



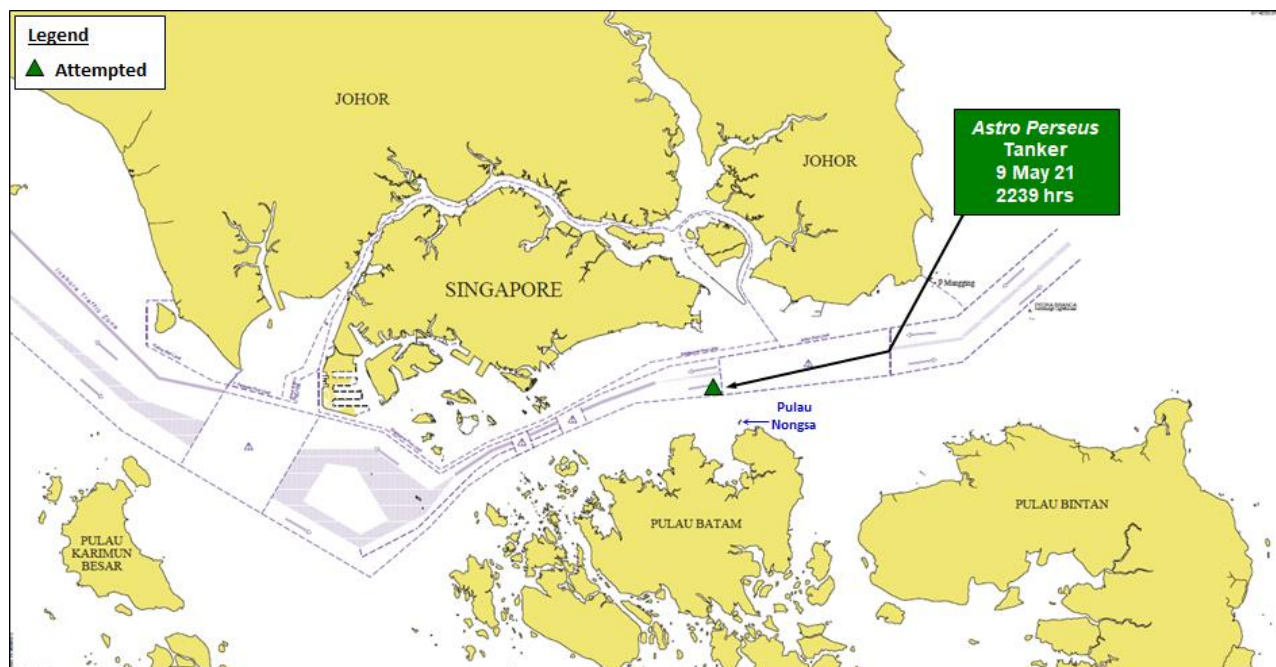
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## ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 4-10 May 2021

### Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

#### OVERVIEW

During 4-10 May 21, an attempted incident of armed robbery against ships in Asia was reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The incident occurred to a tanker while underway at approximately 3.1 nm north west of Pulau Nongsa, Batam, Indonesia in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait (SS). The perpetrators attempted to board the ship with a hook or rope thrown to the ship, but it failed to reach the ship. The master also made evasive manoeuvres to prevent the attempted boarding. The location of the incident is shown in the map and detailed description of the incident tabulated in the attachment.



Location of incident

With this incident, a total of 13 incidents had occurred in the SS since January 2021. The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the continued occurrence of incidents in the SS; and advise all ships to exercise enhanced vigilance and adopt extra precautionary measures when transiting the area.

## 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 2020, the Philippines authorities had prevented a kidnap-for-ransom plan by the ASG. On 23 Apr 2021, 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:



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](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: [bilikgerakan\\_esscom@jpm.gov.my](mailto: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](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  
4-10 May 2021**

|                         | Ship Name<br>Type of Ship<br>Flag<br>Gross Tonnage<br>IMO Number | Date<br>Local<br>Time<br>of<br>Incident<br>(LT) | Position of the<br>Incident  | Details of the Incident  | Consequences for<br>crew, ship, cargo         | Action taken by the<br>master and crew   | Was the incident<br>reported to coastal<br>authority? Which<br>one? | Reporting State<br>or International<br>Organization    | Coastal State Action<br>Taken   |
|-------------------------|--|---|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| 1                       | 2  | 3   | 4  | 5  | 6   | 7  | 8   | 9  | 10  |
| <b>INCIDENT IN ASIA</b> |  |   |  |  |   |  |   |  |   |
| <b>ACTUAL INCIDENT</b>  |  |   |  |  |   |  |   |  |   |
| 1.                      | <b>Astro<br/>Perseus</b><br>Tanker<br>Greece<br>80620<br>9280873 | 09/05/21<br>2239 hrs                            | 1.0; 14.77' N<br>104.0; 2.79' E<br><br>Approximately 3.1<br>nm north west of<br>Pulau Nongsa,<br>Batam, Indonesia<br>in the eastbound<br>lane of the Traffic<br>Separation<br>Scheme (TSS).<br><br>Straits of Malacca<br>and Singapore<br>(SOMS) | While underway, a small craft was sighted following the ship from the stern. The perpetrators attempted to board the ship with a hook or rope thrown to the ship, but it failed to reach the ship. The master also made evasive manoeuvres and prevented the attempted boarding.<br><br>At 2335 hrs, the master informed the Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) that the search on board the ship was completed with no sighting of any perpetrators. Nothing was stolen and all crew was safe. No assistance was required,<br><br>A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The Republic of Singapore Navy's Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF) and Singapore Police Coast Guard (PCG) were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities. | The crew was safe.<br><br>Nothing was stolen. | The master made evasive manoeuvres to prevent the attempted boarding. A search onboard was carried out with no sighting of any perpetrators. The master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS. | Yes<br><br>The incident was reported to the Singapore VTIS.         | ReCAAP ISC via<br>ReCAAP Focal<br>Point<br>(Singapore) | A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The Republic of Singapore Navy's Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF) and Singapore Police Coast Guard (PCG) were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities. |