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## ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 30 Mar-5 Apr 2021

### Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

#### OVERVIEW

During 30 Mar-5 Apr 21, two incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. Both were CAT 4<sup>1</sup> incidents where the perpetrators were not armed and the crew not harmed.

One of the incidents occurred to a container ship while anchored at Jakarta Anchorage, Indonesia. The other incident occurred to a tug/supply vessel at approximately 4 nm south of Tanjung Piai, Malaysia while it was underway in the westbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait. This is the first incident reported in the westbound lane of the TSS since the last incident was reported in May 2020. With this incident, a total of seven incidents occurred in the Singapore Strait in 2021 (comprising six incidents in the eastbound lane of the TSS and one incident in the westbound lane).

The location of the two incidents are shown in the map below; and detailed description of the incidents tabulated in the attachment.



Location of incidents

<sup>1</sup> CAT (Category) 4 incident is classified as “least significant” in nature.

## INCIDENT OUTSIDE ASIA

During 30 Mar-5 Apr 21, one incident outside Asia was reported to the ReCAAP ISC by ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore). The incident occurred on 24 Mar on board a LPG carrier while anchored at Alpha Anchorage in Cartagena, Columbia. 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

There is no incident of abduction of crew reported in 2021 so far, and no crew is currently being held in captivity by the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG). However, the risk of the abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah remains high as demonstrated by 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 20 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 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 (updated by ReCAAP ISC on 3 Jan 19) are as shown:



The map shows the Sulu Sea to the north and the Celebes Sea to the south. Key locations marked include Lahad Datu, Zamboanga, and Bongao. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jointtaskgroup@gmail.com)
- 3 Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM)**  
Tel: +60 89863181/016  
Fax: +60 89863182  
VHF: Channel 16 with call-sign "ESSCOM"  
Email: [biikgerakan\\_esscom@jpm.gov.my](mailto:biikgerakan_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](mailto: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](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  
30 Mar-5 Apr 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
<b>INCIDENTS IN ASIA</b>									
<b>ACTUAL INCIDENTS</b>									
1.	<b>Posh Falcon</b> Tug/supply vessel Singapore 3513 9624586	30/03/21 1030 hrs	1° 12.47' N 103° 32.71' E  Approximately 4 nm south of Tanjung Piai, Malaysia in the westbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait.  (Straits of Malacca and Singapore)	While the tug boat towing the unmanned rig was underway, two small boats approached the stern of the rig and stole a Norwegian marker buoy that was floating 100m behind the rig. The buoy was connected to a messenger line used as an emergency tow line. The crew was not injured. The incident was reported to VTIS and the Singapore Port Operations Control Centre (POCC) issued a navigational safety advisory to warn ships in the vicinity to be more vigilant.  [Category 4]	The crew was not injured.  Ship stores comprising one Norwegian marker buoy was stolen. The alarm was raised and a search onboard was conducted.	The ship increased its security measures on board as per the Ship Security Plan (SSP).	Yes  Singapore VTIS and the Flag State	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	The Singapore POCC issued a navigational safety advisory to warn vessels in the vicinity to be more vigilant.
2.	<b>Baltic North</b> Container ship Marshall Islands 44234 9463310	30/03/21 0150 hrs	6° 2' S 106° 48' E  Jakarta Anchorage Zone "F", Indonesia	While at anchor, the duty crew sighted two perpetrators on the poop deck with two sacks. The duty crew shouted and flashed light at the perpetrators, who escaped immediately. Upon investigation, it was found that the perpetrators broke into the ship through a cut on the watertight door alarm switch wire and lock. Items from the engine room central store were stolen. The crew was not injured. The local authorities were informed and the Indonesia Coast Guard boarded the ship for investigation.  [Category 4]	The crew was not injured.  Items from the engine room central store were stolen.	The crew shouted and flashed light at the robbers upon sighting them.	Yes  Indonesian Coast Guard	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	The Indonesian Coast Guard boarded the ship and investigated the incident.

	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
<b>INCIDENT OUTSIDE ASIA</b>									
<b>ACTUAL INCIDENT</b>									
1.	<b>Christoph Schulte</b> LPG Singapore 9110 9368778	24/03/21 0045 hrs	10° 19.2' N, 75° 31.4' W  Alpha Anchorage, Cartagena, Columbia	While at anchor, an able-bodied seaman (AB) during his routine rounds, spotted three perpetrators armed with knives at the ship's forward during. The general alarm was raised, the ship whistle was sounded and emergency broadcast via Ch 14 to the harbour master was made. The three perpetrators left the ship by lowering the mooring ropes and escaping via a blue-hulled motorboat. There was no reported damage to the ship and the crew was not injured. One six-person life raft, two lifebuoys, boiler suits and safety shoes were stolen. Three Coast Guard personnel boarded the ship for investigation.	The crew was not injured.  One six-person life raft, two lifebuoys, boiler suits and safety shoes were stolen.	The general alarm was raised, ship whistle was sounded and emergency broadcast via Ch 14 was made. The vessel's Company Security Officer was informed.	No	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	Three Coast Guard personnel boarded the ship for investigation.