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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 9-15 February 2021

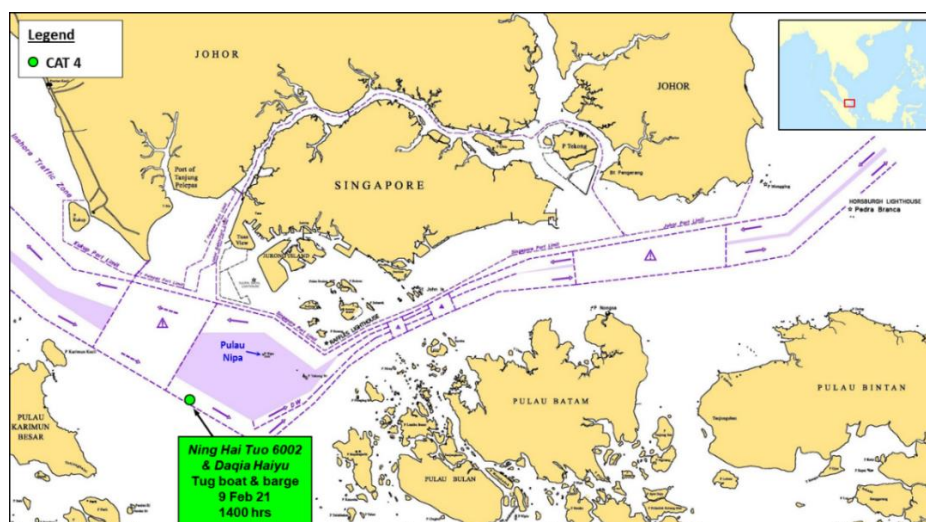
Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 9-15 Feb 21, one incident of armed robbery against ships in Asia was reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The CAT 4¹ incident (where the perpetrators were not armed and the crew not harmed) occurred on board a barge towed by a tug boat while underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme in the Singapore Strait (approximately 6.1 nm south west of Pulau Nipa, Indonesia). With this latest incident, a total of four incidents had occurred in the Singapore Strait since January 2021.

The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the continued occurrence of incidents in the Singapore Strait, and advises all ships to exercise enhanced vigilance and adopt extra precautionary measures when transiting the area. The Centre also urges the littoral States to increase patrols and enforcement in their respective waters, strengthen coordination among them and promote information sharing on the latest situation and the criminal groups involved in order to make arrests of the perpetrators.

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



Location of the incident

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

INCIDENT OUTSIDE ASIA

During 9-15 Feb 21, one incident outside Asia was reported to the ReCAAP ISC by ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore). The incident occurred on 12 Feb 21 on board a petroleum/chemical ship while anchored at Callao Anchorage No. 8, Peru. 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

The risk of the abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah remains high as demonstrated by the abduction incident on 17 Jan 20, 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 enhanced vigilance while transiting the area, and report all incidents immediately to the Operation Centres of 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 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: 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
9-15 Feb 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.	Ning Hai Tuo 6002 Tug boat China 1449 9765134 Daqia Haiyu Barge China	09/02/21 1400 hrs	1.0° 5.37' N, 103.0° 34.21' E Approximately 6.1 nm south west of Pulau Nipa , Indonesia in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait. (SOMS)	While underway, the master was informed of the unauthorized boarding of two perpetrators on the unmanned barge, <i>Daqia Haiyu</i> . The barge was towed by tug boat, <i>Ning Hai Tuo 6002</i> . The two perpetrators escaped upon being sighted. A search onboard the barge was carried out with no further sighting of the perpetrators. Some shackles were stolen from the barge. The crew was accounted for and no further assistance was required. The tug boat and barge resumed their passage east bound for China.	The crew was not injured. Some shackles were stolen from the barge.	The master of the tug boat reported the incident to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) via VHF. A search was conducted onboard the barge.	Yes Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The Republic of Singapore Navy's (RSN) Maritime Security Task (MTSF) and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Indonesian authorities.
				[Category 4]					

	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 Taken	State Action
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
INCIDENT OUTSIDE ASIA										
ACTUAL INCIDENT										
1.	Torm Arawa Petroleum/chemical tanker Singapore 30302 9543548	12/02/21 2045 hrs	12.0° 0.62' S, 77.0° 11.86' W Callao Anchorage No. 8, Peru	While at anchor, the duty watchman sighted an unknown perpetrator armed with knives/machetes appearing from the forecastle. The alarm was raised and the crew mustered. The perpetrator escaped in a small wooden boat. One mooring rope was reported stolen. The crew was safe and there was no damage to the ship. [Category 3]	The crew was not injured. One mooring rope was stolen.	The alarm was raised and the crew mustered.	No	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information available.	