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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 30 August – 5 September 2022

Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

Three incidents (comprising one CAT 3¹ incident and two CAT 4² incidents) of armed robbery against ships in Asia were reported to the ReCAAP ISC.

The CAT 3 incident occurred on board a bulk carrier while anchored at Belawan Anchorage, Indonesia on 18 Aug 22, where several unsecured items were reported.

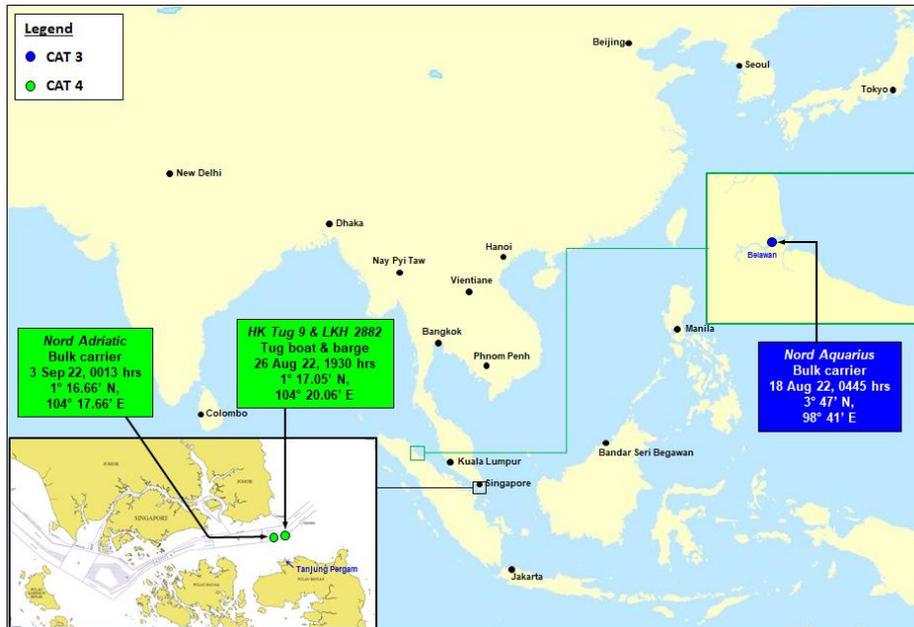
The two CAT 4 incidents occurred to a barge while being towed on 26 Aug 22, and to a bulk carrier while underway on 3 Sep 22. Both incidents occurred in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme in the Singapore Strait. Scrap metals were stolen from the barge, and spare parts of generator were stolen from the bulk carrier.

All crew members were safe in the three incidents.

The locations of the three incidents are shown in map on next page, and detailed description of the incidents tabulated in the attachment.

¹ 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.

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.



Location of incidents

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 January 2020 up to today, and no crew is currently being held in captivity by the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG).

However, as the ASG Commanders responsible for the abduction of crew in the Sulu area are still at large and with the persisting presence of remnants of the group, the threat of abduction of crew from ships remains potentially 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 below.



Contact details

In the event, the ship master or crew is unable to establish contact with the Operation Centres of the Philippines as listed in the ReCAAP ISC Advisory, they 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 2 to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia*.

**Description of Incidents of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships
30 Aug – 5 Sep 2022**

	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 INCIDENT									
1.	Nord Aquarius Bulk carrier Panama 44618 9941398	18/8/22 0445 hrs	3° 47' N, 98° 41' E Belawan Anchorage, Indonesia	<p>While at anchor, the duty crew reported through VHF to the duty officer at the bridge that two perpetrators armed with knives boarded the ship, and were at the forward bosun store room.</p> <p>Upon receipt of the report, the duty officer immediately activated the ship whistle, sounded the general alarm and made announcement using the public address that the ship was boarded by unauthorised persons.</p> <p>Upon hearing the alarm, the perpetrators escaped immediately with two sets of connection cable for welding machine (25m), one cover cap for fire hydrant, and one cap of air pipe. All crew members were safe.</p> <p>The master reported the incident to Belawan VTS, who replied that they will inform the Coast Guard.</p> <p align="right">[Category 3]</p>	<p>All crew members were safe.</p> <p>Two sets of connection cable for welding machine (25m), one cover cap for fire hydrant, and one cap of air pipe were reported stolen.</p>	Duty officer activated the ship whistle, sounded the general alarm and announcement was made using the public address.	Yes Master reported incident to Belawan VTS.	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)	Belawan VTS replied that they will inform the Coast Guard about the incident.

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2.	<p>HK Tug 9 Tug boat Singapore 299 9767120</p> <p>LKH 2882 Barge Singapore</p>	26/8/22 1930 hrs	<p>1° 17.05' N, 104° 20.06' E</p> <p>Approximately 5.6 nm north of Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island (Indonesia), in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait (SS)</p> <p>[Straits of Malacca & Singapore (SOMS)]</p>	<p>While underway, five small boats came alongside the unmanned flat top deck cargo barge, and three perpetrators boarded the barge from its stern.</p> <p>The master reported the incident to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) East, Republic of Singapore Navy's Maritime Security Task Force (RSN's MSTF) as well as the Singapore Police Coast Guard. At about 1955 hrs, the perpetrators and small boats departed from the barge.</p> <p>The tug boat and barge were advised to proceed to Horsburgh Lighthouse, where Singapore Police Coast Guard assisted to check if there were any small boats still around the tug boat and barge.</p> <p>Aside from the reported scrap metals that were missing, there was no reported damage to both tug boat and barge, and the crew were safe.</p> <p>[Category 4]</p>	<p>The crew were safe.</p> <p>Scrap metals were reported stolen.</p>	Master reported incident to Singapore VTIS East, RSN's MSTF as well as the Singapore Police Coast Guard.	<p>Yes</p> <p>Master reported incident to Singapore VTIS East, RSN's MSTF as well as the Singapore Police Coast Guard.</p>	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	Singapore Police Coast Guard deployed their craft to assist in checking if there were any small boats still around the tug boat and barge.

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3.	Nord Adriatic Bulk carrier Singapore 34830 9767584	3/9/22 0013 hrs.	1° 16.66' N, 104° 17.66' E Approximately 6.1 nm from Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island (Indonesia), in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the SS (SOMS)	While underway, the duty oiler spotted two unauthorised persons walking barefooted towards the workshop where the engine spare parts were kept. The master activated the ship's general alarm and a search was conducted by ship crew, with no further sightings of the perpetrators. The Master then reported the incident to Singapore VTIS East. Spare parts of generator were stolen and the crew was not injured. The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore's Port Operations Control Centre (MPA's POCC) issued a navigational safety advisory to warn ships in the vicinity to be more vigilant. [Category 4]	Spare parts of generator were reported stolen. The crew was not injured.	Master activated the ship's general alarm and a search was conducted by ship crew, with no further sightings of the perpetrators.	Yes. Master reported incident to Singapore VTIS East.	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	MPA's POCC issued a navigational safety advisory to warn ships in the vicinity to be more vigilant.