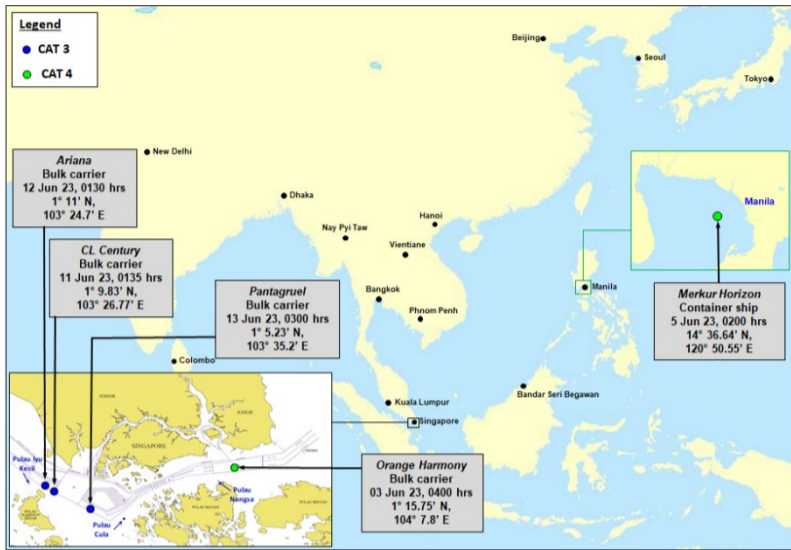


OVERVIEW

Five incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia (three CAT 3¹ and two CAT 4² incidents) were reported to ReCAAP ISC. Four incidents (three CAT 3 incidents and one CAT 4 incident) occurred on board bulk carriers while underway in the Singapore Strait (SS), and one incident (CAT 4) occurred on board a container ship while anchored at MICT anchorage area, Manila, the Philippines. The crew members were not injured in all the five incidents. One welding machine and two fire nozzles were stolen in one incident, engine spares in another incident, and nothing was stolen in the other three incidents. Details of incidents are shown in table (*).



Factors	Locations			
	Philippines	Singapore Strait		
	MICT Anchorage area, Manila (1 incident)	Off Pulau Nongsa, Indonesia (1 incident)	Off Pulau Iyu Kecil, Indonesia (2 incidents)	Off Pulau Cula, Indonesia (1 incident)
Type of ship	Container ship	Bulk carrier	Bulk carriers (2)	Bulk carrier
Date/Time	5 Jun at 0200 hrs	3 Jun at 0400 hrs	11 Jun at 0135 hrs 12 Jun at 0130 hrs	13 Jun at 0300 hrs
Number of perpetrators	Unknown	Unknown	4 men (1) 1 man (1)	3 men
Weapons	Unknown	Unknown	Knives (1) Shovel-like weapon (1)	Knives
Treatment of crew	No injuries	No injuries	No injuries (2)	No injuries
Significance level	CAT 4	CAT 4	CAT 3 (2)	CAT 3
Items stolen	1 welding machine & 2 fire nozzles	Engine spares	Nothing stolen (2)	Nothing stolen

AREA OF CONCERN

With the four incidents reported to the Centre during 6-12 Jun 23, a total of 35 incidents were reported in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS) since January 2023. Of these, 34 incidents occurred in the SS, and one incident in the Malacca Strait (MS). The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the continued occurrence of incidents in the SOMS, and has published an Incident Alert 02/2023 on 13 Jun 23 to alert the maritime community. All ships are advised to exercise enhanced vigilance when transiting SOMS; and the littoral States to increase patrols and enforcement in the area.

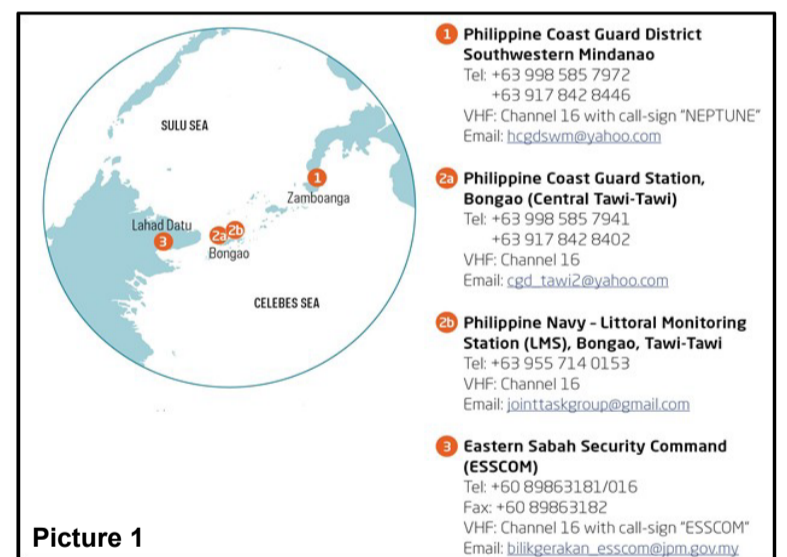
SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH

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