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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report

6-12 Oct 2020

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 6-12 Oct 20, two CAT 4¹ incidents (where the perpetrators were not armed and the crew not harmed) were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. Of the two incidents, one incident occurred on 4 Oct on board an offshore supply vessel while anchored at Kakinada OPL Anchorage, India. The other incident occurred on 11 Oct on board a bulk carrier while underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait.

The location of the incidents is shown in the map below; and detailed description of the incidents tabulated in the attachment.



Location of incidents

¹ CAT (Category) 4 incident is classified as “least significant” in nature.

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

As the risk of the abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah is high as demonstrated by the abduction incident on 17 Jan 20 and information of planned kidnapping in Sabah and Semporna, Malaysia (as reported in ReCAAP ISC's Warning issued on 2 Jul 20), the ReCAAP ISC reiterates its advisory issued via ReCAAP ISC Incident Alert dated 21 Nov 16 to all ships to reroute from the area, where possible. Otherwise, ship masters and crew are strongly urged to exercise extra vigilance while transiting the area, and report immediately to the Operation Centres of Philippines and Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM) of Malaysia. The contact details of the Operation Centres of the Philippines and ESSCOM of Malaysia (updated by ReCAAP ISC on 3 Jan 19) are as follows:



The map shows the Sulu Sea to the north and the Celebes Sea to the south. Key locations marked include Lahad Datu (point 3), Bongao (points 2a and 2b), and Zamboanga (point 1).

- 1 Philippine Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao**
Tel: +63 998 585 7972
+63 917 842 8446
VHF: Channel 16 with call-sign "NEPTUNE"
Email: hcgdswm@yahoo.com
- 2a Philippine Coast Guard Station, Bongao (Central Tawi-Tawi)**
Tel: +63 998 585 7941
+63 917 842 8402
VHF: Channel 16
Email: cgd_tawi2@yahoo.com
- 2b Philippine Navy - Littoral Monitoring Station (LMS), Bongao, Tawi-Tawi**
Tel: +63 955 714 0153
VHF: Channel 16
Email: jointtaskgroup@gmail.com
- 3 Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM)**
Tel: +60 89863181/016
Fax: +60 89863182
VHF: Channel 16 with call-sign "ESSCOM"
Email: bilikgerakan_esscom@jpm.gov.my

Contact details

In the event that the ship master is not able to establish contact with the Operation Centres of the Philippines as listed in the ReCAAP ISC Advisory, he can contact the **Philippine Coast Guard Command Centre** at the following contact details:

Tel: +632-8-527-8481 (ext: 6136/37)
+632-998-585-5327 (mobile)
+632-917-842-8249 (mobile)
+632-8-527-3877 (fax)

Email: pcgcomcen@coastguard.gov.ph

The ReCAAP ISC advises the shipping industry and ships to enhance their situation awareness by referring to the *Guidance on Abduction of Crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and Waters off Eastern Sabah* produced by ReCAAP ISC in July 2019. The Guidance is available at www.recaap.org.

RECOMMENDATION

The ReCAAP ISC urges ship master and crew to report all incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships to the nearest coastal State and flag State, exercise vigilance and adopt relevant preventive measures taking reference from the *Regional Guide to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia*.

**Description of Incidents of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships
6-12 October 2020**

| 1 | Ship Name Type of Ship Flag Gross Tonnage IMO Number | 2 Date Local Time of Incident (LT) | 3 Position of the Incident | 4 Details of the Incident | 5 Consequences for crew, ship, cargo | 6 Action taken by the master and crew | 7 Was the incident reported to coastal authority? Which one? | 8 Reporting State or International Organization | 9 Coastal State Taken | 10 Action |
|--------------------------|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|--------------|
| INCIDENTS IN ASIA | | | | | | | | | | |
| ACTUAL INCIDENTS | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. | Ganj Bulk carrier Iran 40166 9305219 | 11/10/20 0026 hrs | 1° 16.42' N, 104° 13.92' E Approximately 7.2 nm north west of Tanjung Tondang, Pulau Bintan, Indonesia in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait (SOMS) | While underway and en route to Fang Cheng, China, the master was alerted by his crew who sighted three perpetrators at the stern of the ship. The alarm was raised and the perpetrators escaped upon being sighted. There was no confrontation between the perpetrators and crew. A search was conducted on board the ship with no sighting of the perpetrators. Nothing was stolen. The master reported the incident to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) and continued her voyage with no assistance required. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The Republic of Singapore Navy's (RSN) Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF), Singapore Police Coast Guard and the Indonesian authorities were notified. [Category 4] | There was no confrontation between the perpetrators and crew. Nothing was stolen. | The alarm was raised and a search was conducted on board the ship. | Yes Singapore VTIS | ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) | A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN's MSTF, Singapore Police Coast Guard and the Indonesian authorities were notified. | |

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|----|---|---|--|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| 2. | Name withheld Offshore supply vessel Singapore 2218 | 4/10/20 0004 hrs | 17° 4.99' N, 82° 24.77' E Kakinada OPL Anchorage, India | While at anchor, the duty officer saw a perpetrator standing at port forward. The duty officer sounded the ship horn and made an announcement on the PA system. The perpetrator then jumped off the ship into the water. The crew observed that the perpetrator, together with two other perpetrators, were retrieving a mooring rope and then escaped in a small unlit boat. A search on board the ship was conducted and one mooring rope was reported missing. The crew was not injured. An Indian Coast Guard ship was tasked to investigate the incident. [Category 4] | The crew was not injured. A mooring rope was stolen. | The duty officer sounded the ship horn and made an announcement on the PA system. A search on board the ship was also conducted. | No | ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) and ReCAAP Focal Point (India) | An Indian Coast Guard ship carried out an investigation into the incident. |