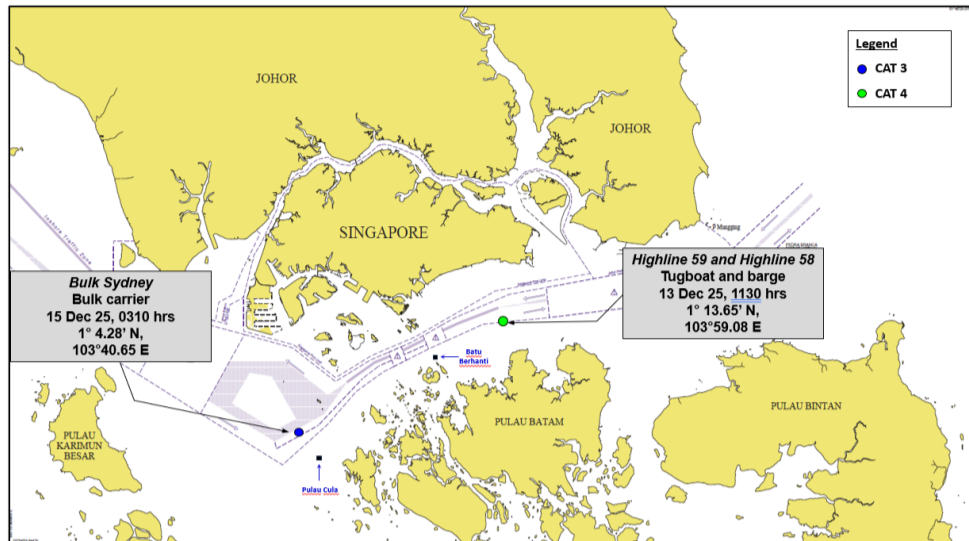


### OVERVIEW

Two incidents of armed robbery against ships<sup>1</sup> in Asia (one CAT 3<sup>2</sup> incident and one CAT 4<sup>3</sup> incident) were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. Both incidents occurred on board ships while underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) of the Singapore Strait (SS). The crew members were not injured while some scrap metals were stolen in one incident and some engine spares were stolen in the other incident. Details of the incidents are shown in table (\*).



Location	Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS)	
	4.8 nm from Batu Behanti beacon	2.74 nm off Pulau Cula, Indonesia
Date/Time	13 Dec 2025 at 1130 hrs	15 Dec 2025 at 0310 hrs
Type of ship	Tugboat & barge	Bulk carrier
Number of perpetrators	15-20	4
Weapons	Not stated	Knives
Treatment of crew	Not injured	Not injured
Significance level	CAT 4	CAT 3
Items stolen	Scrap metals	Engine spares

### AREA OF CONCERN

With the new incidents reported in SS, a total of 105 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

#### Situation Update

For a 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, there has been no report of incident of abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah. The last incident occurred on 17 Jan 2020. In January 2025, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), coordinated with other stakeholders and counterparts further downgraded the threat level of 'Abduction of crew for ransom in the Sulu-Celebes Seas' to 'LOW', meaning 'No information or monitored activities suggest an impending attack; hence incidents are not expected to occur'.

#### ReCAAP ISC Advisory

The ReCAAP ISC, in its Advisory on 14 Feb 2025 advised 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)”**.

Also, 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**.



- Philippine Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao  
Tel : +63 967 276 1478  
+63 969 467 3621  
VHF : Channel 16 with call-sign "NEPTUNE"  
Email : [hcgdswm@yahoo.com](mailto:hcgdswm@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 : [bilikgerakan\\_esscom@jpm.gov.my](mailto:bilikgerakan_esscom@jpm.gov.my)

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](mailto:pcgcomcen@coastguard.gov.ph)  
[pcgcommandcenter22@gmail.com](mailto:pcgcommandcenter22@gmail.com)

### 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> **Armed Robbery Against Ships** is defined in accordance with the Code of Practice for the Investigation of Crimes of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Assembly Resolution A.1025(26).

<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.

<sup>3</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.