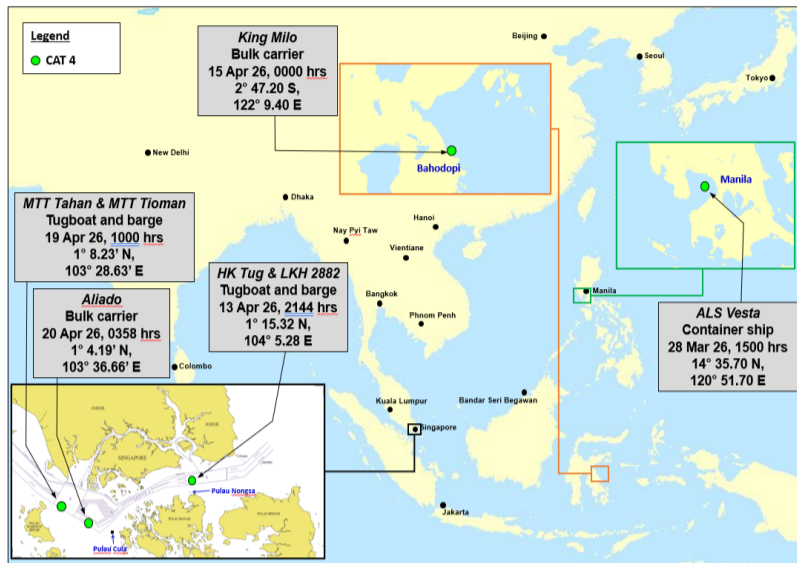


OVERVIEW

Five CAT 4¹ incidents of armed robbery against ships² in Asia were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. Three of the incidents occurred onboard ships while underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in Singapore Strait (SS), two of which were tugboats and barges. The other two incidents occurred onboard ships while at anchor at Manila North Anchorage, Philippines and Nahodopi, Indonesia Anchorage. The crew members were not injured in all five incidents while some unsecured items were stolen in three incidents. Details of the incidents are shown in table (*).



Location	Philippines	Indonesia	Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS)		
	Manila North Anchorage	Bahodopi, Indonesia Anchorage	3nm off Pulau Nongsa, Indonesia	Northeast of Pulau Karimun Besar	6.3 nm off Pulau Cula, Indonesia
Date/Time	28 Mar 2026 at 1500 hrs	15 Apr 2026 at 0000 hrs	13 Apr 2026 at 2144 hrs	19 Apr 2026 at 1000hrs	20 Apr 2026 at 0358 hrs
Type of ship	Container ship	Bulk carrier	Tugboat & barge	Tugboat & barge	Bulk carrier
Number of perpetrators	3	Unknown	2	2	1
Weapons	Not armed	Not stated	Not armed	Not armed	Not stated
Treatment of crew	Not injured	Not injured	Not injured	Not injured	Not injured
Significance level	CAT 4	CAT 4	CAT 4	CAT 4	CAT 4
Items stolen	Nil	Unsecured items	Scraped metals	Mooring ropes & packed goods	Nil

AREA OF CONCERN

With the incident reported in SS, a total of 14 incidents were reported in SOMS since January 2026. Ships are advised to intensify vigilance and maintain sharp look-out while transiting the areas of concern and report all incidents immediately to the nearest coastal State. The Centre also urges the littoral States to increase patrols/surveillance in their respective waters, respond promptly to incidents reported, strengthen coordination and promote information sharing on incidents and the criminal groups involved in order to arrest the perpetrators.

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

Situation Update

For a 6th 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**.



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
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.

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 of Incidents/2026/List of Incidents for 2026.pdf](https://www.recaap.org/resources/ck/files/Number%20of%20Incidents/2026/List%20of%20Incidents%20for%202026.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.

² **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).