



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

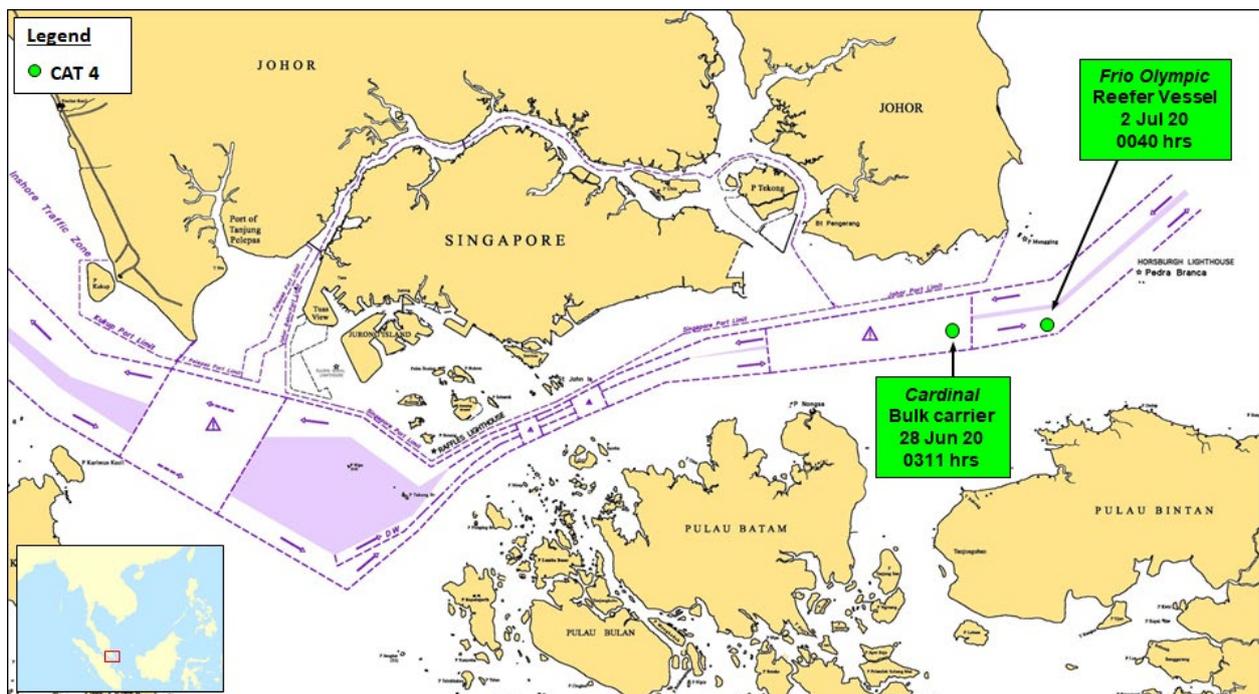
### 30 Jun-6 Jul 2020

## Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

### OVERVIEW

During 30 Jun-6 Jul 20, two incidents of armed robbery against ship in Asia were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. Both were CAT 4<sup>1</sup> incidents that occurred on board ships while they were underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait.

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.

## INCIDENTS OUTSIDE ASIA

During 30 Jun-6 Jul 20, two incidents outside Asia were reported to the ReCAAP ISC by ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore). Both incidents occurred on 2 Jul 20. The first incident occurred on board a Floating Production Storage and Offloading (FPSO) vessel while anchored at Okwori field offshore, Nigeria and the second incident occurred on board a general cargo ship while drifting in the Gulf of Guinea. The detailed description of the incidents is tabulated in the attachment.

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

Issuance of Warning. On 2 Jul, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) informed the ReCAAP ISC that five members of the Abu Sayyaf Group/Kidnap-for-Ransom Group (ASG/KFRG) were sighted in Barangay Sipangkot, Sitangkai, Tawi-Tawi on board a **white with yellow and orange stripes speedboat** powered by 250HP Yamaha engine on 21 Jun. The PCG validated that as of 30 Jun, the plan by the ASG to carry out kidnapping in Sabah and Semporna, Malaysia targeting foreigners and the abduction of crew from ships passing by the Tawi-Tawi and Sabah waters still stands. The ReCAAP ISC issued a Warning on 2 Jul with the latest updates. The Warning 02-2020 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 abduction incident on 17 Jan 20 and information of planned kidnapping in Sabah and Semporna, Malaysia, 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. Four contact points are marked: 1 (Zamboanga), 2a (Bongao), 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: +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  
30 June-6 July 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>Frio Olympic</b> Reefer Vessel Panama 8487 8801802	02/07/20 0040 hrs	1° 16.88' N, 104° 19.1' E  Approximately 5.8 nm northwest of Tanjung Pergam, Pulau Bintan, Indonesia in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait  (SOMS)	While the reefer vessel was en route to Dalian, China, an unknown number of perpetrators were sighted on deck. The master raised the alarm and the perpetrators escaped immediately. The crew conducted a search on board and discovered that four boxes of spare parts were stolen. There was no confrontation with the crew.  The incident was reported to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS). The ship confirmed no assistance was required and resumed her voyage. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The Republic of Singapore Navy's (RSN) Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF), Singapore Police Coast Guard and the Indonesian authorities were notified.  (Category 4)	There was no confrontation with the crew.  Four boxes of spare parts were stolen.	The master raised the alarm and the crew conducted a search on board.	Yes  Singapore VTIS	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN's MSTF, Singapore Police Coast Guard and the Indonesian authorities were notified.	

	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
2.	<b>Cardinal</b> Bulk carrier Marshall Islands 30645 9274575	28/06/20 0311 hrs	1° 16.55' N, 104° 13.83' E  Approximately 7.7 nm northwest of Tanjung Tondang, Pulau Bintan, Indonesia in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait  (SOMS)	While the bulk carrier was en route from Singapore to Qingdao, China, four perpetrators were sighted in the engine room workshop. Upon being sighted, the perpetrators escaped via the emergency steering room to the ship's stern deck. A thorough search on board the ship was conducted twice with no further sighting of the perpetrators. The markings found on ship railings at the stern indicated that the perpetrators had escaped using hooks and ropes. There was no confrontation with the crew and nothing was stolen. The ship resumed her voyage.  The ship's CSO reported the incident to the Singapore Port Operations Control Centre (POCC). A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN, Singapore Police Coast Guard and the Indonesian authorities were notified.  (Category 4)	There was no confrontation between the perpetrators and the crew.  Nothing was stolen.	A thorough search on board the ship was conducted twice.	Yes  Singapore POCC	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN, Singapore Police Coast Guard and the Indonesian authorities were notified.

	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
<b>INCIDENTS OUTSIDE ASIA</b>									
<b>ACTUAL INCIDENTS</b>									
3.	<b>Kota Budi</b> General cargo ship Singapore 20886 9638630	02/07/20 2200 hrs	3° 43.3' N 2° 18.6' E  Approximately 185 nm from nearest ashore, Gulf of Guinea	While the ship was drifting and awaiting for the next order, the AB came on the bridge to start his watch duty and found there was no one on the bridge. The chief officer later found five crew comprising master, chief engineer, 3 <sup>rd</sup> officer, electrical engineer and chief cook missing. The remaining 15 crew on board the ship were safe.  The company reported the incident to MDAT-GOG, Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) and a security company for assistance. The company is working with the local authorities to find the missing crew.	Five crew comprising master, chief engineer, 3 <sup>rd</sup> officer, electrical engineer and chief cook were missing.	No information available	Yes  Local authorities. The company also reported to MDAT-GOG and MPA.	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	The company is working with the local authorities to find the missing crew.
4.	<b>Sendje Berge</b> FPSO vessel Singapore 133871 7360057	02/07/20 0420 hrs	Okwori field offshore, Nigeria	While at anchor, armed pirates boarded the vessel and kidnapped nine crew on board. The remaining crew left on board were not harmed. The FPSO vessel is permanently moored in the Okwori field offshore, Nigeria.	Nine crew were kidnapped.	No information available	Yes  Local authorities	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	The ship manager is cooperating with the local authorities led by the Nigerian Navy.