



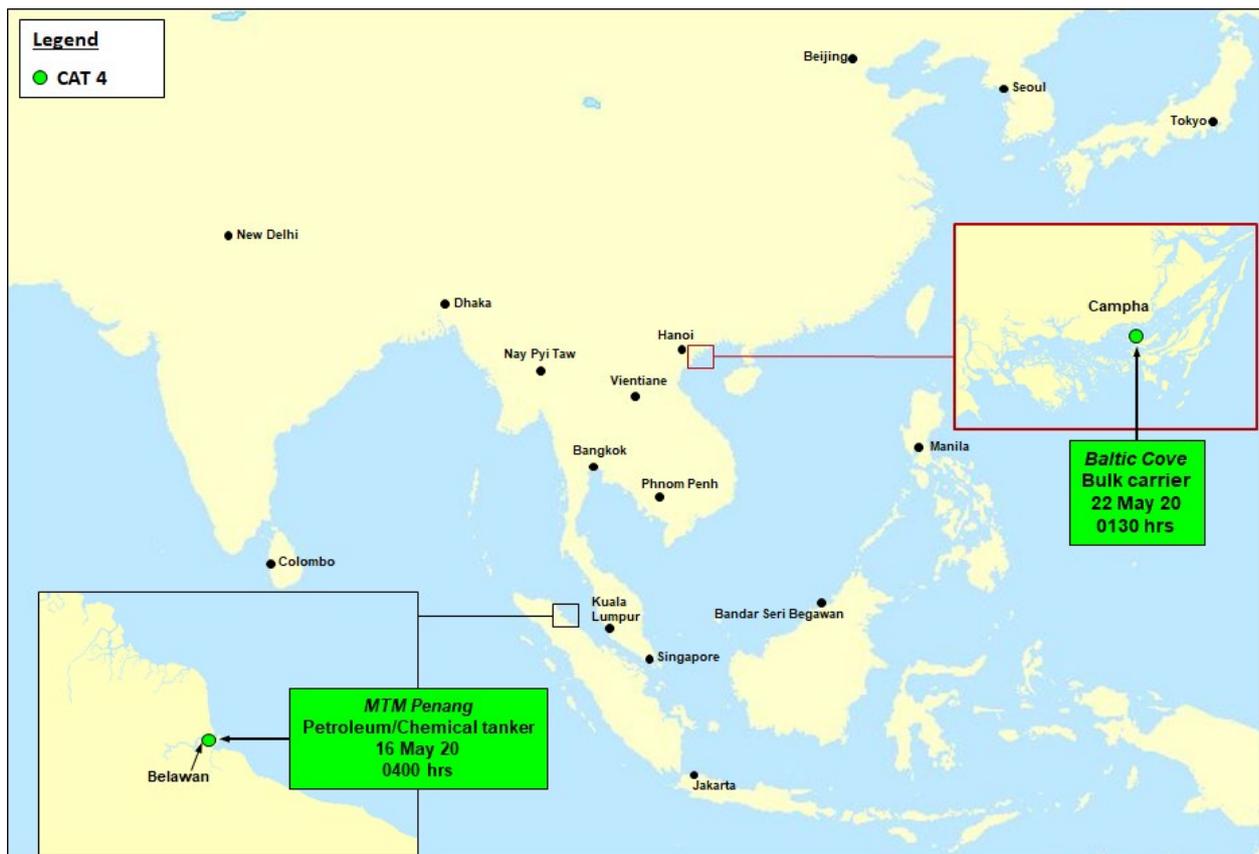
Website : [www.recaap.org](http://www.recaap.org)  
 Tel : +65 6376 3063  
 Fax : +65 6376 3066  
 Email : [info@recaap.org](mailto:info@recaap.org)

## ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 19-25 May 2020

### Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

#### OVERVIEW

During 19-25 May 20, two incidents of armed robbery against ship in Asia were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. Both were CAT 4<sup>1</sup> incidents. The incidents occurred on board a tanker while berthed at Belawan Port, Indonesia and on board a bulk carrier while anchored at Campha Anchorage, Vietnam. The location of the incidents is shown in the map below; and detailed description of the incidents tabulated in the attachment.



Location of incidents

<sup>1</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.

## WITHDRAWAL OF AN INCIDENT OF ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIP

In ReCAAP ISC's Weekly Report (12-18 May 20), it was reported that an incident of armed robbery against ship had occurred on board a supply vessel, *Revelation* towing accommodation work barge, *Pandan 4504* on 18 May 20 while they were underway in the westbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Malacca Strait. Subsequent investigation carried out by Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA), Johor revealed that the incident was not an incident of theft/robbery on board the barge. The investigation revealed that the crew of fishing boat *JHF A313B*, mistaken as the perpetrators, climbed on board the barge for safety as their fishing boat had nearly capsized due to the fishing net that was entangled to the propeller of the barge.

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

Issuance of Warning. On 22 May, the ReCAAP ISC received information from the Philippine Coast Guard (ReCAAP Focal Point) that a group of approximately five Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) members armed with assorted firearms was planning to conduct kidnapping activities in undisclosed areas in Sabah, Malaysia. They were targeting wealthy businessmen or crew of fishing boats and other slow moving ships plying waters off Sabah, Malaysia. The group came from Sulu and was monitored to have landed at Omapoy Island, Sipangkot, Sitangkai, Tawi tawi. With this information, the ReCAAP ISC issued a Warning to provide maritime situational awareness for mariners operating in the area and strongly urged ship masters and crew to exercise extra vigilance when transiting the waters off Eastern Sabah and in the Sulu-Celebes Seas. The Warning 01-2020 can be found at [www.recaap.org](http://www.recaap.org).

ReCAAP ISC Advisory. 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 and information of planned kidnapping by members of ASG on 22 May 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. Three locations are marked with numbered red circles: 1 (Zamboanga), 2a (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: [hcgdswwm@yahoo.com](mailto:hcgdswwm@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*.

**Description of Incidents of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships  
19-25 May 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	
<b>INCIDENTS IN ASIA</b>										
<b>ACTUAL INCIDENTS</b>										
1.	<b>Baltic Cove</b> Bulk carrier Liberia 23456 9450727	22/05/20 0130 hrs	20° 57.2' N 107° 18.8' E  Campha Anchorage, Vietnam	While at anchor, the duty A/B found some hose nozzles in a drum near the paint store and reported to the duty officer and chief officer. A check was conducted around the stores and a hoisting wire was found missing from the bosun store. The incident was reported to the local agent.  (Category 4)	A hoisting wire was stolen.	No information available	No	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Vietnam)	No information available	
2.	<b>MTM Penang</b> Petroleum/Chemical tanker Singapore 13122 9712591	16/05/20 0400 hrs	3° 47.3' N 98° 41.8' E  Terminal Ujung Baru 107, Belawan Port, Indonesia	While at berth, some stores items from the ship deck and accommodation were reported stolen. Upon investigation, it was assessed that the incident occurred during sampling procedure when all deck watch crew were involved at work. The stolen items could have been removed from the ship starboard side into some waiting boats or were taken by those who present on board the ship. The incident was reported to the local authority. The crew was not injured.  (Category 4)	The crew was not injured.  Some stores items were stolen.	No information available	Yes  Local authority	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information available	