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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report

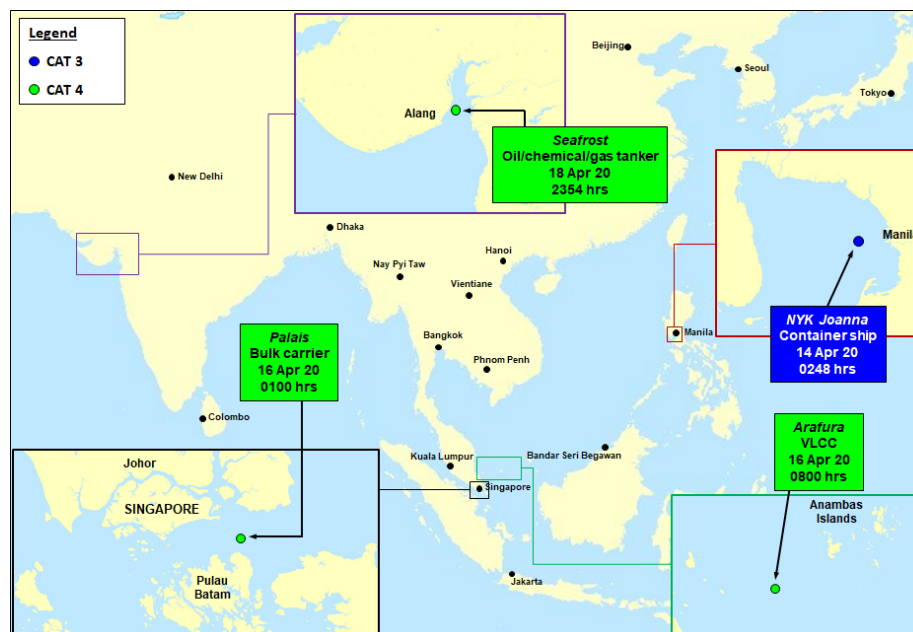
14-20 April 2020

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 14-20 Apr 20, four incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. Of the four incidents, one was a piracy incident (CAT 4¹) that occurred on board a VLCC while underway in the South China Sea. The three incidents of armed robbery against ships were a CAT 3² incident that occurred on board a container ship while anchored at Manila International Container Terminal (MICT) Breakwater, Philippines, two CAT 4 incidents that occurred on board, a bulk carrier while underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait and an oil tanker while anchored off Alang Anchorage, India.

The location of the incidents is shown in the map below; and detailed description of the incidents tabulated in the attachment.




Location of the incidents

¹ CAT (Category) 4 incident is classified as “least significant” in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators were not armed, and the crew not harmed.

² CAT (Category) 3 incident is ‘less significant’ in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators could be armed with knives/machetes or other items such as sticks or rods. The crew was not harmed although there remains a small possibility that the crew could be subjected to duress or threat during the incident but not harmed physically. In most CAT 3 cases, the perpetrators were unable to steal anything from the vessel, but in cases where losses were reported, stores and engine spares were commonly targeted items.

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 recurrence of the abduction incident on 17 Jan 20, 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 (Philippine Coast Guard Station, Bongao), 2b (Philippine Navy - Littoral Monitoring Station (LMS), Bongao), 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
- 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
- 2b Philippine Navy - Littoral Monitoring Station (LMS), Bongao, Tawi-Tawi**
Tel: +63 955 714 0153
VHF: Channel 16
Email: 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

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

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.

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
14-20 April 2020**

| | 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 coastal authority? Which one? | Reporting State or International Organization | Coastal State Taken | State Action |
|--------------------------|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|--|--------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | |
| INCIDENTS IN ASIA | | | | | | | | | | |
| ACTUAL INCIDENTS | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. | Seafrost Oil/chemical/gas tanker Palau 11013 8517061 | 18/04/20 2354 hrs | 21° 25.9' N 72° 19.8' E Off Alang Anchorage, India | While <i>Seafrost</i> towed by tug boat, <i>Atlantis</i> was waiting for demolition, some perpetrators boarded the unmanned <i>Seafrost</i> from a dinghy boat. Some ship property was stolen. The master of the tug boat reported the incident to VTS Khambhat, who relayed the message to the Indian Coast Guard. The Coast Guard Station Pipavav requested Marine Police Alang and Customs Bhavnagar to investigate the matter. Further investigation is in progress. (Category 4) | The crew was not injured. Some ship property was stolen. | No information available | Yes VTS Khambhat | ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (India) | VTS Khambhat relayed the message to the Indian Coast Guard. The Coast Guard Station Pipavav requested Marine Police Alang and Customs Bhavnagar to investigate the matter. Further investigation is in progress. | |
| 2. | Arafura VLCC Belgium 154163 9728708 | 16/04/20 0800 hrs | 2° 29.5' N 105° 5.8' E Approximately 40 nm southwest of Anambas Island, Indonesia (South China Sea) | While en route from port of Sungai Linggi, Malaysia to Qingdao, China, the master of the VLCC discovered that padlocks to restricted spaces were cut with heavy cutter. A breathing apparatus air compressor unit and various spare parts were found stolen. The master conducted a search on board the ship, but did not see the perpetrators. The crew was not injured. The master reported the incident to ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) via email. The Republic of Singapore Navy and Singapore Police Coast Guard were informed; and the Malaysian and Indonesian | The crew was not injured. Padlocks to restricted spaces were cut with heavy cutter. A breathing apparatus air compressor unit and various spare parts were found stolen. | The master conducted a search on board the ship and reported the incident to ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) via email. | No | ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) | The Republic of Singapore Navy and Singapore Police Coast Guard were informed; and the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities were notified. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. | |

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|----|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| | | | | <p>authorities were notified. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated.</p> <p>(Category 4)</p> | | | | | |
| 3. | <p>Palais Bulk carrier Marshall Islands 41605 9646649</p> | <p>16/04/20 0100 hrs</p> | <p>1° 14.95' N 104° 6.33' E</p> <p>Approximately 3.2 nm north of Nongsa Point, Pulau Batam, Indonesia in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait</p> <p>(Straits of Malacca & Singapore)</p> | <p>While en route from Singapore to China, the master of the bulk carrier reported to Singapore VTIS East on the sighting of three perpetrators at the stern of the ship. There was no confrontation between the perpetrators and the crew. The master raised the alarm and a search on board the ship was conducted to locate the perpetrators, but with no sighting of them. The master reported that the crew was safe and some engine spare parts were stolen.</p> <p>The Singapore Police Coast Guard and Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) were informed; and the Indonesian authorities were notified. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated to alert mariners.</p> <p>(Category 4)</p> | <p>The crew was safe.</p> <p>Some engine spare parts were stolen.</p> | <p>The master raised the alarm and a search on board the ship was conducted to locate the perpetrators.</p> | <p>Yes</p> <p>Singapore VTIS East</p> | <p>ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)</p> | <p>The Singapore Police Coast Guard and RSN were informed; and the Indonesian authorities were notified. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated to alert mariners.</p> |

| | 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 coastal authority? Which one? | Reporting State or International Organization | Coastal State Action Taken |
|----|--|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| 4. | NYK Joanna Container ship Singapore 27003 9387449 | 14/04/20 0248 hrs | 14° 36.05' N 120° 52.15' E Approximately 4 nm west of Manila International Container Terminal (MICT) Breakwater, Philippines | <p>While at anchor, the duty roving noticed an unlit small motor banca near the starboard quarter of the ship. He reported to the duty officer who raised the alarm and made an announcement through the PA system. One of the crew was directed to proceed to the forward station; and he heard the banging of door and people talking. The Chief Officer together with two crew proceeded to the forward station to verify the situation. They noticed one perpetrator with a knife standing at the hawse pipe area of the ship (port side) and one perpetrator running from the bosun store and escaped through the port hawse pipe in the unlit small motor banca.</p> <p>The crew was mustered and a search and check of the inventory of the ship's property were conducted. A set of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), a piece of flashlight and three sets of chain blocks were stolen. The crew was not injured. The master of the ship reported the incident to VTMS Manila and Coast Guard Station Manila. The Philippine Coast Guard boarded the ship and conducted an inquiry of the incident.</p> <p>(Category 3)</p> | <p>The crew was not injured.</p> <p>A set of SCBA, a piece of flashlight and three sets of chain blocks were stolen.</p> | <p>The duty officer raised the alarm and made an announcement through the PA system.</p> <p>One of the crew was directed to proceed to the forward station. The Chief Officer together with two crew also proceeded to the forward station to verify the situation.</p> <p>The crew was mustered and a search and check of the inventory of the ship's property were conducted.</p> | <p>Yes</p> <p>VTMS Manila and Coast Guard Station Manila</p> | <p>ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines) and ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)</p> | <p>The Philippine Coast Guard from Coast Guard Station Manila boarded the ship and conducted an inquiry of the incident.</p> |