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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 26 October-1 November 2021

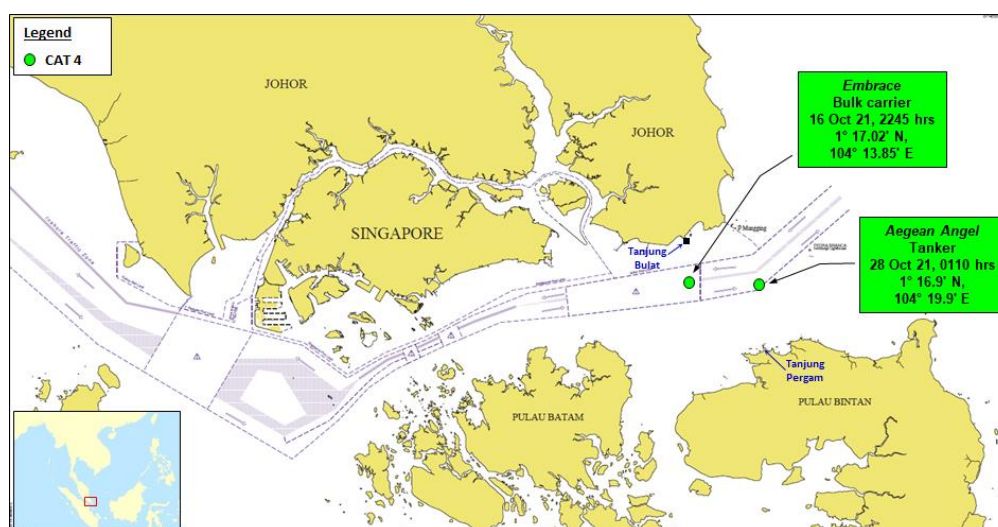
Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 26 Oct -1 Nov 21, two CAT 4¹ incidents of armed robbery against ships was reported to the ReCAAP ISC. Both incidents occurred in the Singapore Strait. One incident occurred on 16 Oct to a bulk carrier while underway at approximately 3.8 nm south of Tanjung Bulat, East Johor, Malaysia in the precautionary area of the traffic separation scheme. The other incident occurred to a tanker while underway at approximately 6.1 nm north of Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island (Indonesia) in the eastbound lane of the traffic separation scheme. Nothing was stolen and the crew was not injured in both incidents.

With the two incidents, a total of 36 incidents were reported in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (comprising 35 incidents in the Singapore Strait and one incident in the Malacca Strait) since January 2021. Of the 35 incidents in the Singapore Strait, 23 incidents (including three incidents in October) occurred off Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island (Indonesia).

The location of the incidents is shown in the map below, and detailed description of the incidents 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).

On 23 Apr 21, the Philippine Armed Forces conducted a 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 below:



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: 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

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
26 Oct-1 Nov 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
INCIDENTS IN ASIA									
ACTUAL INCIDENTS									
1.	<i>Aegean Angel</i> Tanker Greece 81074 9290323	28/10/21 0110 hrs	1.0; 16.9' N, 104.0; 19.9' E Approximately 6.1 nm north of Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island (Indonesia) in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) (SOMS)	While underway, the master saw three perpetrators jumping overboard from the ship's starboard quarter. A search on board the ship was conducted, with no further sighting of the perpetrators. Nothing was stolen and the crew was not injured. The master reported the incident to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) East. 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 4]	The crew was not injured. Nothing was stolen.	The master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS East. Conducted a search on board the ship, with no further sightings of the perpetrators.	Yes Singapore VTIS East	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.

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2.	Embrace Bulk carrier Palau 13712 9044023	16/10/21 2245 hrs	1.0; 17.02' N 104.0; 13.85' E Approximately 3.8 nm south of Tanjung Bulat, East Johor, Malaysia in the precautionary area of the TSS	While underway, five perpetrators were sighted in the engine room by the ship crew. The master reported the incident to Malaysia Port Authorities and to Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency via their agent. The Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) intercepted the ship to provide necessary assistance. The ship was then instructed to anchor in the East Johor port waters, where MMEA boarded her for further investigation. Upon completion of search onboard by MMEA, there was no further sightings of the perpetrators. All crew were safe and accounted for, and nothing was reported stolen. The ship departed Pasir Gudang, Malaysia and was bound for sea east. [Category 4]	Crew were safe Nothing was reported stolen.	The master reported the incident to Malaysia Port Authorities and the Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency via their agent.	Yes Malaysia Port Authorities and Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	MMEA intercepted the ship to provide necessary assistance. The ship was then instructed to anchor in the East Johor port waters, where MMEA boarded her for further investigation.