

2 March 2022



Incident Alert

Sea Robbery Incidents in the Singapore Strait

ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre

21 Media Circle, #05-04

Singapore 138562

Tel : (65) 6376 3091

Fax : (65) 6376 3066

Web : www.recaap.org

Brief extracts from the report may be reproduced for non-commercial use provided the source is acknowledged. Request for extensive reproduction should be made to ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC), who owns the copyright of this document.

IA 02/2022

2 March 2022

Sea robbery incidents in the Singapore Strait

Since the issuance of the Incident Alert (01/2022) on 22 Feb 22, incidents continue to occur to ships while underway in the Singapore Strait (SS). On 2 March, three incidents were reported within an interval of four hours and at close proximity to each other. The ReCAAP ISC alerts the maritime community of the situation and advises ships transiting the area to exercise enhanced vigilance.

All the three incidents on 2 Mar occurred **off Nongsa Point, Batam Island (Indonesia)**. The perpetrators were armed in the three incidents (with a lookalike gun, knives, axe and metal rods). However, the perpetrators did not threaten or harm the crew, and escaped upon being sighted. The crew was safe and nothing was stolen in all three incidents.

With these three incidents, a total of 16 incidents were reported in the SS since January 2022, comprising 12 incidents in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), two incidents in the precautionary area, one incident in the westbound lane and one incident outside the TSS.

The locations of 16 incidents are indicated with latitude and longitude in the map next page. All the incidents were of low severity level. There was no report of the crew being threatened or injured. Engine spares were stolen in two incidents, ship stores in two incidents, scrap metal in one incident, item stolen was not known in one incident and nothing was stolen in the other 10 incidents.

The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the persistent occurrence of incidents in the Singapore Strait, particularly the increase of incidents off Nongsa Point, Batam Island.

Since the perpetrators are not arrested, there is a possibility of continued occurrence of incidents in the Singapore Strait.

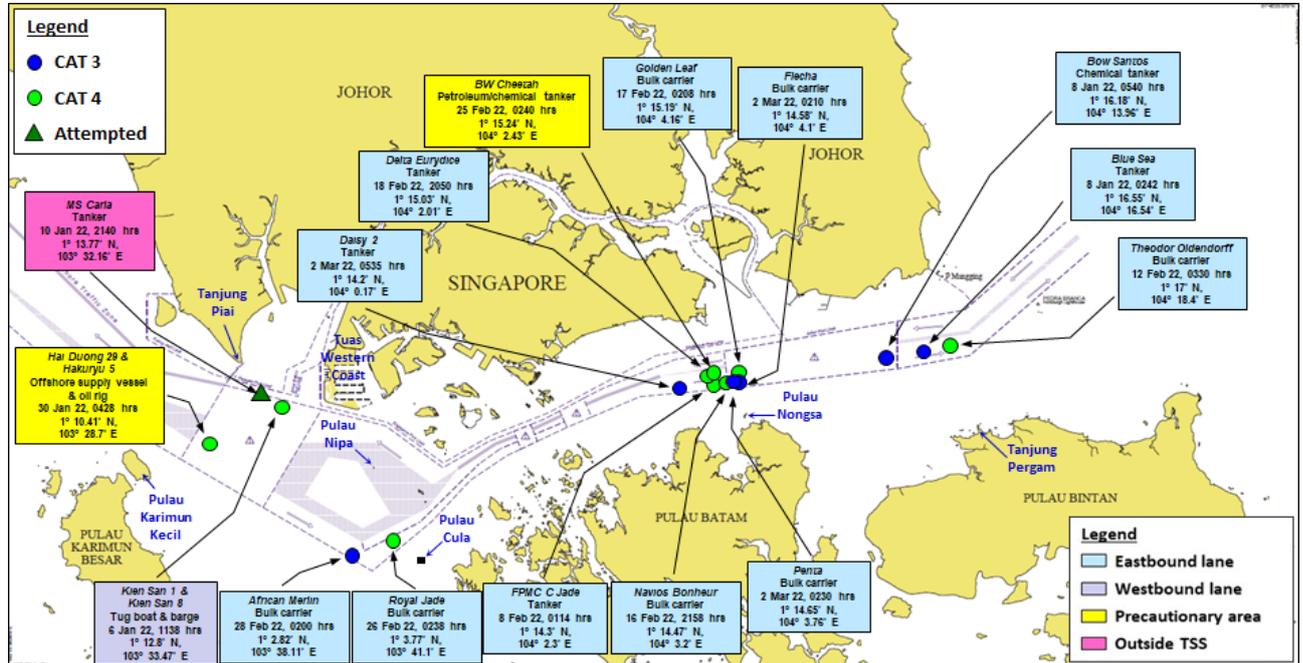
The ReCAAP ISC urges the littoral States to increase patrols and enforcement in their respective territorial seas/archipelagic waters, and promote cooperation and coordination among the littoral States in patrols and information sharing on incidents and criminal groups involved in order to arrest the perpetrators.

All ships are advised to intensify vigilance and maintain look-out while transiting the areas of concern, particularly during night time, adopt preventive measures and report all incidents immediately to the nearest coastal State. Ship masters and crew are advised to get the latest information (at www.recaap.org) and tune-in to advisories and navigational broadcasts announced by the littoral States.



Location of Incidents in the Singapore Strait (since January 2022)

Since January 2022, ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) reported to the ReCAAP ISC 16 incidents that occurred to ships while underway in the Singapore Strait. The locations of the incidents are shown in the map below; and description of the incidents are in Annex A.



Location of incidents in the Singapore Strait since January 2022



Annex A

The description of the 16 incidents as shown below:

S/N	Date/Time/location	Details of Incidents
1.	<p>06/01/22 1138 hrs</p> <p>Approximately 2.9 nm southwest off Tuas Western Coast (Singapore), in the westbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait</p>	<p>While underway, one unauthorised person was sighted on board the barge that was being towed by the tug boat. One small craft was also sighted alongside the barge. The perpetrator left the barge about 12 minutes later, and escaped in a sampan.</p> <p>The master reported the incident to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS). Some scrap metals were stolen from the barge. The crew was safe and accounted for. No assistance was required. The tug boat and barge were bound for Penang, Malaysia.</p> <p>A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The Republic of Singapore Navy's (RSN) Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF) and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified.</p>
2.	<p>08/01/22 0242 hrs</p> <p>Approximately 6.4 nm northwest of Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island (Indonesia), in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait</p>	<p>While underway, the duty oiler sighted four unauthorised persons in the engine room. One of them was armed with a long knife. The perpetrators escaped upon being sighted. The ship's alarm was raised. The crew conducted search on board with no further sighting of the perpetrators.</p> <p>The master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS. Nothing was stolen. The crew are safe. The master confirmed that no assistance required. The ship departed Pengerang, West Johor, Malaysia and is bound for Kanokawa, Japan.</p> <p>A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified. Information of the incident was shared with Malaysian and Indonesian authorities.</p>



S/N	Date/Time/location	Details of Incidents
3.	08/01/22 0540 hrs Approximately 8 nm northwest of Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island (Indonesia), in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait	<p>While underway, four unauthorised persons armed with knives were sighted in the engine room. The master raised the alarm and the crew mustered at the bridge.</p> <p>The master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS. At about 0644 hrs, the master updated Singapore VTIS that a search on board the ship was completed with no further sighting of the perpetrators. The crew was safe and accounted for with no report of injuries. However, the loss of property cannot be ascertained. The master informed VTIS East that no assistance was required and resumed her voyage.</p> <p>A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified. Information of the incident was shared with Malaysian and Indonesian authorities.</p>
4.	10/01/22 2140 hrs Approximately 2.65 nm from Tanjung Piai , (Malaysia), outside of the TSS in the Singapore Strait	<p>While underway, the duty deck officer sighted five perpetrators on board a wooden boat placing a ladder at the port side of the ship. The ship's alarm was raised, and the perpetrators abandoned the boarding and sped away.</p> <p>The master reported the incident to the Port Operation Control Centre (VTIS West). Safety broadcast on anti-piracy watch was carried out and it increased to every half hour interval to warn all ships to maintain vigilant watch at all times.</p>
5.	30/01/22 0428 hrs Approximately 4.6 nm northeast of Karimun Kecil Island (Indonesia), in the Precautionary Area of the TSS in the Singapore Strait	<p>While underway, two unauthorised persons were sighted on the ship's port side midship from the ship's CCTV camera. The incident took place while the supply ship was towing an oil rig <i>Hakuryu 5</i>. The ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered. A search on board was conducted. At 0446 hrs, the master updated Singapore VTIS that the search on board was completed with no further sighting of the perpetrators.</p> <p>The master reported that nothing was stolen. The crew was safe and accounted for. The master did not require any assistance and continued the voyage to Singapore.</p> <p>A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities.</p>



S/N	Date/Time/location	Details of Incidents
6.	08/02/22 0114 hrs Approximately 3.1 nm northwest of Pulau Nongsa, Batam Island (Indonesia), in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait	<p>While underway, the crew sighted four unauthorised persons in the engine room. The ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered at the bridge. The perpetrators were seen escaping in a small craft. The crew conducted a search on board with no further sighting of the perpetrators. The master declared that nothing was stolen and the crew was safe with no injury.</p> <p>A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Indonesian authorities.</p>
7.	12/02/22 0330 hrs Approximately 6 nm northwest of Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island (Indonesia), in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait	<p>While underway, the crew sighted two unauthorised persons in the engine room. Ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered. The perpetrators escaped when the alarm was raised. A search on board the ship was carried out with no further sighting of the perpetrators. The master declared some engine spare parts were stolen. The crew was safe with no injury. The ship departed Singapore and is bound for Qingdao, China.</p> <p>A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Indonesian and Malaysian authorities.</p>
8.	16/02/22 2158 hrs Approximately 3.6 nm northwest of Nongsa Point, Batam Island (Indonesia), in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait	<p>While underway, the crew sighted two unauthorised persons escaping from the starboard quarter stern deck of the ship. The master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS.</p> <p>A search on board the ship was carried out with no further sighting of the perpetrators. The master declared that nothing was stolen. The crew was safe and accounted for. The master declared that no assistance was required and continued with the voyage. The ship is bound for Kwangyang, Republic of Korea.</p> <p>A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Indonesian authorities.</p>



S/N	Date/Time/location	Details of Incidents
9.	<p>17/02/22 0208 hrs</p> <p>Approximately 3.7 nm northwest of Nongsa Point, Batam Island (Indonesia), in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait</p>	<p>While underway, the crew sighted two unauthorised persons on the starboard side main deck of the ship. The master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS.</p> <p>A search on board the ship was carried out with no further sighting of the perpetrators. The master declared that nothing was stolen. The crew was safe and accounted for. The master declared that no assistance was required and continued with the voyage. The ship departed Singapore and is bound for Sarawak, Malaysia.</p> <p>A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Indonesian authorities.</p>
10.	<p>18/02/22 2050 hrs</p> <p>Approximately 4.8 nm northwest of Nongsa Point, Batam Island (Indonesia), in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait</p>	<p>While underway, two unauthorised persons were sighted in the engine room. The ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered. Upon realising that the crew had been alerted, the perpetrators escaped in a small boat. The master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS.</p> <p>A search on board the ship was carried out with no further sighting of the perpetrators. The master declared that nothing was stolen. The crew was safe and accounted for. The master declared that no assistance was required and continued with the voyage. The ship is bound for Sriracha, Thailand.</p> <p>A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Indonesian authorities.</p>
11.	<p>25/2/22 0240 hrs</p> <p>Approximately 4.4 nm northwest of Nongsa Point, Batam Island (Indonesia), in the precautionary area of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait (SS).</p>	<p>While underway, the ship's 3rd engineer and oiler spotted <u>two perpetrators in the engine room</u> making their exit via the engine room skylight. The engineer reported the incident to the bridge. A search on board the ship was conducted with no further sighting of the perpetrators.</p> <p>During the search, <u>the compressor for charging the self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and the hose for charging the lifeboat compressed air bottles were found missing.</u> The crew was safe.</p>



S/N	Date/Time/location	Details of Incidents
12.	<p>26/2/22 0238 hrs</p> <p>Approximately 2.1 nm northwest of Pulau Cula (Indonesia) in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the SS.</p>	<p>While underway, <u>five perpetrators were sighted at the starboard quarter stern deck.</u> The alarm was raised, and the perpetrators escaped in a small boat. <u>One set of welding equipment was reported stolen.</u></p> <p>The crew was mustered and a search on board the ship was conducted. <u>The crew was safe.</u> The master reported the incident to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) and confirmed that no assistance is required.</p> <p>A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The Republic of Singapore Navy's (RSN) Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF) and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Indonesian authorities.</p> <p>The Singapore Police Coast Guard officers boarded the ship for investigation upon her arrival in Singapore.</p>
13.	<p>28/2/22 0200 hrs</p> <p>Approximately 4.6 nm west of Pulau Cula (Indonesia), in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait.</p>	<p>While underway, <u>three perpetrators armed with knives were sighted roaming on the main deck.</u> The ship alarm was raised and crew mustered.</p> <p>A search on board the ship was conducted and <u>some engine spares were reported stolen.</u> The perpetrators escaped. <u>The crew was safe.</u> The master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS.</p> <p>A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Indonesian authorities.</p> <p>The Singapore Police Coast Guard officers boarded the ship for investigation upon her arrival in Singapore.</p>
14.	<p>2/3/22 0210 hrs</p> <p>Approximately 3.2 nm northwest of Nongsa Point, Batam Island (Indonesia), in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait</p>	<p>While underway, <u>three unauthorised persons armed with axe and rods were sighted at the emergency generator room.</u> The ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered. The perpetrators escaped upon being sighted. The master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS.</p> <p>A search on board the ship was carried out. <u>The master declared that nothing was stolen. The crew was safe with no injury.</u> The master declared that no assistance was required and continued with the voyage. The ship departed Singapore and is bound for Qingdao, China.</p> <p>A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Indonesian authorities.</p>



S/N	Date/Time/location	Details of Incidents
15.	<p>2/3/22 0230 hrs</p> <p>Approximately 3.4 nm northwest of Nongsa Point, Batam Island (Indonesia), in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait</p>	<p>While underway, <u>four unauthorised persons armed with knives were sighted in the engine room.</u> The ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered. The master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS.</p> <p>The master deviated the ship back to Singapore. The Singapore Police Coast Guard officers boarded the ship for investigation and search on board upon her arrival in Singapore.</p> <p>At 0830 hrs, the Singapore Police Coast Guard updated that the search on board was concluded with no sighting of the perpetrators. <u>Nothing was stolen. The crew was safe with no injury.</u> The ship then departed Singapore and is bound for Xinsha, China.</p> <p>A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Indonesian authorities.</p>
16.	<p>2/3/22 0535 hrs</p> <p>Approximately 6.2 nm northwest of Nongsa Point, Batam Island (Indonesia), in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait</p>	<p>While underway, the Singapore Police Coast Guard informed Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) of a small boat in the vicinity of the ship. Upon verification with the ship, the master reported <u>six unauthorised persons were sighted in the engine room, and one of them was armed with a lookalike gun.</u> The ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered.</p> <p>A search on board the ship was carried out. The master requested the Republic of Singapore Navy's (RSN) Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF) to shadow the ship while the crew conducted the search on board. The master declared that <u>nothing was stolen. The crew was safe with no injury.</u> The master declared that no assistance was required. The ship is bound for South China Sea awaiting voyage orders.</p> <p>A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Indonesian authorities.</p>

