



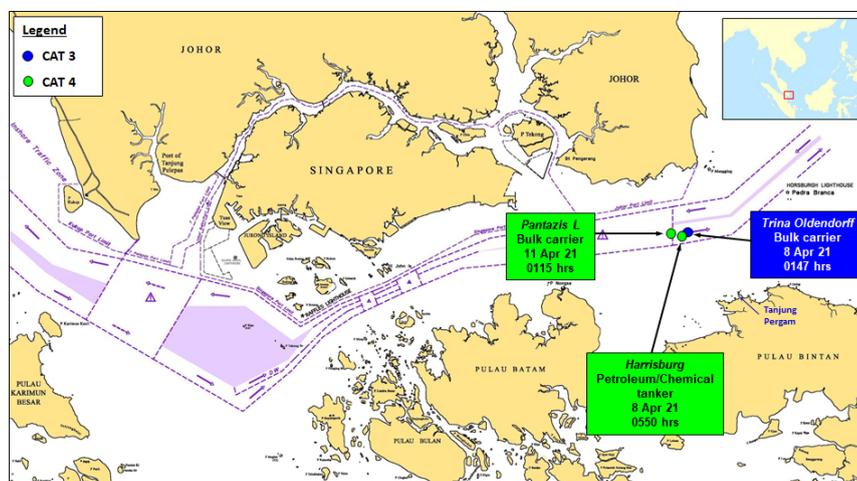
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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 6-12 April 2021

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 6-12 Apr 21, three incidents of armed robbery against ships (one CAT 3¹ incident and two CAT 4² incidents) were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. All the three incidents occurred to ships while underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait (SS). Of the three incidents, two incidents occurred on 8 Apr and one incident on 11 Apr; and in close proximity to each other (northwest of Tanjung Pergam, Pulau Bintan, Indonesia). In one of the incidents on 8 Apr, the perpetrator hit the engine room crew on his head when the crew attempted to shout for assistance. Engine spares were stolen in the incident on 11 Apr. The locations of the incidents are shown in map below and detailed description of the incidents tabulated in the attachment.



Location of incidents

With these three incidents, a total of 10 incidents had occurred in the SS since January 2021. The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the continued occurrence of incidents in the SS; and issued an Incident Alert (IA 02/2021) on 11 Apr 21.

¹ CAT (Category) 3 incident is 'less significant' in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators could be armed with knives/machetes or other items such as sticks or rods. The crew was not harmed although there is a small possibility that the crew could be subjected to duress or threat during the incident but not harmed physically. In most CAT 3 cases, the perpetrators were unable to steal anything from the vessel, but in cases where losses were reported, stores and engine spares were commonly targeted items.

² 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 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. Three contact points are marked: 1 (Zamboanga), 2a and 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: 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
6-12 April 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.	Pantazis L Bulk carrier Liberia 39746 9272995	11/04/21 0115 hrs	1.0; 16.32' N 104.0; 14.75' E Approximately 7.6 nm northwest of Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island, Indonesia in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS). (SOMS)	While underway, four unauthorized perpetrators were sighted in the engine room workshop. The ship alarm was raised and a search on board the ship was conducted. At 0255 hrs, the master updated Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) that the search on board was completed with no further sighting of the perpetrators. The master reported that some engine spares were stolen. All crew was safe and accounted for. No assistance was required and the ship continued with her voyage. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The Republic of Singapore Navy's Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF) and Singapore Police Coast Guard were informed, and the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities were notified. [Category 4]	The crew was not injured. Some engine spares were stolen.	Ship alarm was raised and a search onboard was conducted.	Yes The master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS.	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (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.

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2.	Harrisburg Petroleum/ Chemical tanker Singapore 30087 9859210	08/04/21 0550 hrs	1.0; 16.13' N 104.0; 15.56' E Approximately 6.3 nm northwest of Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island, Indonesia in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS). (SOMS)	While underway, two unauthorised persons boarded the ship. The ship's general alarm was raised and all crew were notified of the perpetrators. A search on board the ship was conducted with no further sighting of the perpetrators. Nothing was reported stolen and the crew was safe. [Category 4]	The crew was not injured. Nothing was stolen.	The ship's general alarm was raised and all crew were notified of the perpetrators. A search on board the ship was conducted. No further sighting of the perpetrators and nothing was reported stolen.	No	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information available
3.	Trina Oldendorff Bulk carrier Portugal 41091 9642370	08/04/21 0147 hrs	1.0; 16.5' N 104.0; 16.1' E Approximately 6.8 nm northwest of Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island, Indonesia in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS). (SOMS)	While underway, four unauthorised persons armed with knives were sighted in the engine room. The perpetrators confronted the engine room crew and hit him on his head when he attempted to shout for assistance. Thereafter, the perpetrators escaped from the ship. The alarm was raised and crew mustered. A search on board the ship was conducted with no further sighting of the perpetrators. The master declared nothing was stolen and the crew was safe and accounted for. He did not report the incident immediately to the nearest coastal State and continued with the voyage. The master reported the incident to Singapore Port Operation Control Centre (POCC) only on 9 Apr. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The Republic of Singapore Navy's Maritime Security Task Force	The crew was not injured. Nothing was stolen.	The alarm was raised and the crew mustered. A search was conducted with no further sighting of the perpetrators onboard.	No	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (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.

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
				(MSTF) and Singapore Police Coast Guard were informed, and the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities were notified. [Category 3]					