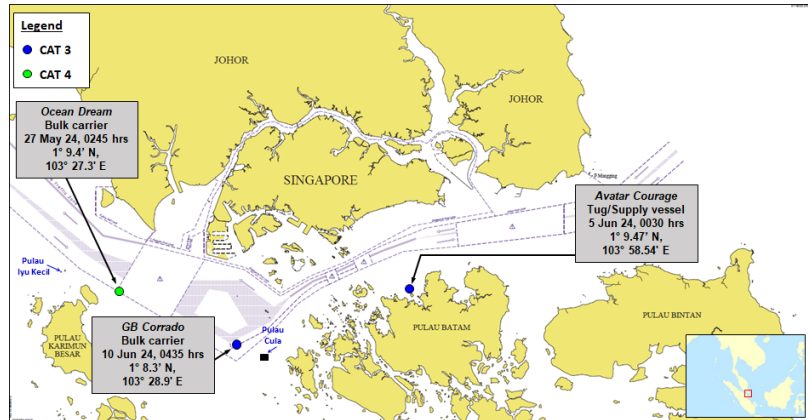


OVERVIEW

Three incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia (two CAT 3¹ and one CAT 4²) were reported to ReCAAP ISC. One incident occurred onboard a tug/supply vessel while anchored at Batam Anchorage, Indonesia on 5 Jun (CAT 3); and two incidents onboard bulk carriers while underway in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS) on 27 May (CAT 4) and 10 Jun (CAT 3). Details of incidents are shown in table (*).



Factors	Locations		
	SOMS		Indonesia
	Pulau Iyu Kecil, Indonesia (1 incident)	West of Pulau Cula, Indonesia (1 incident)	Batam Anchorage (1 incident)
Type of ship	Bulk carrier	Bulk carrier	Tug/Supply vessel
Date/Time	27 May at 0245 hrs	10 Jun at 0435 hrs	5 Jun at 0030 hrs
Number of perpetrators	4 men	4 men	3 men
Weapons	Not armed	Knives	Long knives
Treatment of crew	No injuries	No Injuries	Threatened/No injuries
Significance level	CAT 4	CAT 3	CAT 3
Items stolen	Ship's engine spares	Engine spares	Nothing was stolen

AREA OF CONCERN

With the two incidents in SOMS, a total of 17 incidents were reported in the area since January 2024. The ReCAAP ISC advises ships to exercise enhanced vigilance when transiting SOMS, maintain lookout while anchored at ports and anchorages, and the littoral States/coastal States to increase patrols and enforcement in these areas.

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*.

Follow us on:	W: www.recaap.org	Twitter: @recaapisc	
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) 3 incident is '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.

² CAT (Category) 4 incident is classified as "least significant" in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators are not armed, and the crew not injured.