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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 9 - 15 July 2019

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 9 – 15 Jul 19, one CAT 4¹ incident of armed robbery against ships was reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The incident involved the theft of scrap metal from barge *Sung Fatt 36* towed by tug boat, *Sung Fatt 31* on 16 Jul 19 in the westbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) of the Singapore Strait. The location of the incident is shown in map below, and description tabulated in the attachment. This is the second time in 2019 that *Sung Fatt 36* was boarded by perpetrators while underway in the westbound lane of the TSS of the Singapore Strait. The first incident occurred on 5 Mar 19 when 11 perpetrators boarded *Sung Fatt 36* also towed by *Sung Fatt 31* and stole some scrap metal from the barge.



Location of the incident on 16 Jul 19

¹ The ReCAAP ISC classifies CAT (Category) 4 incident as 'least significant' incident. 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

As the risk of the abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah, Malaysia is high as demonstrated by the abduction of nine crew from two fishing boats on 18 Jun 19, the ReCAAP ISC reiterates its advisory issued via the *ReCAAP ISC Incident Alert* dated 21 Nov 16 to all ships to reroute from the area, where possible. Ship masters and crew are strongly urged to exercise extra vigilance while transiting the area, and report immediately to the Operation Centres of Philippines and Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM) of Malaysia. The contact details of the Operation Centres of Philippines and ESSCOM of Malaysia (updated by ReCAAP ISC on 3 Jan 19) are as follows:



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: bilanggerakan_esscom@jpm.gov.my

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 to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia*.

**Description of Incidents of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships
9 – 15 July 2019**

	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 the 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.	Sung Fatt 31 Tug boat Malaysia 133 8984446 Sung Fatt 36 Barge Malaysia	16/7/19 0430 hrs	1.0; 10.23'N 103.0; 39.09'E Westbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) of the Singapore Strait at about 0.6 nm west the North Nipa Beacon, Indonesia Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS)	<p>The tug boat and barge were carrying scrap metal bound for Penang, Malaysia. While underway in the westbound lane of the TSS of the Singapore Strait, the master of tug boat, <i>Sung Fatt 31</i> reported to the Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) that his crew spotted some perpetrators boarding the barge, <i>Sung Fatt 36</i> from an unknown number of sampans.</p> <p>The perpetrators stolen some scrap metal and escaped via the sampans. There was no confrontation between the perpetrators and the crew.</p> <p align="right">(Category 4)</p>	All crew members were safe.	The master of the tug boat reported the incident to the Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS). The vessel alarm was raised.	Yes Singapore VTIS via VHF	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	The Singapore VTIS notified the Singapore Police Coast Guard and Republic of Singapore Navy. The Malaysian counterparts and Indonesian authorities were also notified, and the safety navigational broadcast was initiated.