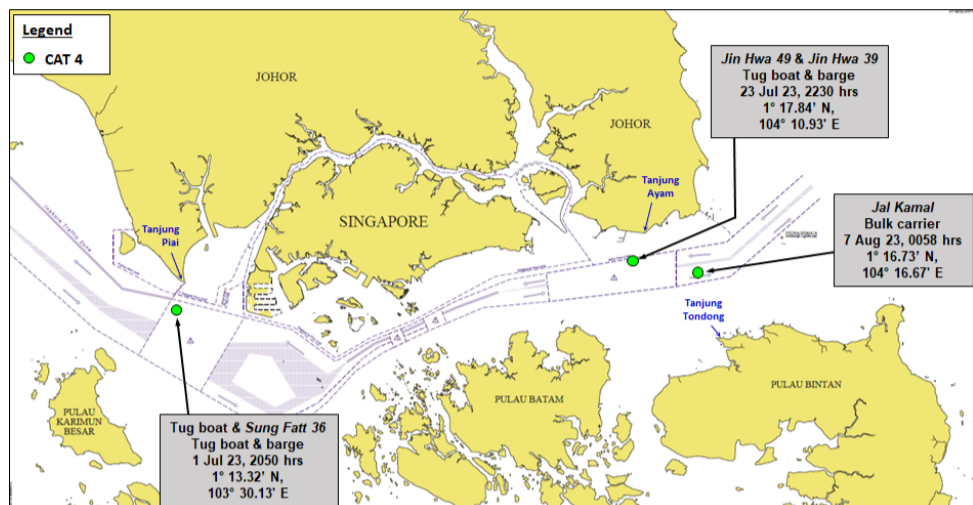


OVERVIEW

Three actual incidents¹ of armed robbery against ships (all CAT 4²) in Asia were reported to ReCAAP ISC. Two of the incidents occurred to barges towed by tug boats and the other incident occurred to a bulk carrier. All three incidents occurred while the ships were underway in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS). Details of incidents are shown in table (*).



Factors	Location		
	SOMS		
	Off Tanjung Piai, Malaysia (1 incident)	Off Tanjung Ayam, Malaysia (1 incident)	Off Tanjung Tondong, Indonesia (1 incident)
Type of ship	Tug boat & barge	Tug boat & barge	Bulk carrier
Date/Time	1 Jul at 2050 hrs	23 Jul at 2230 hrs	7 Aug at 0058 hrs
Number of perpetrators	Unknown	4 men	1 man
Weapons	Not stated	Not stated	Not armed
Treatment of crew	Not stated	Not stated	No injuries
Items stolen	Scrap metal	Scrap metal	Engine spares
Significance level	CAT 4	CAT 4	CAT 4

AREA OF CONCERN

The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the continued occurrence of incidents in the SOMS. With these incidents, a total of 52 incidents were reported in the SOMS since January 2023. 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.

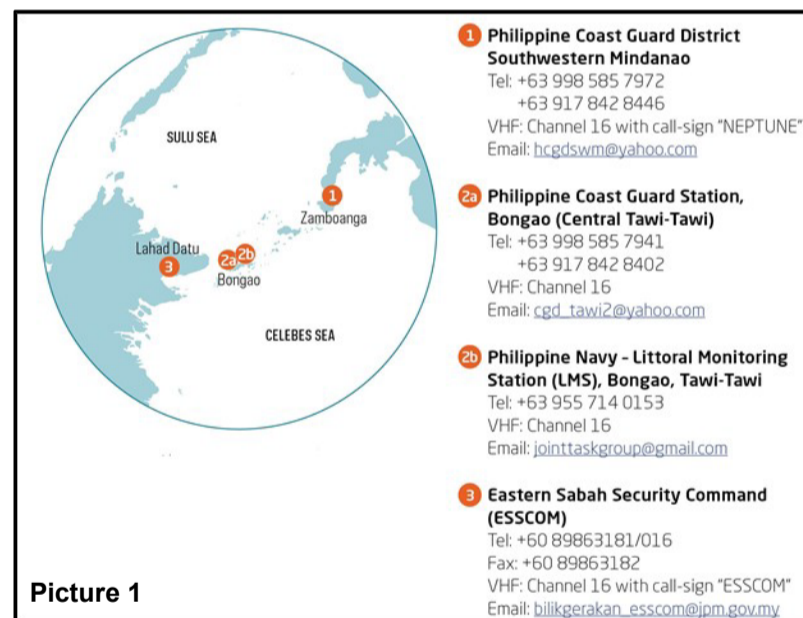
SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH

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.



Picture 1

RECOMMENDATIONS

Ship master and crew are to report all incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships to the nearest coastal State RCC and flag State, referring to the Poster on *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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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 Actual incident is incident where pirates/robbers boarded the ship; and regardless of whether they stole any items from the crew or took away any items found on board the ship.

² CAT (Category) 4 incident is classified as "least significant" in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators are not armed, and the crew not injured.