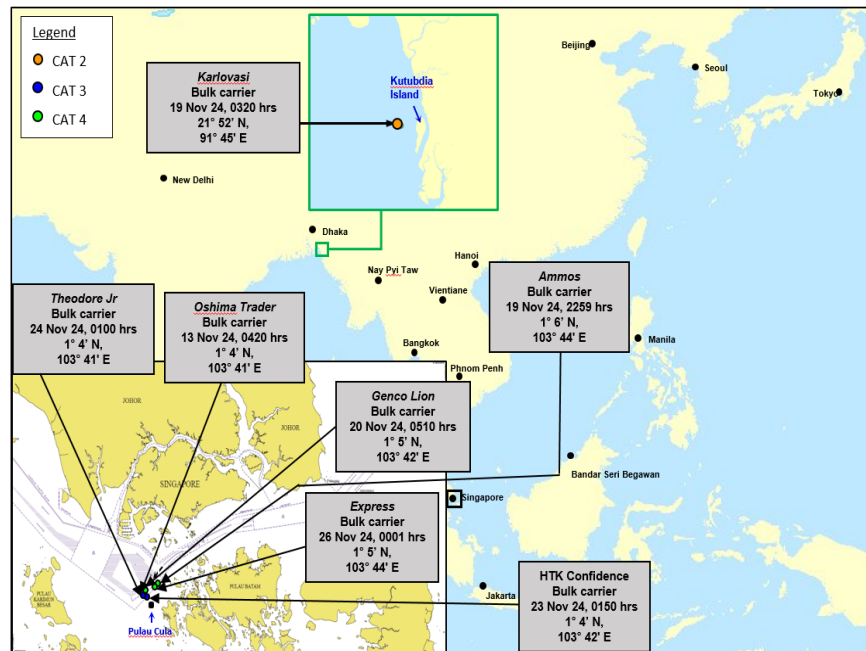


OVERVIEW

Seven incidents (one CAT 2¹, three CAT 3², three CAT4³) of armed robbery against ships in Asia were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. All incidents occurred onboard bulk carriers. Six incidents - while the ships were underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) of the Singapore Straits (SS). One incident - while the ship was at anchor in Kutubdia Anchorage, Bangladesh. Details of the incidents are shown in table (*).



Factors	Location						
	Bangladesh	Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS)					
	Kutubdia Anchorage	About 2.3nm northwest of Pulau Cula, Indonesia	About 3.7nm north of Pulau Cula, Indonesia	About 2.5nm northwest of Pulau Cula, Indonesia	About 1.46nm northwest of Pulau Cula, Indonesia	About 2.07nm northwest of Pulau Cula, Indonesia	About 2.8nm north of Pulau Cula, Indonesia
Type of ship	Bulk carrier	Bulk carrier	Bulk carrier	Bulk carrier	Bulk carrier	Bulk carrier	Bulk carrier
Date/Time	19 Nov at 0320 hrs	13 Nov at 0420 hrs	19 Nov at 2259 hrs	20 Nov at 0245 hrs	23 Nov at 0150 hrs	24 Nov at 0100 hrs	26 Nov at 0001 hrs
Number of perpetrators	10	4	3	4	2	6	2
Weapons	Knives & bats	Machetes & gun-like object	Not armed	Not stated	Knives	Knives	Not stated
Treatment of crew	Assaulted	No injuries	No injuries	No injuries	No injuries	No injuries	No injuries
Significance level	CAT 2	CAT 3	CAT 4	CAT 4	CAT 3	CAT 3	CAT 4
Items stolen	Ship property/stores	Engine spares	Ship property/stores	Nil	Ship property/stores	Engine spares	Nil

AREA OF CONCERN

With these six incidents, a total of 53 incidents (52 incidents in Singapore Strait and one incident in Malacca Strait) were reported in SOMS since January 2024. Ships are advised to intensify vigilance and maintain sharp look-out while transiting the areas of concern; and also the littoral States 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.

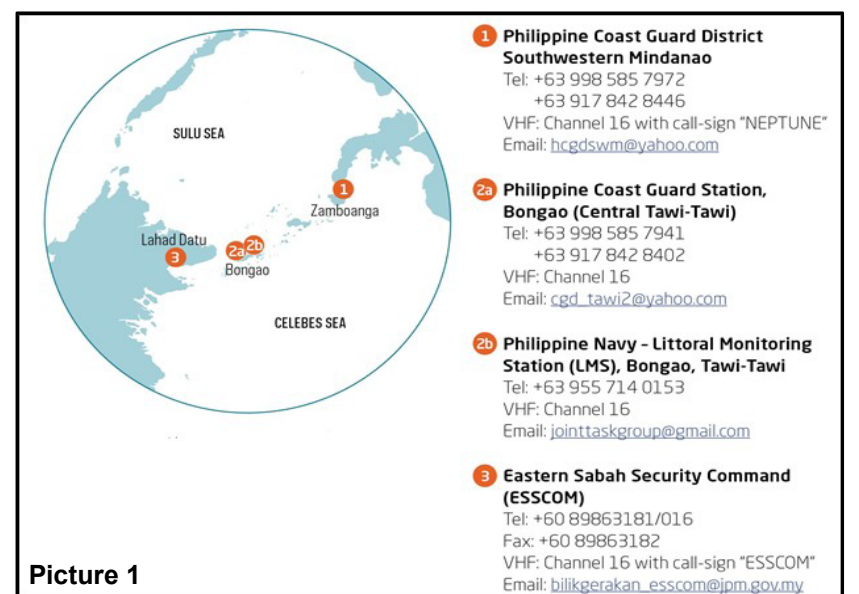
SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH

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.