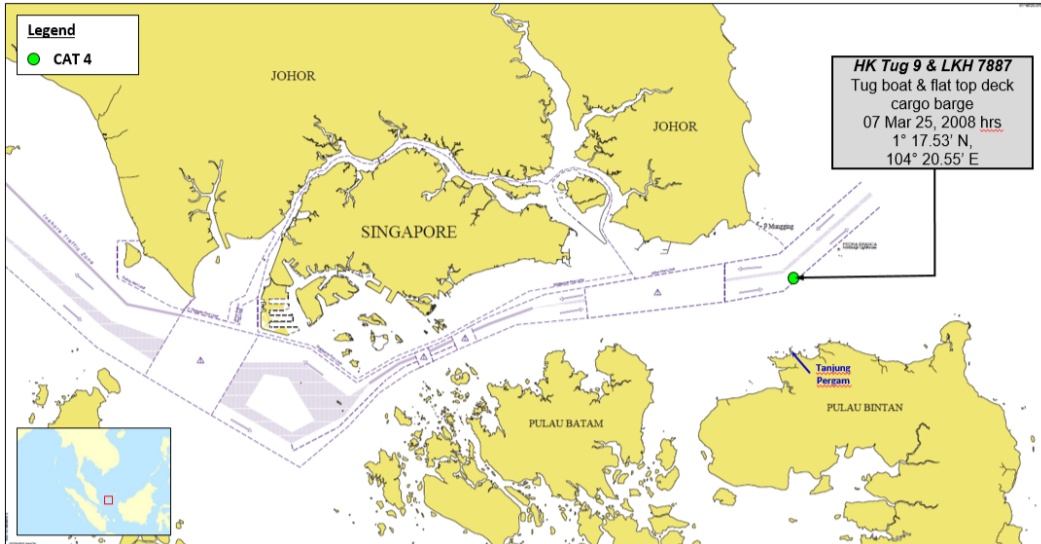


OVERVIEW

A CAT 4¹ incident of armed robbery against ships in Asia was reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The incident occurred onboard a barge towed by a tug boat while underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) of the Singapore Strait (SS) on 7 Mar 2025. Details of the incident are shown in table (*).



Factors	Location
	Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS)
	Approximately 6.1 nm off Tanjung Pergam, Indonesia
Type of ship	Tug boat and barge
Date/Time	7 Mar 2025 at 2008 hrs
Number of perpetrators	3
Weapons	Not armed
Treatment of crew	No injuries
Significance level	CAT 4
Items stolen	Scrap metals

AREA OF CONCERN

With the incident in SS, a total of 23 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 Sayaaf 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

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

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: www.recaap.org	Twitter: https://twitter.com/recaapisc	LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/recaap-information-sharing-centre
Contact us at:	E: info@recaap.org	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.

¹ CAT (Category) 4 incident is classified as "least significant" in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators are not armed, and the crew not injured.