



Website : [www.recaap.org](http://www.recaap.org)  
 Tel : +65 6376 3063  
 Fax : +65 6376 3066  
 Email : [info@recaap.org](mailto:info@recaap.org)

## ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 10-16 Nov 2020


### Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

#### OVERVIEW

During 10-16 Nov 20, the ReCAAP ISC did not receive report of incident of piracy or armed robbery against ships in Asia. However, the ReCAAP ISC would like to advise ships to continue to exercise utmost vigilance, and littoral States to increase patrols and enforcement in areas of concern, including the Singapore Strait and at ports and anchorages.

#### 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 incident on 17 Jan 20 and information of planned kidnapping in Sabah and Semporna, Malaysia (as reported in ReCAAP ISC's Warning issued on 2 Jul 20), and the latest operation on 3 Nov by the Philippine authorities in preventing a kidnap-for-ransom incident, the ReCAAP ISC reiterates its advisory issued via 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:



The map shows the Sulu Sea to the north and the Celebes Sea to the south. Key locations marked include Lahad Datu, Bongao, and Zamboanga. Contact points are indicated by numbered circles: 1 (Philippine Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao), 2a and 2b (Philippine Coast Guard Station, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi), and 3 (Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM)).

- 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: +632-8-527-8481 (ext: 6136/37)

+632-998-585-5327 (mobile)

+632-917-842-8249 (mobile)

+632-8-527-3877 (fax)

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

The ReCAAP ISC advises the shipping industry and ships to enhance their situation awareness by referring to the *Guidance on Abduction of Crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and Waters off Eastern Sabah* produced by ReCAAP ISC in July 2019. The Guidance is available 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*.