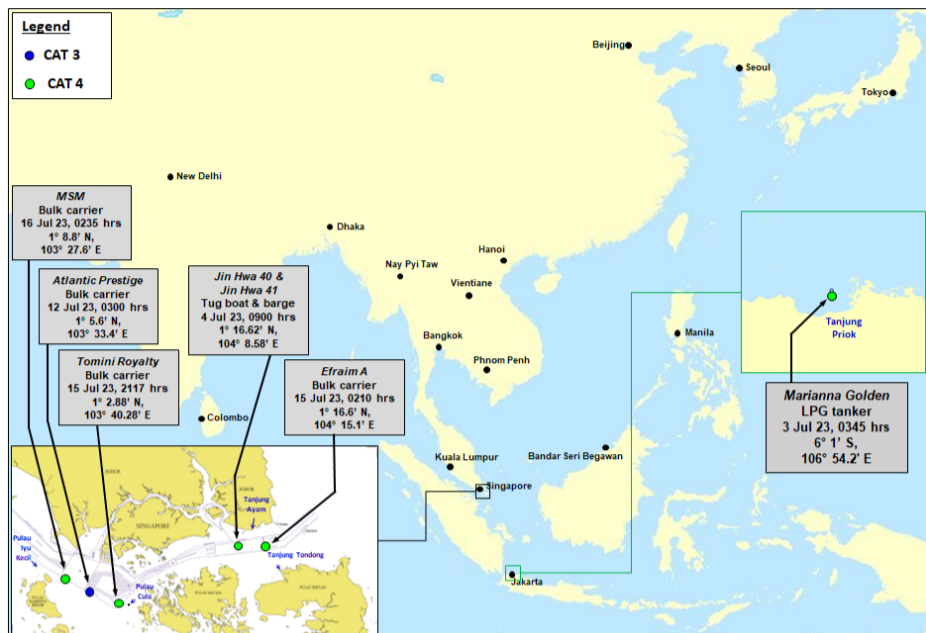


OVERVIEW

Six incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia were reported to ReCAAP ISC. Of these, one was a CAT 3¹ incident and five were CAT 4² incidents. Of the six incidents, five incidents occurred on board ships while they were underway in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS), and one incident occurred at Tanjung Priok Anchorage, Indonesia. Details of incidents are shown in table (*).



Factors	Location			
	SOMS			Indonesia
	(1) Off Tanjung Ayam, Malaysia (2) Off Tanjung Tondong, Indonesia	Off Pulau Cula, Indonesia (2 incidents)	Off Pulau Iyu Kecil, Indonesia (1 incident)	Tanjung Priok Anchorage (1 incident)
Type of ship	(1) Tug boat & barge (2) Bulk carrier	Bulk carrier (2)	Bulk carrier	LPG tanker
Date/Time	(1) 4 July at 0900 hrs (2) 15 July at 0210 hrs	12 July at 0300 hrs (1) 15 July at 2117 hrs (1)	16 July at 0235 hrs	3 July at 0345 hrs
Number of perpetrators	(1) 4 men (2) 5 men	5 men (1) 4 men (1)	5 men	4 men
Weapons	(1) Not stated (2) Not armed	Knives (1) Not armed (1)	Not armed	Not armed
Treatment of crew	(1) No injuries (2) No injuries	No injuries (2)	No injuries	No injuries
Items stolen	(1) Scrap iron on barge (2) Nothing stolen	Engine spares (2)	Nothing stolen	Nothing stolen
Significance level	(1) CAT 4 (2) CAT 4	CAT 3 (1) CAT 4 (1)	CAT 4	CAT 4

AREA OF CONCERN

The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the continued occurrence of incidents in the SOMS. With the five incidents occurred in the Singapore Strait, a total of 46 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.

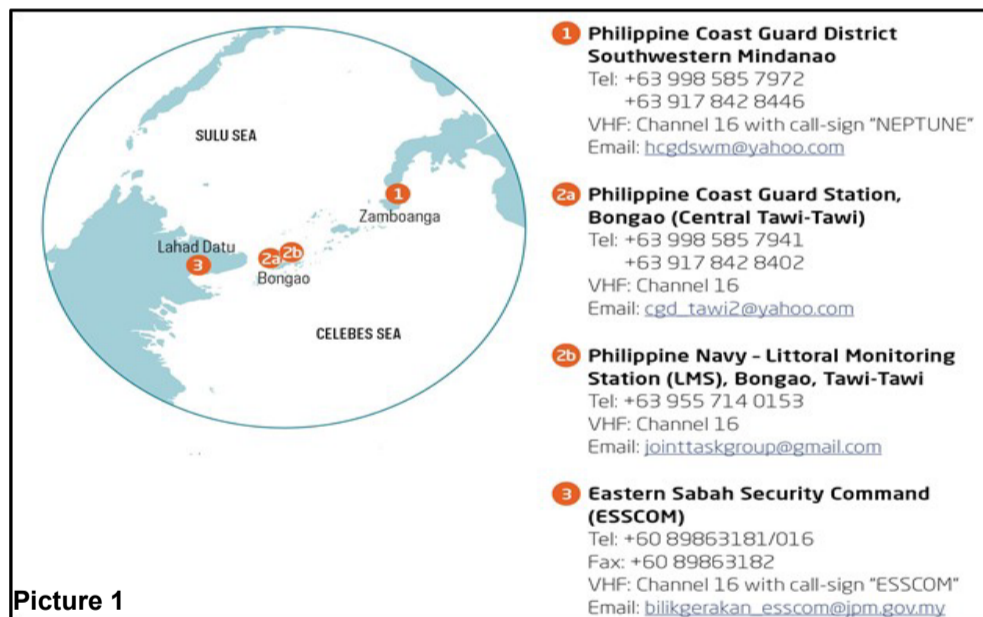
SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH

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 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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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) 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". Under this category, the perpetrators are not armed, and the crew not injured.