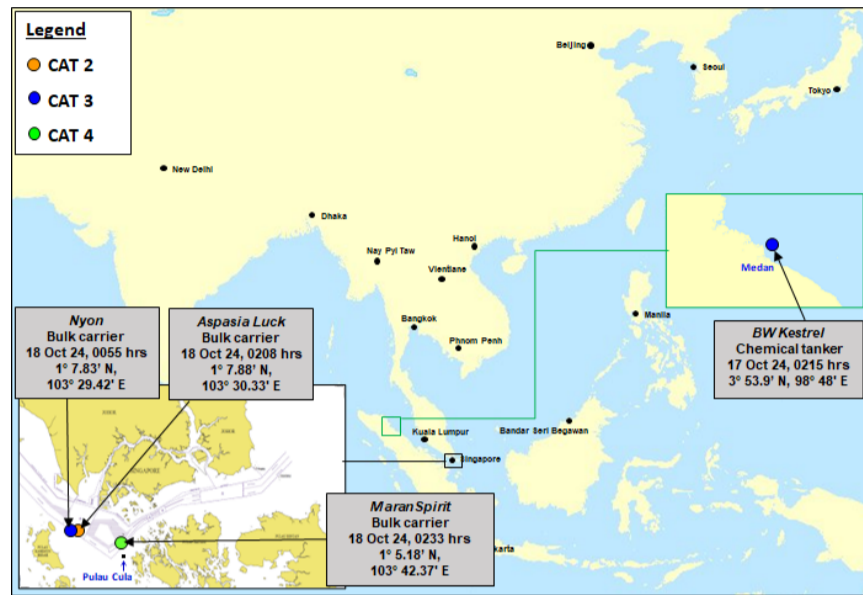


OVERVIEW

Four incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia (one CAT 2¹, two CAT 3² and one CAT 4³ incidents) were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. Three of the incidents occurred onboard bulk carriers while underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait (SS), and one incident onboard a petroleum/chemical tanker while at anchor in Medan Anchorage, Indonesia. Details of the incidents are shown in table (*).



Factors	Location			
	Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS)			Indonesia
	Approximately 4.6 nm east of Pulau Karimun Kecil, Indonesia	Approximately 5.5 nm east of Pulau Karimun Kecil, Indonesia	Approximately 2.8 nm north of Pulau Cula, Indonesia	Medan Anchorage
Type of ship	Bulk carrier	Bulk carrier	Bulk carrier	Petroleum/chemical tanker
Date/Time	18 Oct at 0055 hrs	18 Oct at 0208 hrs	18 Oct at 0233 hrs	17 Oct at 0215 hrs
Number of perpetrators	5 men	10 men	1 man	2 men
Weapons	Knives	Knives	Not stated	Machetes
Treatment of crew	No injuries	No Injuries	No injuries	No injuries
Significance level	CAT 3	CAT 2	CAT 4	CAT 3
Items stolen	Nil	Engine spares	Nil	Unsecured items

AREA OF CONCERN

With the three incidents in SOMS that occurred on the same day, within a short time interval and at close proximity to each other: the ReCAAP ISC issued an Incident Alert on 18 October 2024 to advise ships to intensify vigilance and maintain sharp look-out while transiting the areas of concern. Also the littoral States of SOMS to strengthen coordination, increase patrols/surveillance in their respective waters, respond promptly to incidents reported by ships, and promote information sharing on incidents and criminal groups. With these three incidents, a total of 39 incidents (38 incidents in Singapore Strait and one incident in Malacca Strait) were reported in SOMS since January 2024.

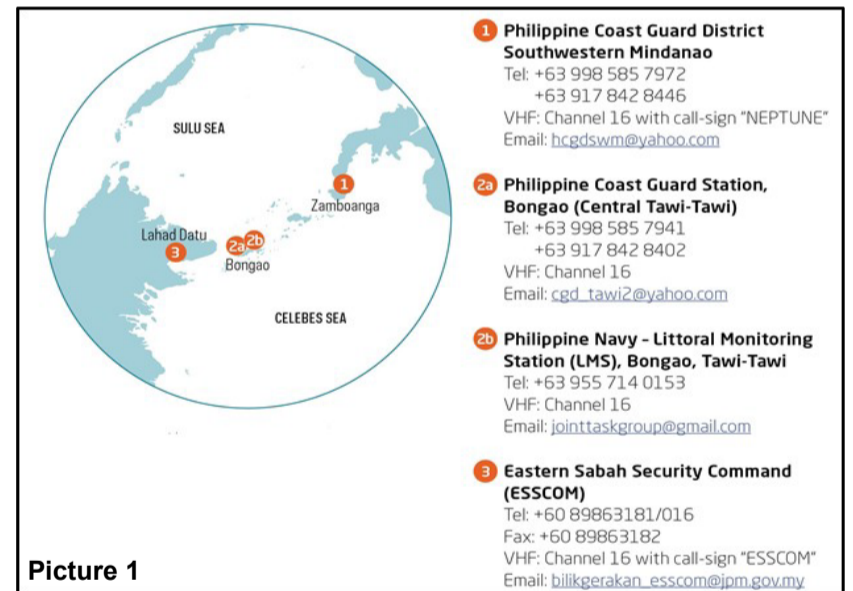
SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH

Re-Assessment and Downgrading of threat level

The efforts by the Philippine Government in Zamboanga, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi through the conduct of continuous military operations led to the dismantling of the support base and neutralising the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) in Sulu archipelago. Against this backdrop, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), coordinated with other stakeholders and counterparts that have vital involvement in the maritime security of the Sulu-Celebes Seas, reviewed the threat situation and recommended further downgrading the threat level of 'Abduction of crew for ransom in the Sulu-Celebes Seas' from 'MODERATE' to 'MODERATE LOW', which implies that 'Incidents are unlikely to occur due to perpetrators' perceived lack of capability to orchestrate an attack. Nevertheless, minimal damages are expected to the vessel and crew in case of an attack'.

Update of ReCAAP ISC Advisory

- With downgrading of the threat on the 'Abduction of Crew for ransom in the Sulu-Celebes seas by the PCG, ReCAAP ISC have updated its Advisory for ships to **"exercise vigilance & adopt necessary preventive measures while transiting the area"**.
- For ships transiting the area, the **ship masters and crew are strongly encouraged to exercise extra vigilance and report** all incidents immediately to the Operation Centres of the Philippines and Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM) of Malaysia. The **Contact Details** of the Operation Centres of the Philippines and ESSCOM of Malaysia are as shown in Picture 1.



Picture 1

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%20of%20Incidents/2024/List%20of%20Incidents%20for%202024.pdf> for details of the incidents.

¹ **CAT (Category) 2** incident is moderately significant. Under this category, the perpetrators are likely to be armed with knives/machetes and in some incidents armed with guns. The crew is threatened or held hostage temporarily and, in some cases, the crew suffered injury and physical violence.

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. In most CAT 3 cases, nothing is stolen. In cases where losses are reported, stores and engine spares are commonly stolen items.

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.