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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 9-15 November 2021

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

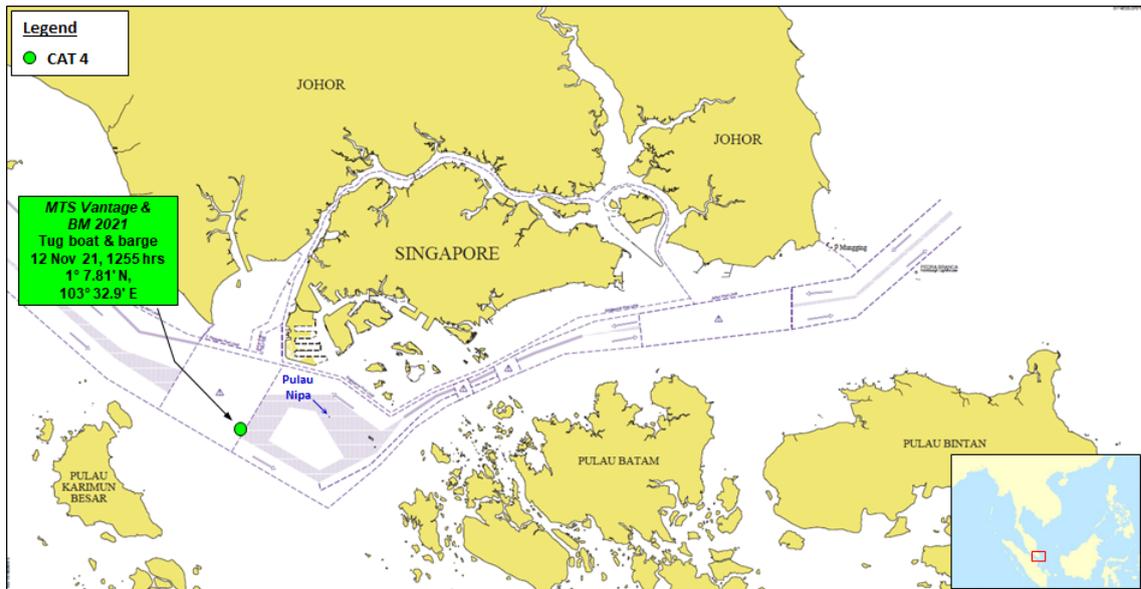
OVERVIEW

During 9-15 Nov 21, one incident of armed robbery against ships in Asia was reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The CAT 4¹ incident occurred on 12 Nov on board an unmanned barge towed by a tug boat while underway in the Singapore Strait (SS) at approximately 6.5 nm south west of Nipa Island (Indonesia) in the precautionary area of the Traffic Separation Scheme. One unauthorised person was sighted disembarking from the barge. A search on board the barge was conducted, and some ship stores were stolen. The crew was safe and accounted for.

With this incident, a total of 37 incidents were reported in the Singapore Strait since January 2021.

The location of the incident is shown in the map on the next page, and detailed description of the incident is tabulated in the attachment.

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.



Location of incident

INCIDENT OUTSIDE ASIA

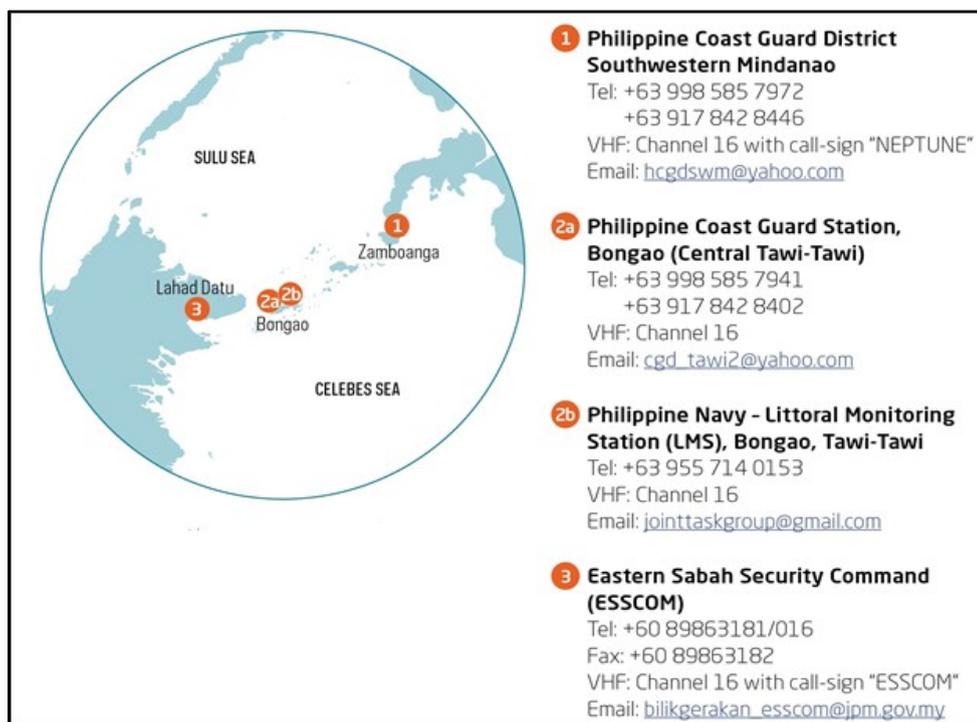
During 9-15 Nov 21, one incident outside Asia was reported to the ReCAAP ISC by ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore). The incident occurred on 8 Nov to a RORO car carrier while anchored at Callao, Peru. The detailed description of the incident is tabulated in the attachment.

SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH

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 on the next page:



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
9-15 November 2021**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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	
INCIDENT IN ASIA									
ACTUAL INCIDENT									
1. MTS Vantage Tug boat Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 221 9585261 <i>BM 2021</i> Barge Australia	12/11/21 1255 hrs	1.0; 7.81' N, 103.0; 32.9' E Approximately 6.5 nm south west of Nipa Island, (Indonesia) in the precautionary area of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS). (SOMS)	While underway, one unauthorised person was sighted disembarking from the unmanned barge that was being towed. The ship alarm was raised and a search on board the barge was carried out. One coil of towing line and one coil of mooring rope were stolen. The master reported the incident to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS). All crew was safe and accounted for. 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 Indonesian authorities. [Category 4]	All crew was safe and accounted for. One coil of towing line and one coil of mooring rope were stolen.	The master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS The alarm was raised and the crew conducted a search on board the barge.	Yes The incident was reported to Singapore VTIS.	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 Indonesian authorities.	

	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
INCIDENT OUTSIDE ASIA									
ACTUAL INCIDENT									
1.	Lord Vishnu RORO car carrier Singapore 51917 9367578	8/11/21 2010 hrs	12.0; 0.96' S, 77.0; 11.59' W Callao Anchorage, Peru.	<p>While at anchor, the duty watch keeper (AB) spotted a small boat under the starboard bow flare of the ship. After informing the duty officer, he proceeded to the mooring station where he saw three unknown perpetrators armed with knives. The AB immediately alerted the duty officer on the bridge who raised the general alarm, followed by an announcement through the intercom to inform all crew.</p> <p>The master reported the incident to the coastal state for assistance. The crew were mustered and all were accounted for. The ship then sounded its whistle and flashed lights to deter the perpetrators from any further advances.</p> <p>After seeing that the small boat moved away from the ship, the crew conducted a search but the perpetrators were nowhere to be found. The crew then increased their deck watch after confirming that the ship was safe. A mooring rope was reported stolen. There was no reported damage to the ship and there were no injuries to the crew.</p>	<p>The crew were mustered and all were accounted for.</p> <p>A mooring rope was stolen.</p>	<p>The duty officer on the bridge raised the general alarm, followed by an announcement through the intercom to inform all crew.</p> <p>The master reported the incident to the coastal state for assistance.</p> <p>The ship sounded its whistle and flashed lights to deter the perpetrators from any further advances.</p> <p>The ship increased security measures on board as per the ship security plan.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The master reported the incident to the coastal state for assistance.</p>	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	Acknowledged the message and relayed information to their navy patrol boat.