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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 24-30 Nov 2020

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 24-30 Nov 20, five incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. Of the five incidents, one was a CAT 2¹ incident, two were CAT 3² incidents and two were CAT 4³ incidents.

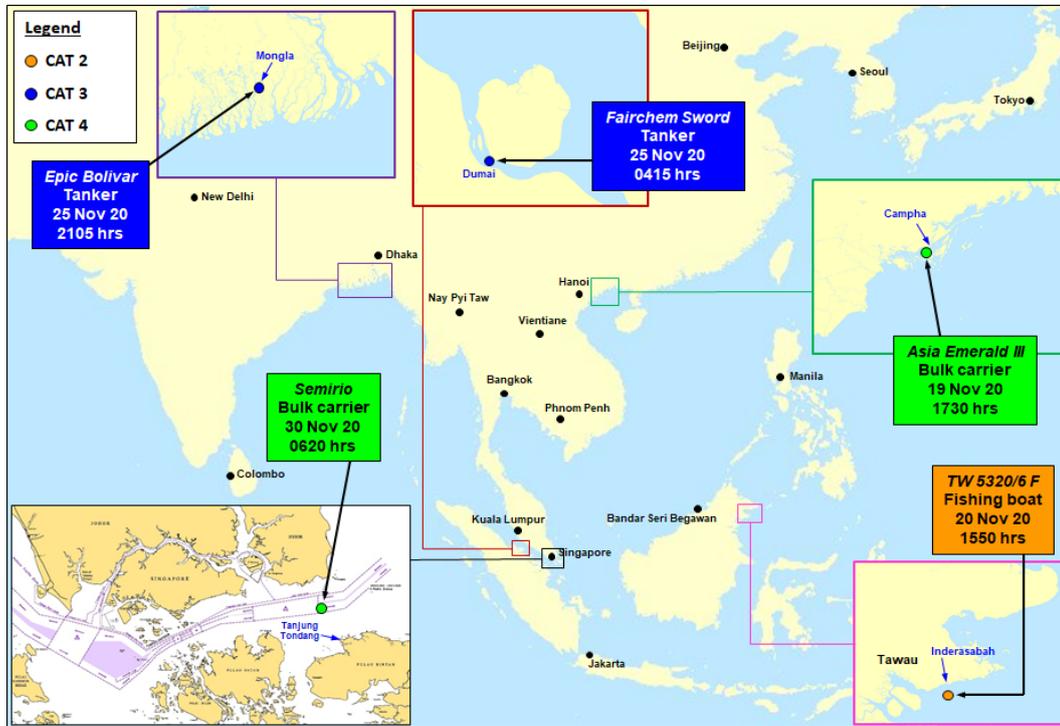
The CAT 2 incident occurred on 20 Nov on board a fishing boat while underway off Inderasabah, Tawau, East Malaysia. Of the two CAT 3 incidents, one occurred on 25 Nov on board a tanker while anchored at Dumai Anchorage, Indonesia and the other occurred on 25 Nov on board a tanker while anchored in Pussur River, Mongla, Bangladesh. Among the two CAT 4 incidents, one occurred on 19 Nov on board a bulk carrier while anchored at Inner Anchorage, Campha, Vietnam and the other occurred on 30 Nov on board a bulk carrier while underway in the Singapore Strait. The location of the five incidents is shown in the map on the next page; and detailed description of the incidents tabulated in the attachment.

With the latest incident in the Singapore Strait, a total of 34 incidents have been reported in the Singapore Strait during January-November 2020 compared to 31 incidents occurred during the entire year of 2019. The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the continued occurrence of incidents in the Singapore Strait; and had issued a Special Report on 23 Nov to provide an insight of the incidents, modus operandi of the perpetrators and recommendations to the shipping industry and authorities of littoral States to address the situation collectively in order to arrest and prosecute the perpetrators.

¹ 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.

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.

³ CAT (Category) 4 incident is classified as "least significant" in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators were not armed, and the crew not harmed.



Location of incidents

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, 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 20 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:

<p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>2b Philippine Navy - Littoral Monitoring Station (LMS), Bongao, Tawi-Tawi Tel: +63 955 714 0153 VHF: Channel 16 Email: jointtaskgroup@gmail.com</p> <p>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</p>
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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
24-30 November 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 Action Taken
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
INCIDENTS IN ASIA									
ACTUAL INCIDENTS									
1.	Semirio Bulk carrier Marshall Islands 88995 9406893	30/11/20 0620 hrs	1° 16.4' N, 104° 15.5' E Approximately 6.4 nm northwest of Tanjung Tondang, Pulau Bintan, Indonesia in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait (SOMS)	While underway, two perpetrators were sighted in the vicinity of the steering gear room. The alarm was raised and a search on board was conducted. At about 0835 hrs, the master updated that there was no further sighting of the perpetrators on board. Some engine spares were declared stolen. All crew are safe and no assistance required. The ship continued her voyage to China. The Republic of Singapore Navy's Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF) and Singapore Police Coast Guard were informed; and the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities were notified. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated to alert mariners. [Category 4]	The crew was not injured. Some engine spares were stolen.	The alarm was raised and a search on board was conducted.	Yes Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS)	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	The Republic of Singapore Navy's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were informed; and the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities were notified. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated to alert mariners.

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2.	Epic Bolivar Tanker Singapore 6036 9254264	25/11/20 2105 hrs	22° 22.99' N, 89° 37.37' E Pussur River, Mongla, Bangladesh	While at anchor, three perpetrators armed with a crowbar boarded the tanker. The duty watchman noticed the perpetrators and informed the bridge. The alarm was raised and crew mustered. Seeing that the crew had been alerted, the perpetrators escaped empty-handed. The crew was not injured. The incident was reported to the port control. [Category 3]	The crew was not injured. Nothing was stolen.	The alarm was raised and crew mustered.	Yes Port control	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information available
3.	Fairchem Sword Tanker Marshall Islands 11752 9673678	25/11/20 0415 hrs	1° 42.93' N, 101° 26.48' E Dumai Anchorage, Indonesia	While at anchor, four perpetrators armed with long knives boarded the tanker, stole auxillary engine spares and escaped. The local authorities were informed and investigation were ongoing. [Category 3]	Auxillary engine spares were stolen.	No information available	Yes Local authorities	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	Investigation is ongoing.
4.	TW 5320/6 F Fishing boat Malaysia	20/11/20 1550 hrs	Tanjung Hantu area, Inderasabah, Tawau, East Malaysia	While underway, three perpetrators approached the fishing boat in a purple-striped white wooden boat (Honda 40 HP). One of the perpetrators was seen carrying a weapon resembling a gun. The perpetrators took away a Yamaha 15HP Outboard Motor (OBM) and the crew's personal belongings and two mobile phones before they left. The police under the command of Eastern Command is currently investigating the incident. [Category 2]	A Yamaha 15HP Outboard Motor (OBM), crew's personal belongings and two mobile phones were stolen.	No information available	Yes	ReCAAP ISC via regional authorities	The police under the command of Eastern Command is currently investigating the incident.

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5.	Asia Emerald III Bulk carrier Singapore 33045 9530682	19/11/20 1730 hrs	20° 55.79' N, 107° 18.06' E Inner Anchorage, Campha, Vietnam	While at anchor and discharging cargo, ship stores (paint) were found stolen from the bulk carrier. The incident was suspected to have taken place on 19 Nov 20 between 1730 hrs and 2030 hrs when the crew was involved in the repair of the ship's equipment. The ship was not damaged and crew not injured. [Category 4]	The crew was not injured. The ship was not damaged. Paint was stolen.	No information available	No	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information available