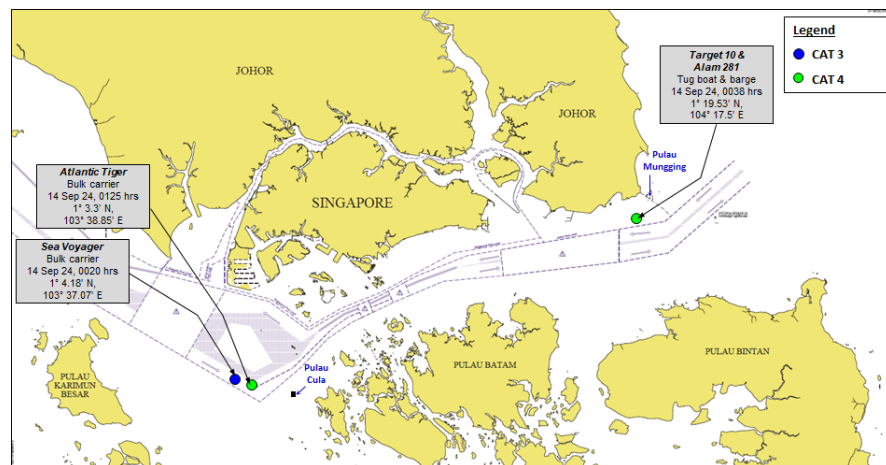


### OVERVIEW

Three incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia (two CAT 4<sup>1</sup> and one CAT 3<sup>2</sup> incidents) were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. All the three incidents occurred on 14 September 2024. Two incidents occurred onboard bulk carriers while underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait (SS), and one incident onboard a barge towed by a tug boat while underway south of Pulau Mungging, within Johor Port Limit, Malaysia. Details of the incidents are shown in table (\*).



Factors	Location		
	Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS)		Malaysia
	Approximately 5.9 nm northwest of Pulau Cula, Indonesia	Approximately 4 nm northwest of Pulau Cula, Indonesia	Approximately 2.2 nm south of Pulau Mungging, Malaysia
Type of ship	Bulk carrier	Bulk carrier	Tug boat & Barge
Date/Time	14 Sep at 0020 hrs	14 Sep at 0125 hrs	14 Sep at 0038 hrs
Number of perpetrators	5 men	6 to 7 men	Unknown
Weapons	Knives	Not stated	Not stated
Treatment of crew	No Injuries	No injuries	No Injuries
Significance level	CAT 3	CAT 4	CAT 4
Items stolen	Nil	Engine spares	Scrap metal

### AREA OF CONCERN

With the two incidents in SS that occurred within an interval of one hour and at close proximity to each other (2 nm apart), the ReCAAP ISC issued an Incident Alert on 14 September 2024 to advise ships to intensify vigilance and maintain sharp look-out while transiting the areas of concern, and the littoral States to increase patrols/surveillance in their respective waters, respond promptly to incidents reported by ships, strengthen coordination and promote information sharing on incidents and criminal groups involved to arrest the perpetrators. A total of 34 incidents (33 incidents in Singapore Strait and one incident in Malacca Strait) were reported in SOMS since January 2024.

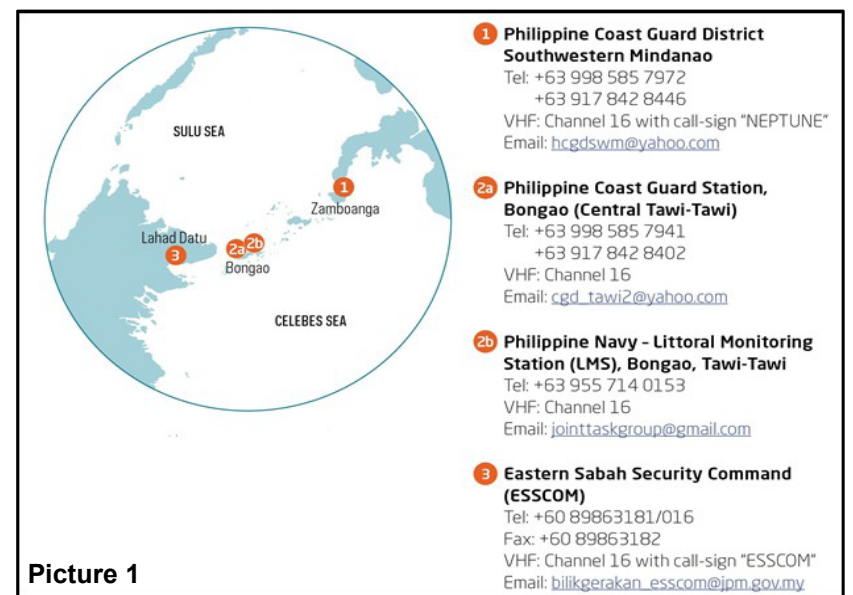
### SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH

#### Re-Assessment and Downgrading of threat level

The efforts by the Philippine Government in Zamboanga, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi through the conduct of continuous military operations led to the dismantling of the support base and neutralising the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) in Sulu archipelago. Against this backdrop, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), coordinated with other stakeholders and counterparts that have vital involvement in the maritime security of the Sulu-Celebes Seas, reviewed the threat situation and recommended further downgrading the threat level of 'Abduction of crew for ransom in the Sulu-Celebes Seas' from 'MODERATE' to 'MODERATE LOW', which implies that 'Incidents are unlikely to occur due to perpetrators' perceived lack of capability to orchestrate an attack. Nevertheless, minimal damages are expected to the vessel and crew in case of an attack'.

#### Update of ReCAAP ISC Advisory

- With downgrading of the threat on the 'Abduction of Crew for ransom in the Sulu-Celebes seas by the PCG, ReCAAP ISC have updated its Advisory for ships to **"exercise vigilance & adopt necessary preventive measures while transiting the area"**.
- 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](#); both produced by the ReCAAP ISC.

Follow us on:	W: <a href="http://www.recaap.org">www.recaap.org</a>	Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/recaapisc">https://twitter.com/recaapisc</a>	LinkedIn: <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/company/recaap-information-sharing-centre">https://www.linkedin.com/company/recaap-information-sharing-centre</a>
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/2024/List%20of%20Incidents%20for%202024.pdf> for details of the incidents.

<sup>1</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.

<sup>2</sup> CAT (Category) 3 incident is classified as "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.