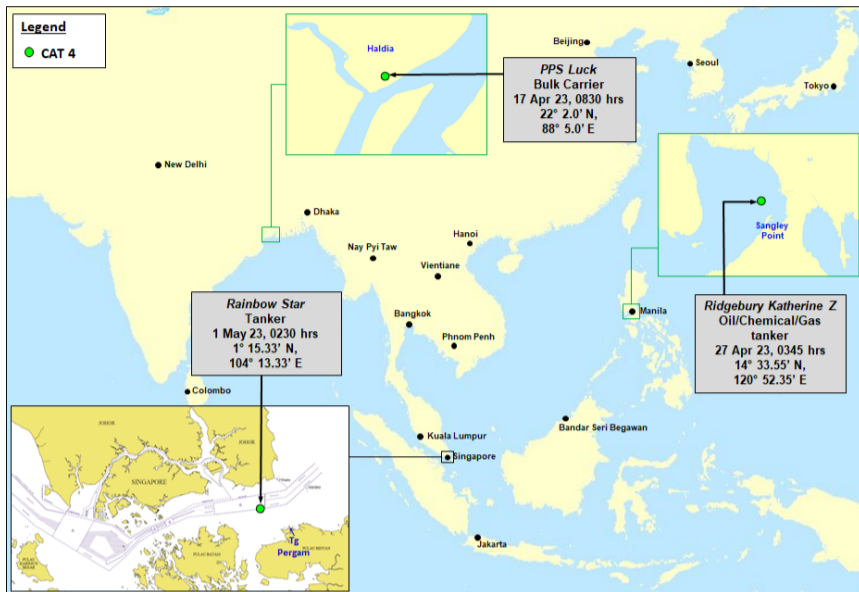


OVERVIEW

Three incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia (all CAT 4¹ incidents) were reported to ReCAAP ISC. The incidents occurred on 17 Apr on board a bulk carrier while berthed alongside at Port of Haldia, India; on 27 Apr on board a tanker while anchored at Anchorage, Philippines; and on 1 May on board a tanker while transiting through the Singapore Strait (SS). The crew members were not injured in all the three incidents. Engine spares and ship stores were stolen in two of the incidents, and nothing was stolen in the other. Detail of incidents are shown in table (*).



Factors	Location		
	India	Philippines	Straits of Malacca and Singapore
	Port of Haldia (1 incident)	Sangley Point Anchorage, Cavite (1 incident)	Off Tanjung Pergam, Indonesia (1 incident)
Type of ship	Bulk carrier	Oil /Chemical/ Gas tanker	Tanker
Date/Time	17 Apr at 0830 hrs	27 Apr at 0345 hrs	1 May at 0230 hrs
Number of perpetrators	Unknown	2 perpetrators	4 perpetrators
Weapons	Not stated	Not stated	Not stated
Treatment of crew	No injuries	No injuries	No injuries
Significance level	CAT 4	CAT 4	CAT 4
Items stolen	Engine spares	Ship stores	Nothing stolen

AREA OF CONCERN

The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the continued occurrence of incidents in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS). With this incident, a total of 25 incidents were reported in the SOMS since January 2023. Of these, 24 incidents occurred in the SS, and one incident in the Malacca Strait (MS). The Centre advises ships to continue to exercise enhanced vigilance when transiting SOMS; and the littoral States to increase patrols and enforcement in the area.

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.



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

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, referring to the Poster on the *Contact Details for Reporting of Incidents of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia*, 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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Contact us at: E: info@recaap.org T: +65 6376 3063 F: +65 6376 3066

* Table at <https://www.recaap.org/resources/ck/files/Number%20of%20Incidents/2023/List%20of%20Incidents%20for%202023.pdf> for details of the incidents.

¹ CAT (Category) 4 incident is classified as "least significant". Under this category, the perpetrators are not armed, and the crew not injured.