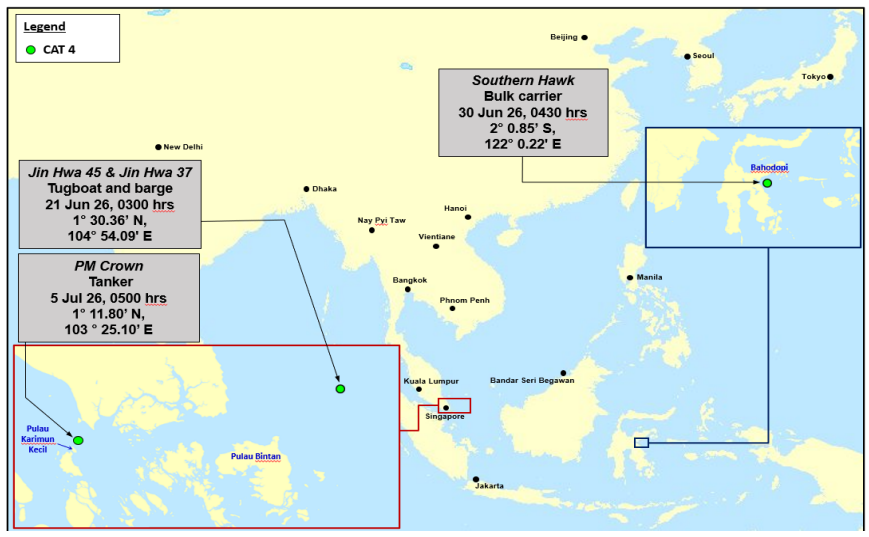
Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia

Weekly Report (7-14 July 2026)

Infinite Studios, 21 Media Circle, 05-04, (S)138562

OVERVIEW

Two CAT 4[1] incidents of armed robbery (AR) against ships[2] in Asia and one CAT 4 piracy[3] incident were reported to ReCAAP ISC. The piracy incident occurred onboard a tugboat and a barge off Pulau Batam, Indonesia, in the South China Sea on 21 June 2026. One AR incident occurred onboard a bulk carrier while at anchor at the Bahodopi Anchorage, Indonesia on 30 June 2026. The other AR incident occurred onboard a tanker while transiting the Malacca Strait (MS) to Singapore on 5 July 2026. The crew members were not injured, and some ship property / stores were stolen in all three incidents. Details of the incidents as shown in table (*).



Location	South China Sea	Indonesia	MS
	25.4 nm off Pulau Batam	Bahodopi Anchorgae	MS
Date/Time	21June 2026 at 0300 hrs	30 June 2026 at 0430 hrs	5 July 2026 at 0500 hrs
Type of ship	Tugboat and barge	Bulk carrier	Tanker
Number of perpetrators	3	Unknown	Unknown
Weapons	Not armed	Unknown	Unknown
Treatment of crew	Not injured	Not injured	Not injured
Significance level	CAT 4	CAT 4	CAT 4
Items stolen	Ship property/stores	Ship property/stores	Ship property/stores

AREA OF CONCERN

With the incident reported in MS, a total of 22 incidents were reported in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS) since January 2026. The ReCAAP ISC advises ships to continue to intensify vigilance, maintain a sharp look-out while transiting areas of concern and report all incidents to the law enforcement agencies immediately. The Centre also urges the littoral States to increase patrols and enforcement 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 S EAS AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH

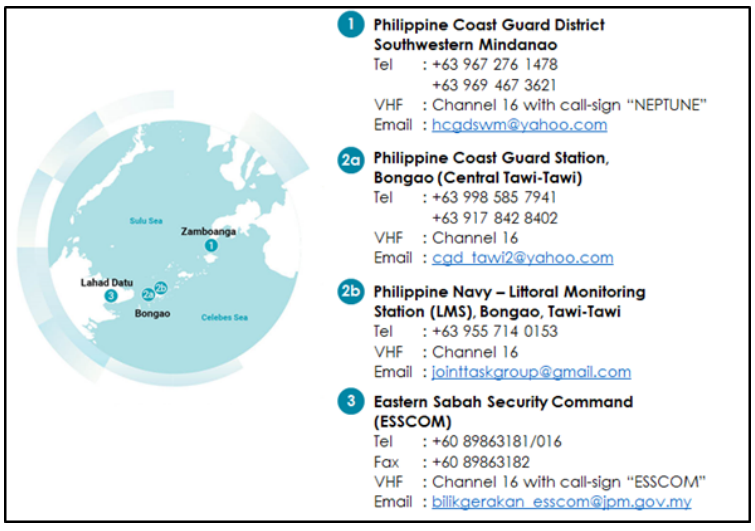
Situation Update

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 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).

[3] The definition of **piracy** is in accordance with Article 101 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS 82).

Enhancing Regional Cooperation…