



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 14-20 September 2021

### Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

#### OVERVIEW

During 14-20 Sep 21, three incidents (one CAT 2<sup>1</sup> incident and two CAT 4<sup>2</sup> incidents) of armed robbery against ships in Asia were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. All three incidents occurred in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS).

One incident occurred to a ship while underway in the Malacca Strait (MS) (Johor, VTS Sector 6) on 13 Sep. The perpetrators were sighted entering the engine room. The general alarm was raised and the perpetrators escaped empty-handed. The other two incidents occurred in the Singapore Strait (SS) within an interval of four hours, and in close proximity to each other off Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island (Indonesia). In the incident on 17 Sep, the perpetrators were sighted in the boiler area adjacent to the steering gear room exit door. The perpetrators fled upon being sighted. In the incident on 18 Sep, the perpetrators were armed with gun and knives, and they were sighted in the vicinity of the engine room. There was no confrontation between the crew and the perpetrators. In all three incidents, the perpetrators escaped upon being sighted, the crew was not harmed and nothing was stolen.

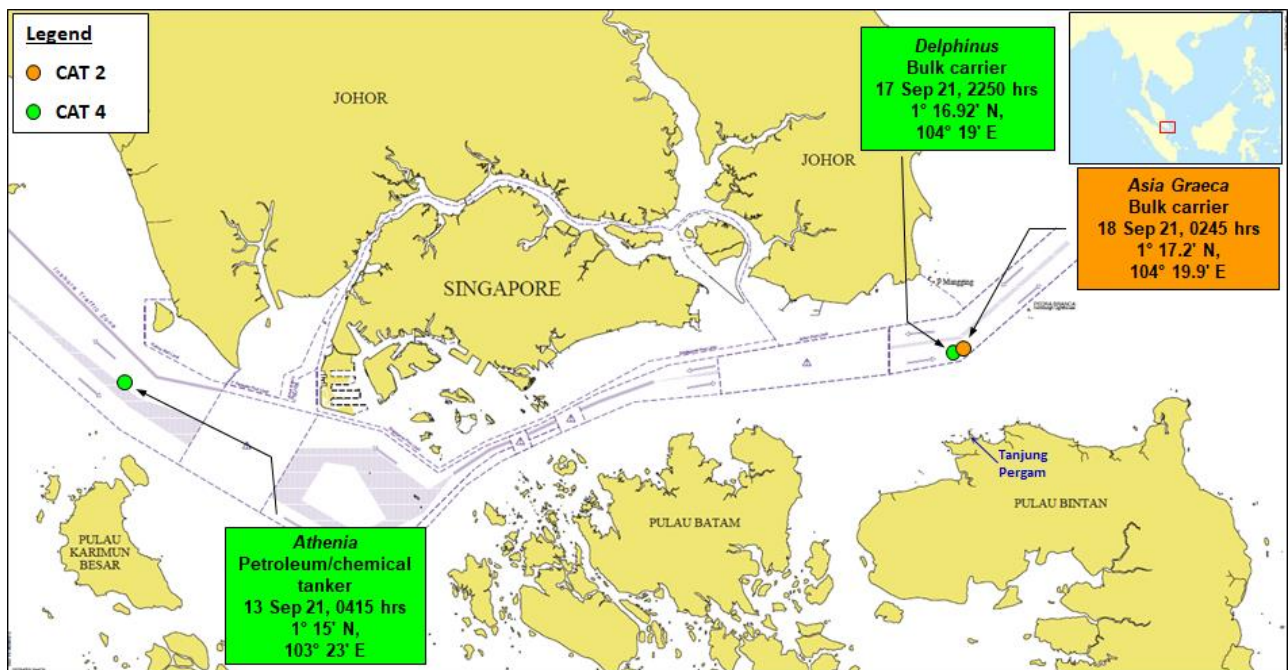
With these three incidents, a total of 27 incidents were reported in the SOMS (with 26 incidents in the SS, and one incident in the MS) since January 2021.

The location of the three incidents are shown in the map next page, and detailed description tabulated in the attachment.

---

<sup>1</sup> CAT (Category) 2 incident is 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.

<sup>2</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.



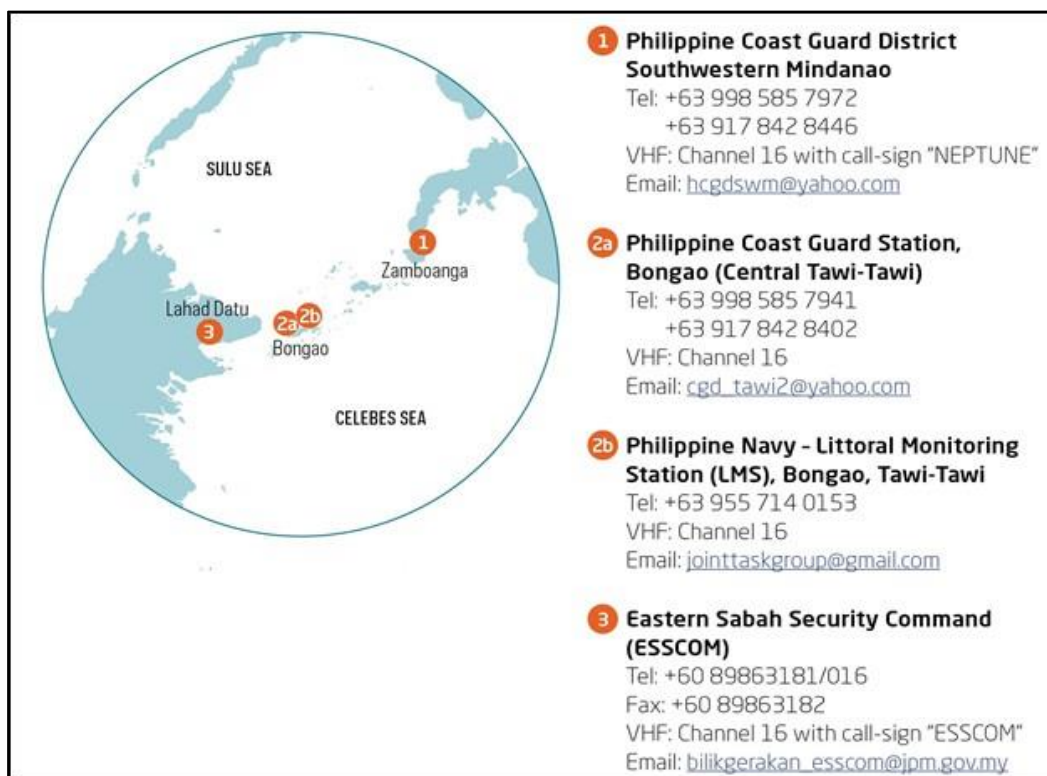
Location of incidents

## 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).

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. The threat of the abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah remains high, particularly in the areas of Sulu and nearby waters off Tawi-Tawi.

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:



#### 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  
14-20 September 2021**

	Ship Name Type of Ship Flag Gross Tonnage IMO	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
<b>INCIDENTS IN ASIA</b>									
<b>ACTUAL INCIDENTS</b>									
1.	<b>Asia Graeca</b> Bulk carrier Cyprus 39041 9279381	18/09/21 0245 hrs	1° 17.2' N 104° 19.9' E  Approximately 5.8 nm north of Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island, (Indonesia), in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) of the SS.  (Straits of Malacca and Singapore)	While underway, five perpetrators armed with gun and knives were sighted in the vicinity of the engine room. There was no confrontation between the crew and the perpetrators. The alarm was raised and search onboard the ship was conducted. At 0638 hrs, the master updated Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) that the search was completed with no further sighting of the perpetrators.  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.  [Category 2]	All crew were safe and accounted for.  Nothing was reported stolen.	The alarm was raised and search onboard the ship was carried out. The master confirmed no sighting of perpetrators.  The master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS.	The incident was reported to Singapore VTIS.	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Ship Name Type of Ship Flag Gross Tonnage IMO	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>Delphinus</b> Bulk carrier Singapore 40717 9336000	17/09/21 2250 hrs	1° 16.92' N 104° 19' E  Approximately 6 nm of Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island, (Indonesia), in the eastbound lane of the TSS of the SS  (Straits of Malacca and Singapore)	While underway, the second engineer and fourth engineer spotted three perpetrators in the boiler area adjacent to the steering gear room exit door. The perpetrators fled towards the poop deck upon being discovered.  The master activated the alarm and mustered all crew at the bridge. He turned on all of the deck lights and conducted a thorough search of the ship. The perpetrators were not found. The master reported the incident to the coastal state. The crew was not injured and nothing was stolen.  [Category 4]	All crew were safe.  No item was reported stolen.	The master activated the alarm and mustered all crew at the bridge. All deck lights were switched on and a thorough search was conducted.  The master reported the incident to the coastal state.	The master reported the incident to the coastal state.	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	The MPA Port Operations Control Centre (POCC) issued a navigational safety advisory to warn all ships in the vicinity to exercise enhanced vigilance.

	Ship Name Type of Ship Flag Gross Tonnage IMO	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
3.	<b>Athenia</b> Petroleum/chemical tanker Singapore 5256 9498951	13/09/21 0415 hrs	1° 15' N 103° 23' E  Johor VTS Sector 6, Malacca Strait  (Straits of Malacca and Singapore)	While underway, an engine oiler spotted four perpetrators entering the engine room. The perpetrators fled the scene upon being discovered.  The general alarm was raised, deck lights turned on, and an announcement was made to alert all crew. The incident was reported to the bridge.  A search of the ship was conducted. The perpetrators were not found and nothing was reported missing.  The crew was not injured.  [Category 4]	All crew were safe and accounted for.  Nothing was stolen.	The general alarm was raised, deck lights turned on, and an announcement was made to alert all crew. The incident was reported to the bridge.  The ship increased its security measures on board as per the Ship Security Plan (SSP) and conducted a thorough search for the perpetrators.	The incident was reported to Singapore VTIS .	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information was given.