sup> CAT (Category) 4 incident is classified as 'least significant' in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators were not armed, and the crew not harmed.



## SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH

As the risk of the abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah is high as demonstrated by the abduction of 9 crew<sup>3</sup> on 18 Jun 19, the ReCAAP ISC reiterates its advisory issued via the *ReCAAP ISC Incident Alert* dated 21 Nov 16 to all ships to reroute from the area, where possible. Otherwise, ship masters and crew are strongly urged to exercise extra vigilance while transiting the area, and report immediately to the Operation Centres of Philippines and Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM) of Malaysia. The contact details of the Operation Centres of the Philippines and ESSCOM of Malaysia (updated by ReCAAP ISC on 3 Jan 19) are as follows:

<sup>3</sup> The nine abducted crew were released on 21 Jun 19.



The map shows the Sulu Sea to the north and the Celebes Sea to the south. Three contact points are marked: 1 (Zamboanga), 2a and 2b (Bongao), and 3 (Lahad Datu).

- 1 Philippine Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao**  
Tel: +63 998 585 7972  
+63 917 842 8446  
VHF: Channel 16 with call-sign "NEPTUNE"  
Email: [hcgdswm@yahoo.com](mailto:hcgdswm@yahoo.com)
- 2a Philippine Coast Guard Station, Bongao (Central Tawi-Tawi)**  
Tel: +63 998 585 7941  
+63 917 842 8402  
VHF: Channel 16  
Email: [cgd\\_tawi2@yahoo.com](mailto:cgd_tawi2@yahoo.com)
- 2b Philippine Navy - Littoral Monitoring Station (LMS), Bongao, Tawi-Tawi**  
Tel: +63 955 714 0153  
VHF: Channel 16  
Email: [jointtaskgroup@gmail.com](mailto:jointtaskgroup@gmail.com)
- 3 Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM)**  
Tel: +60 89863181/016  
Fax: +60 89863182  
VHF: Channel 16 with call-sign "ESSCOM"  
Email: [bilikgerakan\\_esscom@jpm.gov.my](mailto:bilikgerakan_esscom@jpm.gov.my)

#### Contact details

In the event that the ship master is not able to establish contact with the Operation Centres of the Philippines as listed in the ReCAAP ISC Advisory, he can contact the **Philippine Coast Guard Command Centre** at the following contact details:

Tel: +63-2-5273877 (direct)  
+63-2-527-8481 to 89 (ext: 6136/37)  
+63-917-724-3682 (mobile)  
+63-929-825-3207 (mobile)

Email: [pcgcomcen@coastguard.gov.ph](mailto:pcgcomcen@coastguard.gov.ph)

#### Guidance on the Abduction of Crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and Waters off Eastern Sabah

The ReCAAP ISC has produced the "Guidance on the Abduction of Crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and Waters off Eastern Sabah" to assist the shipping industry and ships to enhance their situation awareness and avoid such incidents. The Guidance consists of advisory on the measures to be taken by the ships transiting the area, including contact details and the Notice to Mariners (NOTAM) issued by the Philippines and Malaysia. It also shares the analysis of incidents based on the information collected from past incidents. The Guidance can be found at [www.recaap.org](http://www.recaap.org).

#### RECOMMENDATION

The ReCAAP ISC urges ship master and crew to report all incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships to the nearest coastal State and flag State, exercise vigilance and adopt relevant preventive measures taking reference from the *Regional Guide to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia*.

**Description of Incidents of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships  
6-12 Aug 2019**

	Ship Name Type of Ship Flag Gross Tonnage IMO Number	Date Local time of Incident (LT)	Position of the Incident	Details of the Incident	Consequences for crew, ship, cargo	Action taken by the master and crew	Was the incident reported to the coastal authority? Which one?	Reporting State or International Organization	Coastal State Action Taken
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>INCIDENTS IN ASIA</b>									
<b>ACTUAL INCIDENTS</b>									
1.	<b>Sichem Rio</b> Chemical tanker Malta 8562 9322073	30/7/19  2220 hrs	6° 1.1' N, 106° 52.8' E  Approximately 5 nm north of Tanjung Priok, Indonesia	While waiting for pilot, six perpetrators armed with knives/machete boarded the ship. They assaulted and injured the chief engineer who was on routine rounds. The alarm was raised and crew mustered. Seeing that the crew was alerted, the perpetrators escaped empty handed. The incident was reported to Indonesia's VTS.  (Category 2)	The crew was injured.	The alarm was raised and crew mustered	Yes  Indonesia's VTS	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	Investigation was being carried out by the local authorities.
2.	<b>Tekun 16217</b> Tug boat 163 9517862	3/8/19  0830 hrs	1° 15.21' N, 103° 26.42' E  Off Tanjung Piai, Johor, Malaysia	The Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) while on routine patrol sighted and detained a small wooden boat without registration number along with three crew suspected of sea theft. Upon inspecting the boat, they found more than two tons of scrap metal believed to be stolen from a barge towed by <i>Tekun 16217</i> . The MMEA detained the wooden boat and the three suspects for further investigation.  (Category 4)	The crew was safe	No information	No information	MMEA	Detained the wooden boat and the three suspects for further investigation.

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3.	<b>Permata 1</b> Tug boat Malaysia 128 3702100  <b>Permata 2</b> Barge	12/8/19  2051 hrs	1° 13.66' N, 103° 30.08' E  Approximately 4.3 nm south of Tanjung Piai, Johor, Malaysia (westbound lane of TSS in Singapore Strait)  (SOMS)	While underway to Port Klang from Sarawak, an unknown number of perpetrators boarded the barge from a small boat. They stole some scrap metal and ropes from the barge before escaping. The master raised the alarm and reported the incident to Singapore's VTIS via the VHF. The crew was safe.  (Category 4)	The crew was safe.	The master reported the incident to Singapore's VTIS via VHF.	Yes  Singapore's Port Operations Control Centre (POCC)	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	The Singapore's POCC issued navigational broadcast to alert ships in the vicinity to maintain vigilance, and notified the Singapore Coast Guard, Singapore Navy, RCC Putra Jaya, Malaysia.