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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 5 to 11 April 2022

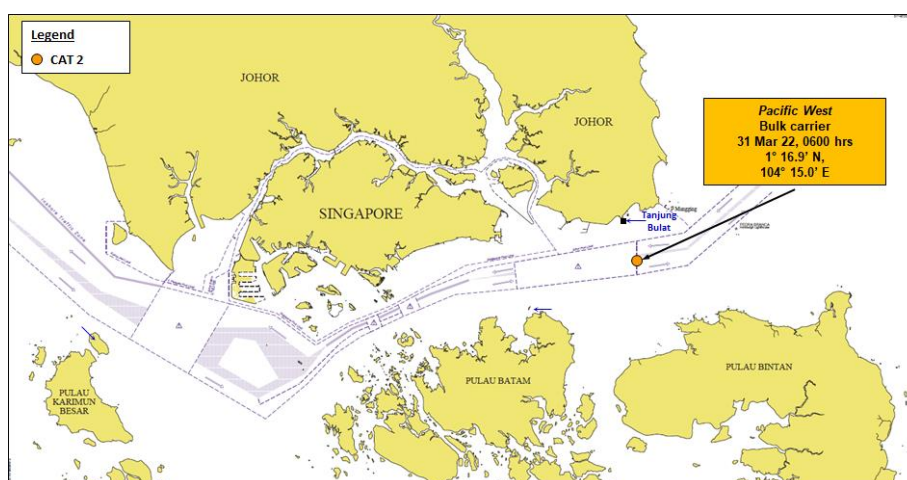
Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 5 – 11 Apr 22, one CAT 2¹ incident of armed robbery against ships in Asia was reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The incident occurred on 31 Mar on board a bulk carrier while underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme in the Singapore Strait. This incident was only reported to the ReCAAP ISC by ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) after confirmation with the shipping company.

In the incident, about six or seven perpetrators armed with knives boarded the ship, threatened the duty motorman and tied him in the engine room. The crew managed to free himself and report the incident to the Chief Engineer. The ship alarm was raised and crew mustered. A search on board the ship was conducted, with no further sighting of the perpetrators. Some auxillary engine and main engine spare parts were stolen. All crew was safe and accounted for. The location of the incident is shown in the map below, and detailed description is tabulated in the attachment.

With this incident, a total of 18 incidents were reported in the Singapore Strait since January 2022 so far.



Location of incident


¹ 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.

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 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.



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: 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
5 to 11 April 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
INCIDENT IN ASIA									
ACTUAL INCIDENT									
1.	Pacific West Bulk carrier Marshall Islands 92221 9604029	31/3/22 0600 hrs	1.0°; 16.9' N, 104.0°; 15.0' E Approximately 4 nm south west of Tanjung Bulat, East Johor (Malaysia) in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme of the Singapore Strait (Straits of Malacca and Singapore)	While underway, about six or seven perpetrators armed with knives boarded the ship. The perpetrators tied the duty motorman in the engine room, pushed him to the floor and threatened him. The crew managed to freed himself and reported the incident to the Chief Engineer. The ship alarm was raised and crew mustered. A search on board the ship was conducted, with no further sighting of the perpetrators. The master reported the incident to the Company Security Officer (CSO). Some auxiliary engine and main engine spare parts were stolen. All crew was safe and accounted for. The master did not require any assistance. The ship departed Singapore and is bound for Rizhao, China. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The Republic of Singapore Navy's Maritime Security Task Force (RSN's MSTF) and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities. [Category 2]	All crew was safe and accounted for. Auxillary engine and main engine spares were stolen.	The master reported the incident to the CSO. The ship alarm was raised and crew mustered. A search on board the ship was conducted.	The master did not report the incident on the onset of the incident.	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 Malaysian and Indonesian authorities.