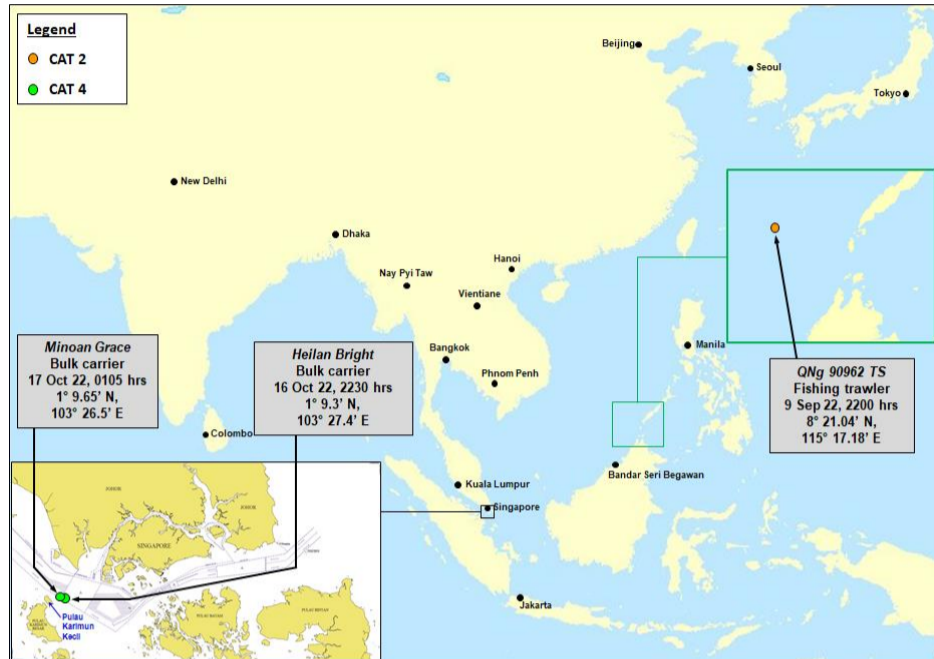


### OVERVIEW

Three incidents in Asia were reported, one was a piracy incident and two were armed robbery against ships incidents. The piracy incident, CAT 2<sup>1</sup> in nature, occurred on board a fishing trawler in the South China Sea, while the two armed robbery incidents, both CAT 4<sup>2</sup> incidents occurred in the Singapore Strait (SS). Details of incidents are shown in table (\*).



Factors	Location		
	South China Sea (1 incident)	Precautionary Area of TSS Approximately 3.3 nm east of Pulau Karimun Kecil, Indonesia (1 incident)	Eastbound lane of TSS Approximately 2.5 nm northeast of Pulau Karimun Kecil, Indonesia (1 incident)
Type of ship	Fishing trawler	Bulk carrier	Bulk carrier
Time of incident	Hours of darkness	Hours of darkness	Hours of darkness
Number of perpetrators	3 men	3 men	3 men
Weapons	Guns	None	None
Treatment of crew	One crew seriously injured	No injuries	No injuries
Significance level	CAT 2	CAT 4	CAT 4
Items stolen	50 kgs of seafoods and 3 flashlights	Nothing was stolen	Nothing was stolen

### AREAS OF CONCERN

The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the continued occurrence of incidents in the SS. With the two incidents, a total of 43 incidents were reported in the SS since January 2022.

The ReCAAP ISC advises ships to continue to exercise enhanced vigilance when transiting areas of concern, including the Singapore Strait and the Sulu-Celebes Seas; and littoral States to increase patrols and enforcement in these areas.

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

#### Downgrading of threat level

- The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), after careful consideration of inputs from stakeholders and counterparts with vital involvement in securing the Sulu-Celebes Seas maritime security measure, recommends the downgrading of the threat on the 'Abduction of Crew for ransom in the Sulu-Celebes Seas' from 'POTENTIALLY HIGH' to 'MODERATE'. The MODERATE threat level implies that '**Incidents are possible to occur but are relatively less severe in nature**'.

#### Update of ReCAAP ISC Advisory

- As the threat of abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas has diminished since January 2020 due to successful military operations and robust law enforcement initiatives, the ReCAAP ISC updates its Advisory to all ships to **consider re-route from the area as an option based on its prerogative.**
- For ships transiting the area, the **ship masters and crew are strongly encouraged to exercise extra vigilance 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 in Picture 1.



Picture 1

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Ship master and crew are to report all incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships to the nearest coastal State and flag State, exercise vigilance and adopt appropriate preventive measures taking reference from the *Regional Guide 2 to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia*.

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\* Table at [https://www.recaap.org/resources/ck/files/Number%20of%20Incidents/2022/List%20of%20Incidents%20for%202022%20\(caa%2017%20Oct%202022\).pdf](https://www.recaap.org/resources/ck/files/Number%20of%20Incidents/2022/List%20of%20Incidents%20for%202022%20(caa%2017%20Oct%202022).pdf) for details of the incidents.

<sup>1</sup> CAT (Category) 2 incident is moderately significant. Under this category, the perpetrators are likely to be armed with knives/machetes and in some incidents armed with guns. The crew is threatened or held hostage temporarily and, in some cases, the crew suffered injury and physical violence.

<sup>2</sup> CAT (Category) 4 incident is classified as "least significant" in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators were not armed, and the crew not harmed.