

### OVERVIEW

**Two** incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia (one CAT 3<sup>1</sup> and one CAT 4<sup>2</sup>) were reported to ReCAAP ISC. One incident occurred on board a bulk carrier while underway in the Singapore Strait; and another incident on board a chemical tanker while anchored at Kandla Anchorage, India. Nothing was stolen from the bulk carrier, while brass valves, stainless bolts and nuts were reported stolen from the chemical tanker. The crew members were not injured in both incidents. Details of incidents are shown in table (\*).



Factors	Location	
	Singapore Strait	India
	Off Pulau Cula, Indonesia (1 incident)	Kandla Anchorage (1 incident)
Type of ship	Bulk carrier	Chemical tanker
Date/Time	20 Jan at 0100 hrs	19 Jan at 2030 hrs
Number of perpetrators	5 perpetrators	3 perpetrators and 1 orange color small boat
Weapons	Knives	Not stated
Treatment of crew	No injuries	No injuries
Significance level	<b>CAT 3</b>	<b>CAT 4</b>
Items stolen	Nothing was stolen	Brass valves, stainless bolts and nuts

### AREA OF CONCERN

The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the continued occurrence of incidents in the Singapore Strait. With this incident on 20 Jan 23, a total of three incidents were reported in the Singapore Strait since January 2023. The Centre advises ships to continue to exercise enhanced vigilance when transiting the Singapore Strait; and the littoral States to increase patrols and enforcement in the area.

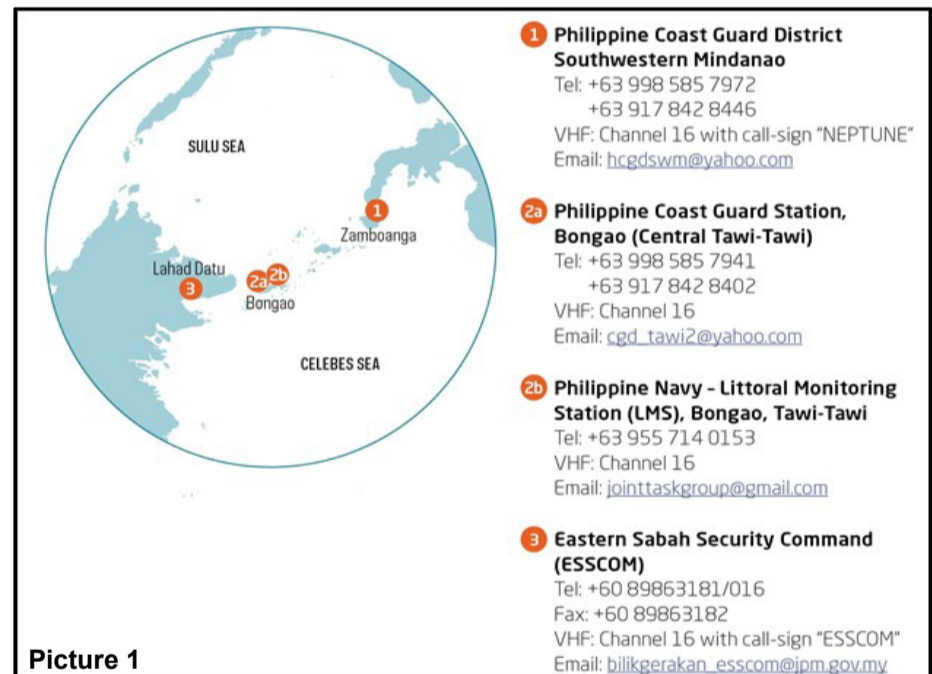
### SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH

#### 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, 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/2022/List%20of%20Incidents%20for%202023.pdf> for details of the incidents.

<sup>1</sup> **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.

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