

Republic of the Marshall Islands

MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

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SHIP SECURITY ADVISORY No. 05-23

To: Owners/Operators, Masters, Company Security Officers, Recognized Security Organizations

Subject: SECURITY INCIDENTS IN THE SINGAPORE STRAIT

Date: 10 August 2023

1.0 Recent Incidents

1.1 With the most recent incident occurring on 7 August, there have now been eight reported cases of armed robbery against ships involving Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI)-flagged vessels in the [Singapore Strait](#) in 2023. Photographic evidence of perpetrators carrying out these incidents in the Singapore Strait is also provided by the Information Fusion Centre (IFC) Singapore in [Shipping Advisory 1/23](#).

2.0 Risk Mitigation Measures

2.1 The RMI Maritime Administrator (the “Administrator”) reminds all vessels transiting the Singapore Strait to adopt the following basic protective measures, as advised by IFC Singapore:

- .1 Maintain an **all-around lookout** from an **elevated position**, with a focus on suspicious small craft(s) approaching or in proximity of the **ship’s aft**.
- .2 Turn on weather deck lighting around the accommodation block and **rear-facing lighting on the poop deck**.
- .3 Sound the **ship’s alarm** when suspicious small craft(s) are sighted.

2.2 The IFC also encourages ships to provide photographic or video evidence to educate the industry on the modus operandi of the perpetrators and help the authorities with their investigation.

3.0 Additional IFC Resources and Guidance

3.1 The [IFC Singapore website](#) provides informative threat assessment and response tools for ships transiting the Asian region, including:

- .1 a [Bridge Card](#) to outline the Voluntary Community of Reporting (VCR) scheme;

This SSA is evaluated annually by the Administrator and expires one year after its issuance or renewal unless otherwise noted, superseded, or revoked.

5.0 References

- .1 **IMO Circular [MSC.1/Circ.1333/Rev.1](#)**, *Recommendations to Governments for preventing and suppressing piracy and armed robbery against ships*
- .2 **IMO Circular [MSC.1/Circ.1334](#)**, *Guidance to shipowners and ship operators, shipmasters and crews on preventing and suppressing acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships*
- .3 **RMI Marine Notice [2-011-39](#)**
- .4 **ReCAAP**, [Regional Guide 2 to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery in Asia](#)
- .5 *Global Counter Piracy Guidance for Companies, Masters and Seafarers ([GBMP](#))*