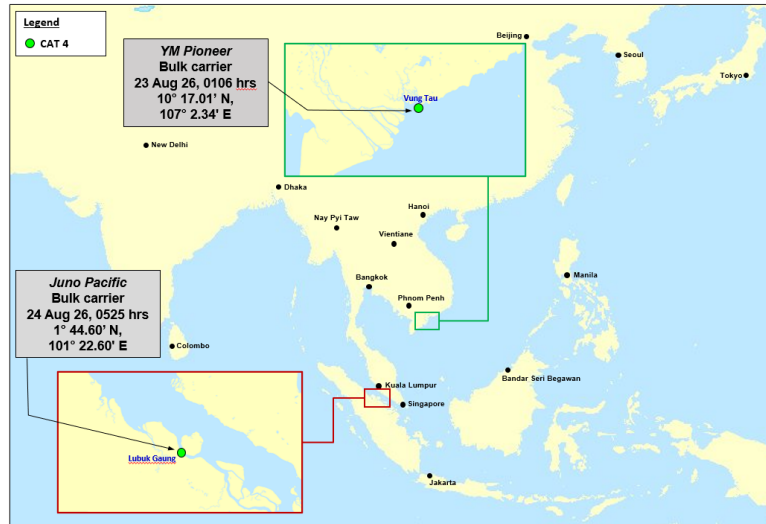


OVERVIEW

Two CAT 4¹ incidents of armed robbery against ships² in Asia were reported to ReCAAP ISC. One incident occurred onboard a bulk carrier while at anchor at southwest of Vung Tau Light House, Vietnam on 23 August 2026. The other incident occurred onboard a bulk carrier while loading goods at Lubuk Gaung Port, Indonesia on 24 August 2026. The crew were not injured in both incidents despite some ship stores and spare parts of generator were stolen. Details of the incidents are as shown in table (*).



Location	Vietnam	Indonesia
	Anchorage H13, southwest of Vung Tau Light House	Lubuk Gaung Port
Date/Time	23 August 2026 at 0106 hrs	24 August 2026 at 0525 hrs
Type of ship	Bulk carrier	Bulk carrier
Number of perpetrators	At least one	2
Weapons	Not armed	Not armed
Treatment of crew	Not injured	Not injured
Significance level	CAT 4	CAT 4
Items stolen	Ship stores	Spare parts of generator

AREA OF CONCERN

Ships are advised to intensify vigilance and maintain sharp look-out while transiting the areas of concern or anchoring at ports and anchorages; and to report all incidents immediately to the nearest coastal State. The Centre also urges the coastal States to increase patrols/surveillance in their respective waters, respond promptly to incidents reported to them, 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/recaap_pisc	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).