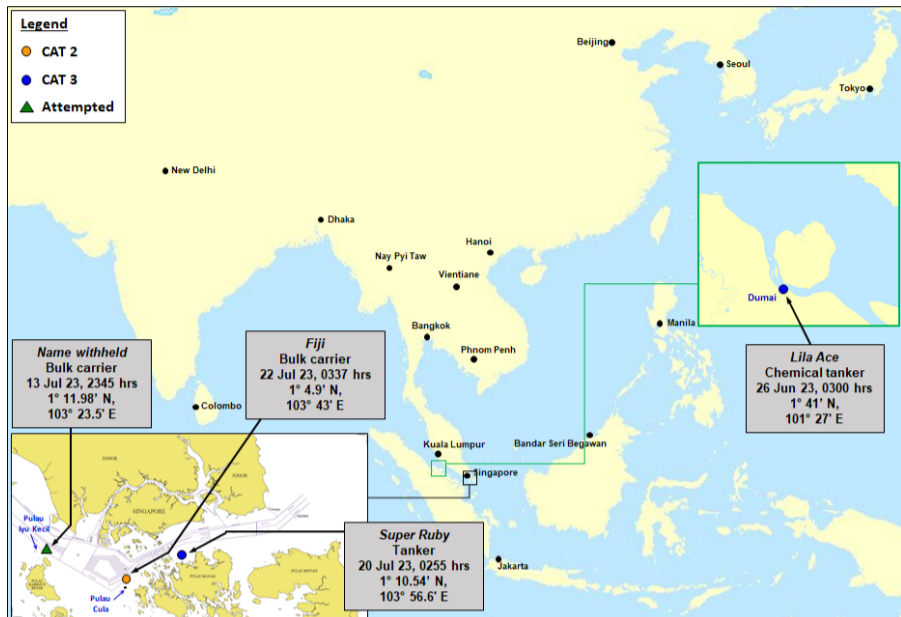


### OVERVIEW

Three actual incidents<sup>1</sup> of armed robbery against ships (one CAT 2<sup>2</sup> and two CAT 3<sup>3</sup>), and one attempted incident<sup>4</sup> in Asia were reported to ReCAAP ISC. Of the four incidents, two incidents occurred to bulk carriers while underway in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS), and two incidents on board a tanker and a chemical tanker while anchored at Batam Anchorage and Dumai Port, Inner Anchorage respectively. Details of incidents are shown in table (\*).



Factors	Location			
	SOMS		Indonesia	
	Off Pulau Iyu Kecil, Indonesia (1 incident)	Off Pulau Cula, Indonesia (1 incident)	Dumai Port, Inner Anchorage (1 incident)	Batam Anchorage (1 incident)
Type of ship	Bulk carrier	Bulk carrier	Chemical tanker	Tanker
Date/Time	13 Jul at 2345 hrs	22 Jul at 0337 hrs	26 Jun at 0300 hrs	20 Jul at 0255 hrs
Number of perpetrators	Unknown	6 men	3 men	3 men
Weapons	Not stated	Knives	Steel bars	Knives
Treatment of crew	Not injured	Not injured	Not injured	Not injured
Items stolen	Nothing stolen	Mobile phone and torch light	Nothing stolen	Nothing stolen
Significance level	Attempted	CAT 2	CAT 3	CAT 3

### AREA OF CONCERN

The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the continued occurrence of incidents in the SOMS. With the two incidents occurred in SOMS, a total of 48 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.

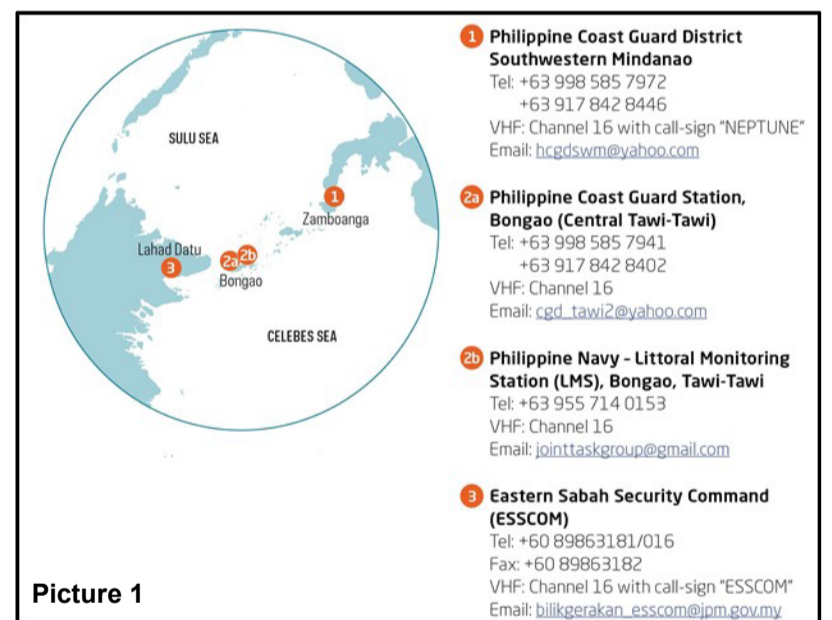
### SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH

#### 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.



### 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: <a href="mailto:info@recaap.org">info@recaap.org</a>	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.

<sup>1</sup> Actual incidents are incidents 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</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>4</sup> Attempted incidents are incidents where pirates/robbers tried but failed to board the ship.