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## ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 16 - 22 July 2019

### Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

#### OVERVIEW

During 16 – 22 Jul 19, one CAT 2<sup>1</sup> incident of piracy was reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The incident involved a Korea-registered bulk carrier *C.K. Bluebell* which was boarded by seven perpetrators who were armed with guns and knives on 22 Jul 19 at about 0325 hrs in the South China Sea, at approximately 28 nm west of the Anambas island, Indonesia. The crew was threatened, and two crew members sustained minor injury. The ReCAAP ISC issued an Incident Alert to advise all ships to exercise enhanced vigilance while underway in the South China Sea. The location of the incident is shown in the map below, and description tabulated in the attachment.



<sup>1</sup> The ReCAAP ISC classifies CAT (Category) 2 incident as moderately significant. Under this category, the perpetrators involved are likely to be armed with knives/machetes or guns. The crew is likely to be threatened or held hostage temporarily to allow the perpetrators to steal cash and ship's property. In some incidents, the crew suffered some form of injury or physical violence but less severe in nature than CAT 1 incident.

## 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 is high as demonstrated by the abduction of 9 crew<sup>2</sup> 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. Otherwise, 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. Four numbered points are indicated: 1 (Philippine Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao), 2a (Philippine Coast Guard Station, Bongao), 2b (Philippine Navy - Littoral Monitoring Station, Bongao), and 3 (Eastern Sabah Security Command).

- 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:bilikgerakan_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*.

<sup>2</sup> The nine abducted crew were released on 21 Jun 19.

**Description of Incidents of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships**  
**16-22 Jul 2019**

	<b>Ship Name Type of Ship Flag Gross Tonnage IMO Number</b>	<b>Date Local time of Incident (LT)</b>	<b>Position of the Incident</b>	<b>Details of the Incident</b>	<b>Consequences for crew, ship, cargo</b>	<b>Action taken by the master and crew</b>	<b>Was the incident reported to the coastal authority? Which one?</b>	<b>Reporting State or International Organization</b>	<b>Coastal State Action Taken</b>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>
<b>INCIDENT IN ASIA</b>									
<b>ACTUAL INCIDENT</b>									
1.	<b><i>CK Bluebell</i></b> Bulk carrier 44,132 9595876	0325 hrs	2.0; 55.8' N 105.0; 10.8' E  Approximately 28 nm west of Pulau Anambas, Indonesia  South China Sea	While underway, seven perpetrators armed with guns and knives boarded the ship. They threatened the ship captain, chief engineer and duty navigator and took away approximately 13,000 USD from the safe and the crew's personal belongings. Two crew members sustained minor injury. The perpetrators left the ship at about 0400 hrs. The ship proceeded towards the next port of call at Incheon, Korea.  <p align="right">(Category 2)</p>	The crew members were threatened. Two crew sustained minor injury.	The master reported the incident to Korea's Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries.	Nil	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Korea) and ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	The Korea authorities informed the Singapore's Port and Operation Control Centre (POCC) who notified the Singapore Navy, Singapore Police Coast Guard and initiated the safety navigational broadcast. The Indonesian authority was also notified.