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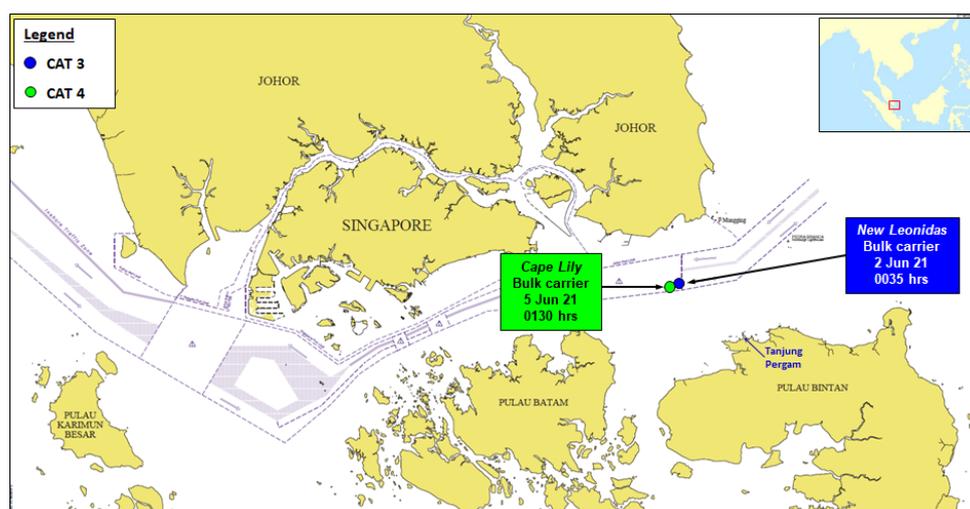
ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 1-7 June 2021

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 1-7 Jun 21, two incidents of armed robbery against ships were reported to the ReCAAP ISC (one CAT 3¹ incident and one CAT 4² incident). Both incidents occurred to ships while underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait (SS). The incidents occurred on 2 Jun and 5 Jun; and were in close proximity to each other (northwest of Tanjung Pergam, Pulau Bintan, Indonesia).

In the incident on 2 Jun, the perpetrators armed with knives were sighted in the steering gear room. The ship alarm was raised and the perpetrators escaped empty-handed. In the incident on 5 Jun, the perpetrators were sighted in the engine room. The alarm was raised, and the perpetrators escaped with some engine spares. The locations of the incidents are shown in map below and detailed description of the incidents tabulated in the attachment.



Location of incidents

With these two incidents, a total of 17 incidents had occurred in the SS since January 2021. The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the continued occurrence of incidents in the SS; and had issued three Incident Alerts since January 2021 to alert the shipping community of the recurring incidents in the SS. The Incident Alerts can be found at www.recaap.org.

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

There is no incident of abduction of crew reported since the last incident in January 2020 up to today, and no crew is currently being held in captivity by the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG).

However, on 3 Nov 20, the Philippines authorities had prevented a kidnap-for-ransom plan by the ASG. On 23 Apr 21, the Philippine Armed Forces had conducted the military operation against members of the ASG during which one of the ASG leaders responsible for the abduction of crew in the area of Sulu and Tawi-Tawi had managed to escape. Therefore, the threat of the abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah remains high.

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 all incidents immediately to the Operation Centres of the Philippines and Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM) of Malaysia. The contact details of the Operation Centres of the Philippines and ESSCOM of Malaysia are as shown next page:



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 near Zamboanga, 2a and 2b near Bongao, and 3 near 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
- 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: bilanggerakan_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: pcqcomcen@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
1-7 June 2021**

	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	
INCIDENTS IN ASIA									
ACTUAL INCIDENTS									
1.	New Leonidas Bulk carrier Liberia 87590 9260641	02/06/21 0035 hrs	1.0; 16.22' N 104.0; 14.59' E Approximately 7.4nm north west of Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island, Indonesia, in eastbound lane of the traffic separation scheme.	While underway, four perpetrators armed with knives were sighted in the vicinity of the steering gear room. The ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered. A search onboard was conducted and no further sighting of the four perpetrators. The master deviated the ship back to Singapore to ensure the safety of crew and ship were being addressed. Upon arrival at the port of Singapore, the Singapore Police Coast Guard boarded the ship and conducted a search onboard. At 1000 hrs, the ship was cleared with no sighting of the perpetrators onboard. The crew was safe and nothing was declared stolen. The ship had departed from Singapore earlier and was bound for Fuzhou, China. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The Republic of Singapore Navy's (RSN) Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF) and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities. [CAT 3]	The crew was not injured. Nothing was stolen.	Ship alarm was raised and a search onboard was conducted.	Yes The master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS.	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The Republic of Singapore Navy's Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF) and Singapore Police Coast Guard (PCG) were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities.

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
2.	Cape Lily Bulk carrier Singapore 92752 9612430	05/06/21 0130 hrs	1.0; 15.87' N 104.0; 13.72' E Northwest of Tanjung Pergam, Bintan, in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Straits	While underway, the duty oiler spotted three perpetrators in the engine room and they were heading out to the poop deck. The 2 nd Officer activated the ship's alarms, turned on all the deck lights and conducted a thorough search of the ship. The three perpetrators were last spotted on the poop deck via CCTV, but they were nowhere to be found during the search by the ship's crew. Engine spares were stolen. There was no damage to the ship and the crew was not injured. The Port Operations Control Centre (POCC) issued a navigational safety advisory to warn ships in the vicinity to be more vigilant. [CAT 4]	The crew was not injured. Engine spares were stolen.	Ship alarm was activated and a search on board was conducted.	Yes The master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS.	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority's Port Operations Control Centre (POCC) issued a navigational safety advisory to warn vessels in the vicinity to exercise vigilant.