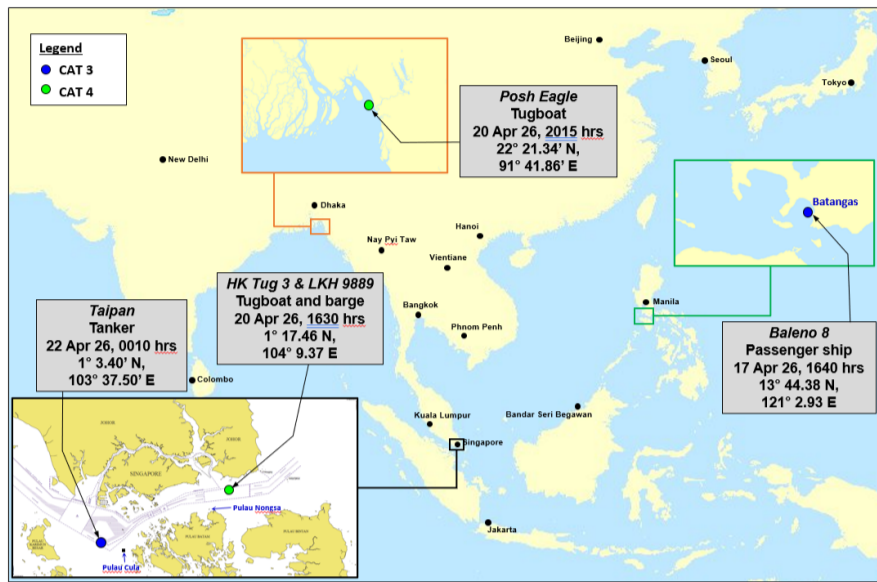


OVERVIEW

Four incidents of armed robbery against ships¹ in Asia (two CAT 3² and two CAT 4³ incidents) were reported to ReCAAP ISC. Two incidents occurred onboard ships while underway in the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in Singapore Strait (SS). The other two incidents occurred onboard ships while at anchor in waters off Batangas City, Philippines and Anchorage B of Chittagong, Bangladesh. The crew members were not injured in all four incidents while engine spares, ship stores and unsecured items were stolen from the ships. Details of the incidents are shown in table (*).



Location	Philippines	Bangladesh	Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS)	
	off Batangas City	Anchorage B of Chittagong	Precautionary area of TSS	3.6 nm off Pulau Cula, Indonesia,
Date/Time	17 Apr 2026 at 1640 hrs	20 Apr 2026 at 2015 hrs	20 Apr 2026 at 1630hrs	22 Apr 2026 at 0010 hrs
Type of ship	Passenger ship	Tug/supply vessel	Tugboat & barge	Tanker
Number of perpetrators	5	Not known	2	4
Weapons	knives	Not armed	Not armed	Knives
Treatment of crew	Threatened	Not injured	Not injured	Not injured
Significance level	CAT 3	CAT 4	CAT 4	CAT 3
Items stolen	Metal parts and generator wirings	Paint cans	Scrap metal	Engine spares

AREA OF CONCERN

With the two incidents reported in SS, a total of 16 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, strengthen coordination and promote information sharing on incidents and the criminal groups involved 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 **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).
² **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.
³ **CAT (Category) 4** incident is classified as "least significant" in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators are not armed, and the crew not injured.