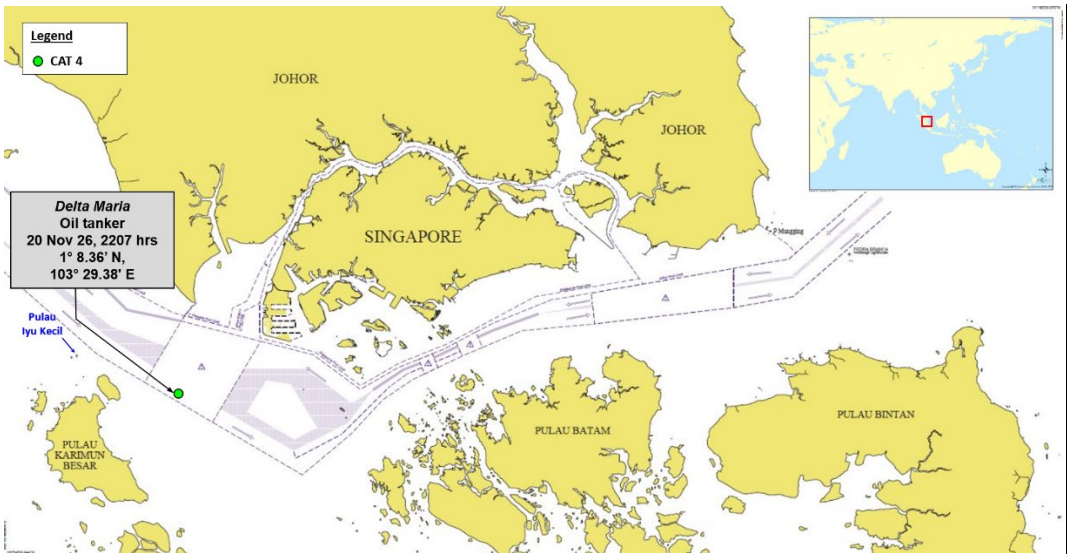
Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia
Weekly Report (17-23 November 2026)

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OVERVIEW

One CAT 4[1] incident of armed robbery against ships[2] in Asia was reported to ReCAAP ISC. The incident occurred onboard an oil tanker while sailing in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) of SOMS on 20 Nov 2026. Three (3) unidentified perpetrators were sighted on the poop deck. The ship's general alarm was activated. The crew members were not injured. Details of the incident as shown in table (*).



Location	Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS)
	8.9nm from Pulau Iyu Kecil, Indonesia
Date/Time	20 Nov 2026 at 2207 hrs
Type of ship	Oil tanker
Number of perpetrators	3
Weapons	not stated
Treatment of crew	not injured
Significance level	CAT 4
Items stolen	nil

AREA OF CONCERN

The ReCAAP ISC advises ships to continue to intensify vigilance, maintain a sharp look-out while anchoring and transiting areas of concern and report all incidents to the law enforcement agencies immediately; 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

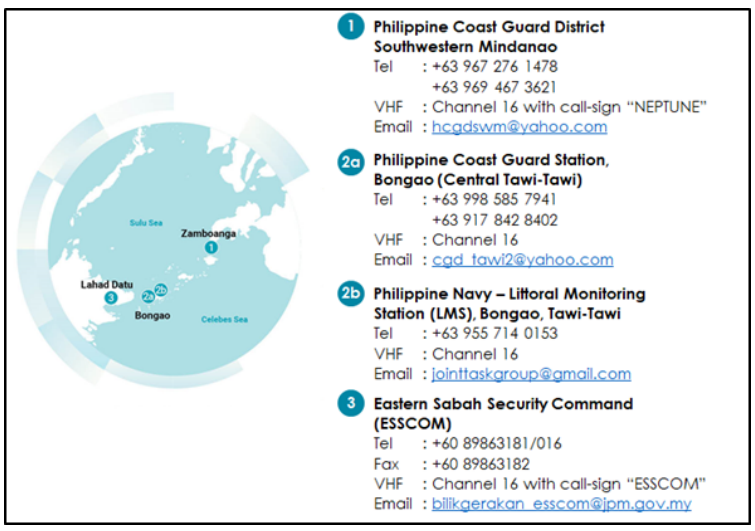
Situation Update

For a 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.

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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 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 are 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).

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