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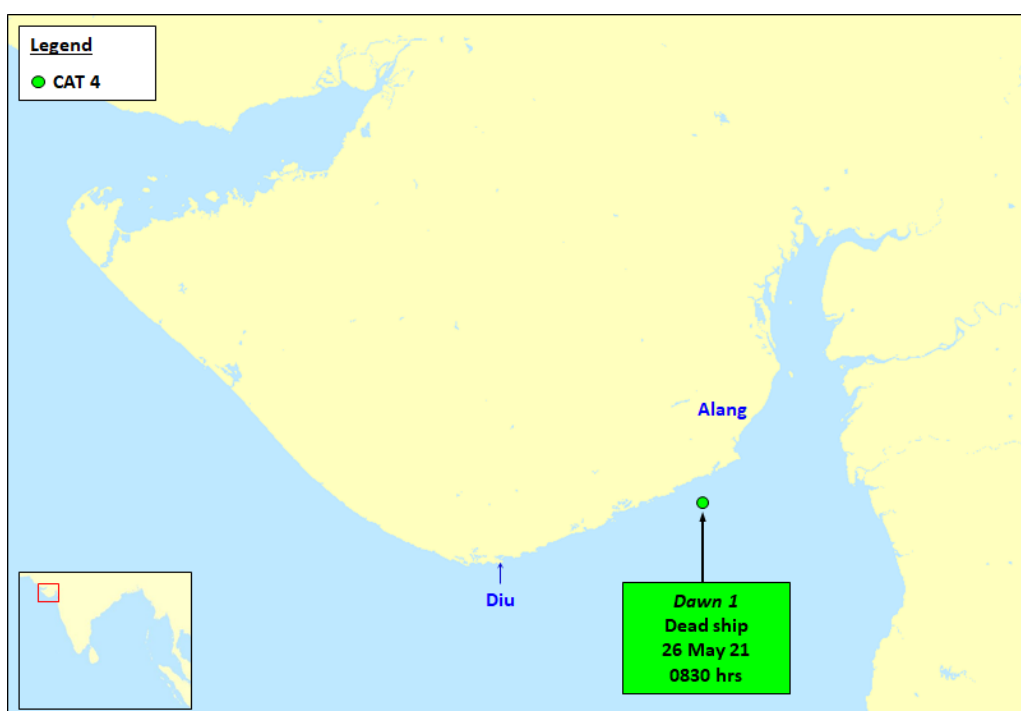
ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 25-31 May 2021

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 25-31 May 21, one CAT 4¹ incident of armed robbery against ships was reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The incident occurred to a dead ship towed by a tug while underway off Diu, India when 10 perpetrators in two fishing boats boarded the dead ship from astern by using ladder. The perpetrators escaped upon activation of the ship's Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB). The crew members of the tug were safe, and the items stolen from the ship are not confirmed yet.

The location of the incident is shown in the map below, and detailed description of the incident is tabulated in the attachment.



Location of incident


¹ CAT (Category) 4 incident is classified as “least significant” in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators were not armed, and the crew not harmed.

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
25-31 May 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 IN ASIA									
ACTUAL INCIDENT									
1.	Dawn 1 Dead ship Saint Kitts and Nevis 6253 9125281	26/05/21 0830 hrs	20° 59.8' N, 71° 55.91' E Off Diu, India	<p>While underway, 10 perpetrators in two fishing boats were approaching the dead ship towed by a tug, <i>MV Venture</i>. The perpetrators boarded the dead ship from the astern using a ladder.</p> <p>An Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) distress alert was activated and a Marine Police boat was diverted to the location of the incident. However, the perpetrators had escaped. The crew of <i>MV Venture</i> was safe, and yet to confirm the items lost from the ship.</p> <p>A team consisting of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), Marine Police (Alang) and Customs boarded the ship to investigate the incident upon the ship's arrival at Alang anchorage on 27 May 21.</p> <p align="right">[Category 4]</p>	The crew of <i>MV Venture</i> was safe and the losses from the ship are yet to be ascertained.	The crew of <i>MV Venture</i> tried to ascertain the items stolen.	Distress alert was activated and a Marine Police boat was diverted to the location of the incident.	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (India)	<p>A team consisting of the Indian Coast Guard, Marine Police (Alang) and Customs boarded the dead ship to investigate the incident upon the ship's arrival at Alang anchorage on 27 May 21.</p> <p>Ships transiting through the area have been alerted to raise the ISPS level and maintain the appropriate security level.</p>