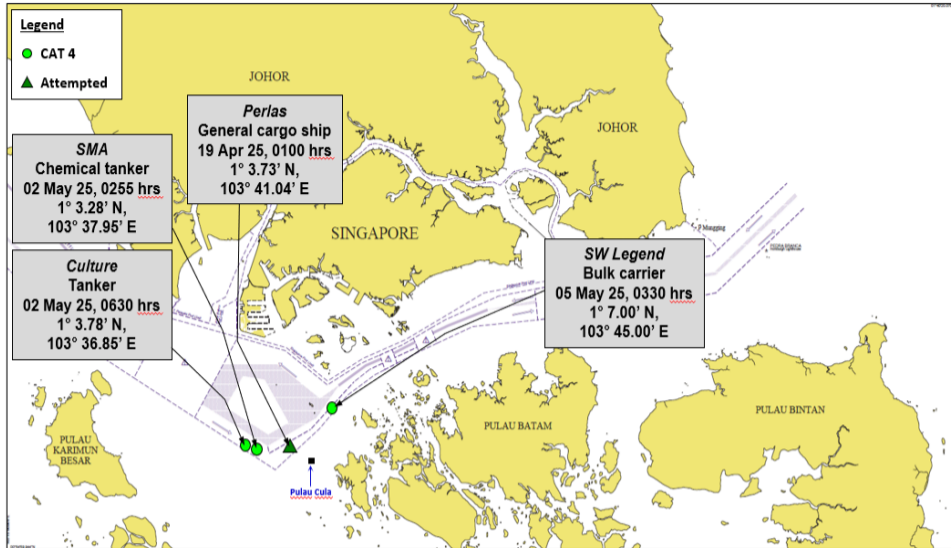


### OVERVIEW

Four incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia (three CAT 4<sup>1</sup> incidents and one attempted<sup>2</sup> incident) were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. All incidents occurred onboard ships while underway off Pulau Cula, Indonesia, in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) of Singapore Strait (SS). The crew members were not injured in all four incidents. Nothing was stolen in three incidents and engine spares were stolen in one incident. Details of the incidents are shown in table (\*).



Factors	Location			
	Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS)			
	2.3 nm off Pulau Cula, Indonesia	4.8 nm off Pulau Cula, Indonesia	6 nm off Pulau Cula, Indonesia	5.1 nm off Pulau Cula, Indonesia
Type of ship	General cargo ship	Chemical tanker	Tanker	Bulk carrier
Date/Time	19 Apr 2025 at 0100 hrs	2 May 2025 at 0255 hrs	2 May 2025 at 0630 hrs	5 May 2025 at 0330 hrs
Number of perpetrators	4	4	5	2
Weapons	Not known	Not stated	Not stated	Not armed
Treatment of crew	No injuries	No injuries	No injuries	No injuries
Significance level	Attempted	CAT 4	CAT 4	CAT 4
Items stolen	Nil	Engine spares	Nil	Nil

### AREA OF CONCERN

With the four incidents in SS, a total of 47 incidents were reported in SOMS since January 2025. The ReCAAP ISC advises ships to exercise enhanced vigilance when transiting SOMS and the littoral States to increase patrols and enforcement in these areas.

### 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 of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), and ensure the likelihood of the end of the group through surrender, arrest, and neutralization. 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, re-assessed the threat level and recommended further downgrading the threat level of 'Abduction of crew for ransom in the Sulu-Celebes Seas' from 'MODERATE LOW' to 'LOW', meaning 'No information or monitored activities suggest an impending attack; hence incidents are not expected to occur'.

#### Update of ReCAAP ISC Advisory

- With downgrading of the threat on the 'Abduction of Crew for ransom in the Sulu-Celebes Seas', ReCAAP ISC have updated its Advisory on 14 Feb 2025 for ships to **"exercise vigilance when transiting the Sulu-Celebes Seas and report incidents to the Operation Centres of the Philippines and Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM)"**.
- Ships are also advised to maintain communication with the relevant authorities when transiting the area. The **Contact Details** of the Operation Centres of the Philippines and ESSCOM of Malaysia are as shown in **Picture 1**.



**Picture 1**

- Philippine Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao**  
Tel : +63 967 276 1478  
+63 969 467 3621  
VHF : Channel 16 with call-sign "NEPTUNE"  
Email : [hcagdswm@yahoo.com](mailto:hcagdswm@yahoo.com)
- Philippine Coast Guard Station, Bongao (Central Tawi-Tawi)**  
Tel : +63 998 585 7941  
+63 917 842 8402  
VHF : Channel 16  
Email : [cgd\\_tawi2@yahoo.com](mailto:cgd_tawi2@yahoo.com)
- Philippine Navy – Littoral Monitoring Station (LMS), Bongao, Tawi-Tawi**  
Tel : +63 955 714 0153  
VHF : Channel 16  
Email : [jointtaskgroup@gmail.com](mailto:jointtaskgroup@gmail.com)
- Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM)**  
Tel : +60 89863181/016  
Fax : +60 89863182  
VHF : Channel 16 with call-sign "ESSCOM"  
Email : [billkgerakan\\_esscom@jpm.gov.my](mailto:billkgerakan_esscom@jpm.gov.my)

In the event that the ship master or crew is unable to establish contact with the Operation Centres of the Philippines as listed, the **Philippine Coast Guard Command Centre** can be contacted at the following link for reporting of incident.

Tel: +632-8-527-8481 (ext: 6136/37)  
+632-8-527-3877 (fax)  
+63-966-217-9610 (mobile)  
+63-977-792-8382 (mobile)  
+63-909-929-1340 (mobile)  
Email: [pcgcomcen@coastguard.gov.ph](mailto:pcgcomcen@coastguard.gov.ph)

### 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.

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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/2025/List%20of%20Incidents%20for%202025.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> **Attempted incident** refers to incident whereby the perpetrators tried but failed in their attempt to board the ship.