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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 10-16 May 2022

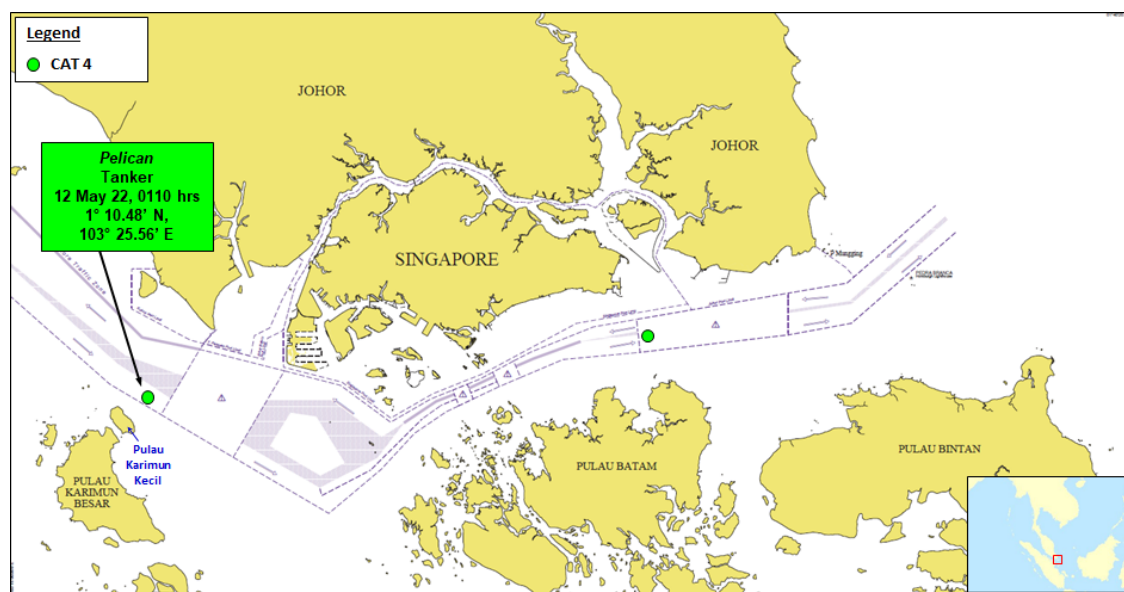
Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During the period 10-16 May 22, one CAT 4¹ incident of armed robbery against ships in Asia was reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The incident occurred on 12 May on board a tanker while underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme in the Singapore Strait.

In the incident, the ship's crew sighted three unauthorised persons in the vicinity of the engine room. The ship alarm was raised and crew mustered. A search on board the ship was conducted, with no further sighting of the perpetrators. Nothing was stolen. All crew members were accounted for with no report of injuries. The location of the incident is shown in the map below, and detailed description is tabulated in the attachment.

With this incident, a total of 22 incidents were reported in the Singapore Strait since January 2022 so far.



Location of incident

¹ CAT (Category) 4 incident is classified as “least significant” in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators are not armed, and the crew not harmed.

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

There is no incident of abduction of crew reported since January 2020 up to today, and no crew is currently being held in captivity by the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG).

On 23 Apr 21, the Philippine Armed Forces conducted a military operation against members of the ASG during which one of the ASG leaders responsible for the abduction of crew in the area of Sulu and Tawi-Tawi had managed to escape. However, the threat of the abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah remains potentially high, particularly in the areas of Sulu and nearby waters off Tawi-Tawi as the ASG is still active and the leaders of the ASG responsible for the past incidents of abduction are at large.

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 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 below.



The map shows the Sulu Sea to the north and the Celebes Sea to the south. Key locations marked include Lahad Datu, Bongao, and Zamboanga. Contact points are indicated by numbered circles: 1 near Zamboanga, 2a and 2b near Bongao, and 3 near Lahad Datu.

- 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, the ship master is unable 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 2 to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia*.

**Description of Incidents of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships
10-16 May 2022**

	Ship Name Type of Ship Flag Gross Tonnage IMO Number	Date Local Time of Incident (LT)	Position of the Incident	Details of the Incident	Consequences for crew, ship, cargo	Action taken by the master and crew	Was the incident reported to coastal authority? Which one?	Reporting State or International Organization	Coastal State Action Taken
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
INCIDENT IN ASIA									
ACTUAL INCIDENT									
1.	Pelican Tanker Cameroon 56127 9144782	12/5/22 0110 hrs	1° 10.48' N, 103° 25.56' E Approximately 2.2 nm from Tanjung Karimun Kecil, (Indonesia) in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme in the Singapore Strait	While underway, the ship's crew sighted three unauthorised persons in the vicinity of the engine room. The alarm was raised and crew mustered. A search was carried out with no further sighting of the perpetrators. The master reported the incident to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS). The master reported that nothing was stolen and there was no confrontation between the perpetrators and the crew. All crew members were accounted for with no report of injuries. No further assistance was required. 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, and the Indonesian authorities were informed. [Category 4]	All crew members were accounted for with no report of injuries. Nothing was stolen.	The alarm was raised and crew mustered. A search was carried out with no further sighting of the perpetrators.	Yes Singapore VTIS	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified, and Indonesian authorities were informed.