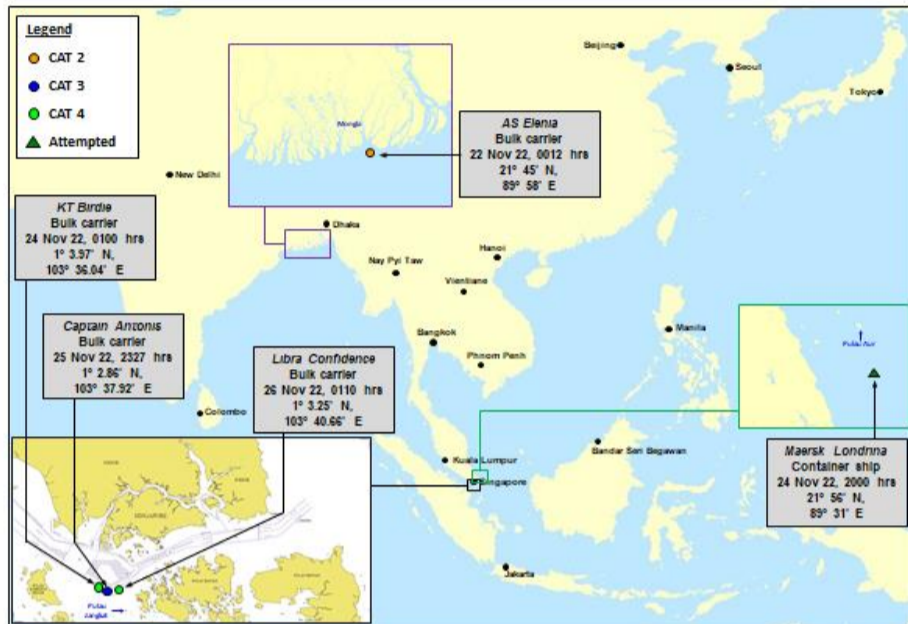


OVERVIEW

Five incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia (comprising one CAT 2¹ incident, one CAT 3² incident, two CAT 4³ incidents and one attempted⁴ incident) were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. Of the five incidents, three incidents occurred to ships while underway in the Singapore Strait (SS); one incident occurred to a bulk carrier while anchored at Outer Anchorage Mongla, Bangladesh; and an attempted incident occurred to a container ship while anchored in the South China Sea. The details of incidents are shown in table (*).



Factors	Location				
	Bangladesh Outer Anchorage Mongla (1 incident)	South China Sea (1 incident)	Singapore Strait		
			Off Karimun Island, Indonesia (1 incident)	Off Pulau Jangkat, Indonesia (2 incidents)	
Type of ship	Bulk carrier	Container ship	Bulk carrier	Bulk carrier	Bulk carrier
Date/time	22 Nov at 0012 hrs	24 Nov at 2000 hrs	24 Nov at 0045 hrs	25 Nov at 2327 hrs	26 Nov at 0110 hrs
Number of perpetrators	18	1	3	3	2
Weapons	Long knives	Not stated	Not stated	Knives	Not stated
Treatment of crew	Not stated	No injuries	No injuries	No injuries	No injuries
Significance level	CAT 2	Attempted	CAT 4	CAT 3	CAT 4
Items stolen	Ship property / stores	Nothing stolen	Generator spare parts	Not stated	Nothing stolen

AREAS OF CONCERN

With the three incidents reported in the SS, a total of 51 incidents were reported in the SS since January 2022. The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the continued occurrence of incidents in the SS. Two Incident Alerts (IA 05/2022 dated 21 Nov 22, and IA 06/2022 dated 28 Nov 22) were issued to advise ships to intensify vigilance when transiting the area, and urge the littoral States to increase patrols and enforcement. The IAs can be found at www.recaap.org.

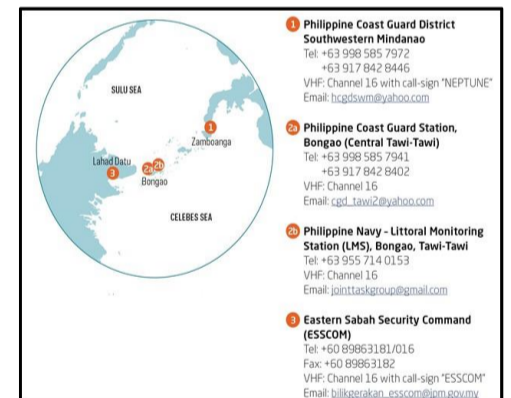
SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH

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.pdf> for details of the incidents.

¹ CAT (Category) 2 incidents involved 4-9 men who are likely to be armed with knives/machetes and in 1/4 of the incidents, armed with guns. The crew is likely to be threatened or held hostage temporarily to allow the perpetrators to steal the crew's cash and ship's property including engine spares. In a few cases, the crew suffered some form of injury or physical violence but less severe in nature compared to CAT 1 incidents.

² CAT (Category) 3 incident is 'less significant' in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators are armed with knives/machetes or other items such as sticks or rods. Although the crew can be subjected to duress or threat during the incident, they are not harmed physically. In most CAT 3 cases, nothing is stolen. In cases where losses are reported, stores and engine spares are commonly stolen items.

³ CAT (Category) 4 incident is classified as "least significant" in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators are not armed, and the crew not harmed.

⁴ Attempted incidents are incidents where pirates/robbers tried but failed to board the ship.