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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 16-22 March 2021

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 16-22 Mar 21, the ReCAAP ISC did not receive report of incident of piracy or armed robbery against ship in Asia. However, the ReCAAP ISC would like to advise ships to continue to exercise enhanced vigilance; and littoral States to increase patrols and enforcement in areas of concern, including the Singapore Strait, the Sulu-Celebes Seas and at ports and anchorages.

INCIDENT OUTSIDE ASIA

During 16-22 Mar 21, one actual incident outside Asia was reported to the ReCAAP ISC by ReCAAP Contact Point (Hong Kong). The incident occurred on 16 Mar to a bulk carrier while anchored at Callao Anchorage Area "1", Peru. The detailed description of the incident is tabulated in the attachment.

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

Rescue of the four crew who were abducted on 17 January 2020. The Philippine Coast Guard (ReCAAP Focal Point) reported to the ReCAAP ISC the rescue of the four crew who were abducted from fishing trawler *SSK 00543* by the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) on 17 Jan 20 at approximately 4.24 nm off Pulau Tambisan, Lahad Datu, Sabah, Malaysia.

Three crew were rescued on 18 Mar 21 when their watercraft capsized in the vicinity waters off Pasigan Laut Island, South Ubian, Tawi-Tawi, the Philippines. The last crew was rescued by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on 21 Mar 21 in the vicinity of Kalupag Island, Brgy Kalupag, Languyan, Tawi-Tawi, Philippines. The ReCAAP ISC has issued two Incident Updates on 20 Mar 21 and 21 Mar 21 on the rescue of the four abducted crew. Both Incident Updates can be found at www.recaap.org. With the rescue of the four abducted crew, there is no crew currently held in captivity by the ASG.

ReCAAP ISC Advisory. There is no incident of abduction of crew reported in 2021 so far, and no crew is currently being held in captivity by the ASG. However, the risk of the abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah remains high as demonstrated by the information of planned kidnapping in Sabah and Semporna, Malaysia (as reported in ReCAAP ISC's Warning issued on 2 Jul 20), and the operation on 3 Nov 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 enhanced vigilance while transiting the area, and report all incidents 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 shown below:



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: hcgdsww@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: 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: 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
16-22 Mar 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	10
INCIDENT OUTSIDE ASIA									
ACTUAL INCIDENT									
1.	Baker River Bulk carrier Hong Kong, China 31336 9284269	16/03/21 0020 hrs	12° 0.92' S, 77° 11.99' W Callao Anchorage Area "1", Peru	<p>While at anchor, about 7-8 perpetrators armed with knives boarded the bulk carrier unnoticed from the foreward part of the ship. The perpetrators held hostage a crew who was on patrol, tied him to the foreward coaming, threatened him with a knife and ordered him to maintain silence. The perpetrators took the crew's radio, switched it off and also took the key to the fore store. They stole the ship's equipment including mooring ropes, descaling machine, pumps, cable, extension cord etc. and escaped.</p> <p>The crew had gathered and locked themselves inside the accommodation. After the perpetrators had left the ship, a search was carried out and the crew who was tied to the foreward coaming was released.</p> <p>The incident was reported to Callao VTS "TRAMAR", who dispatched a Coast Guard boat to the location. The officers boarded the ship and a search was conducted but no perpetrators were found.</p>	<p>A crew on patrol was held hostage, tied to the foreward coaming, threatened with a knife and ordered to maintain silence.</p> <p>Ship's equipment including mooring ropes, descaling machine, pumps, cable, extension cord etc. were stolen.</p>	<p>The crew had gathered and locked themselves inside accommodation.</p> <p>After the perpetrators had left the ship, a search was carried out and the crew who was tied to the foreward coaming was released.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Callao VTS "TRAMAR" by VHF Ch. 16/13</p>	<p>ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Contact Point (Hong Kong)</p>	<p>Callao VTS "TRAMAR" dispatched a Coast Guard boat to the location. The officers boarded the ship and a search was conducted but no perpetrators were found.</p>