ReCAAP
Information Sharing Centre

Situation Update of Piracy & Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia 2017

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Assistant Director (Research)
16 January 2018

Scope

I. Situation Update 2017

II. Update by locations

III. Theft of Oil Cargo Incidents

1) Situation Update

2) Arrest of perpetrators of *MGT 1*

IV. Abduction of Crew Incidents

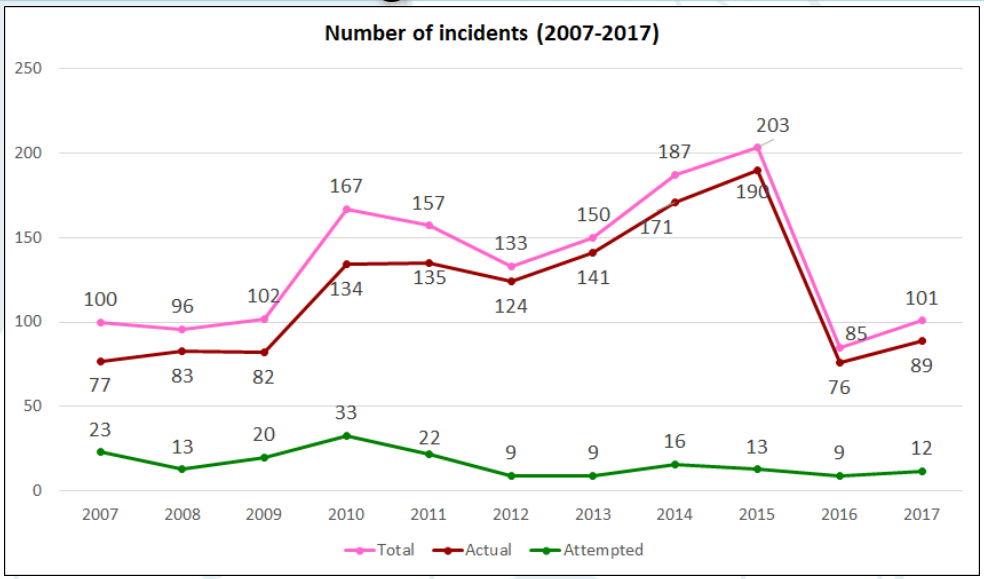
1) Situation Update (2016-2017)

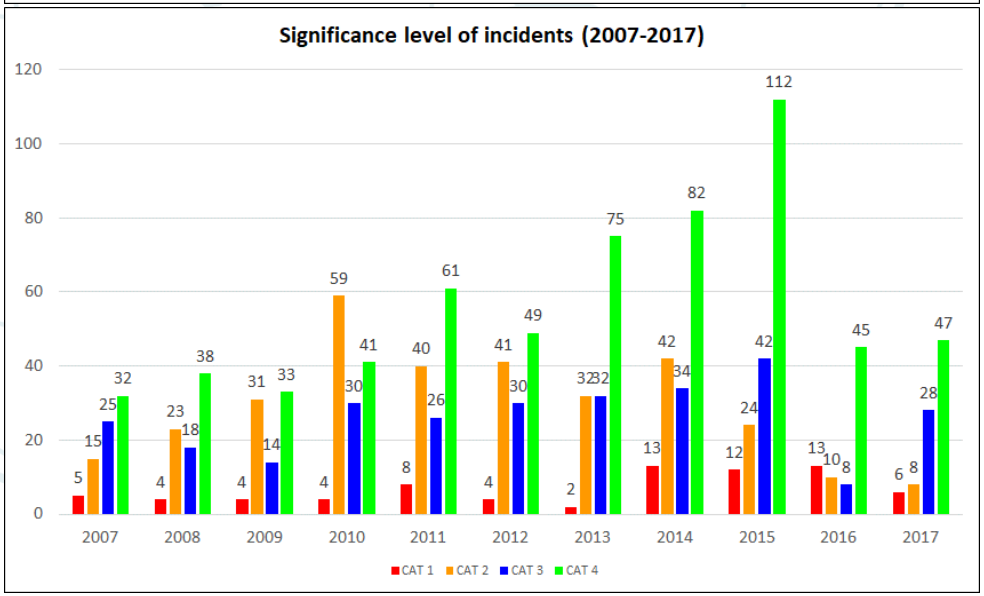
2) Status of Abducted Crew

V. Way Forward

Situation Update 2017

Number & Significance Level





Number

- **101 (**89 actual & 12 attempted**)**
- **<u>19% increase</u>** compared to 2016

Significance Level compared to 2016

- **<u>6 x CAT 1</u>** incidents
  - ☑ Abduction of crew (3), Theft of oil cargo (3)
- Decrease in CAT 1 – Due to reduction in abduction of crew incidents (3 in 2017 vs 10 in 2016)
- Increase in CAT 3 incidents (more armed with knives)
- Majority CAT 4 incidents

Of concern …

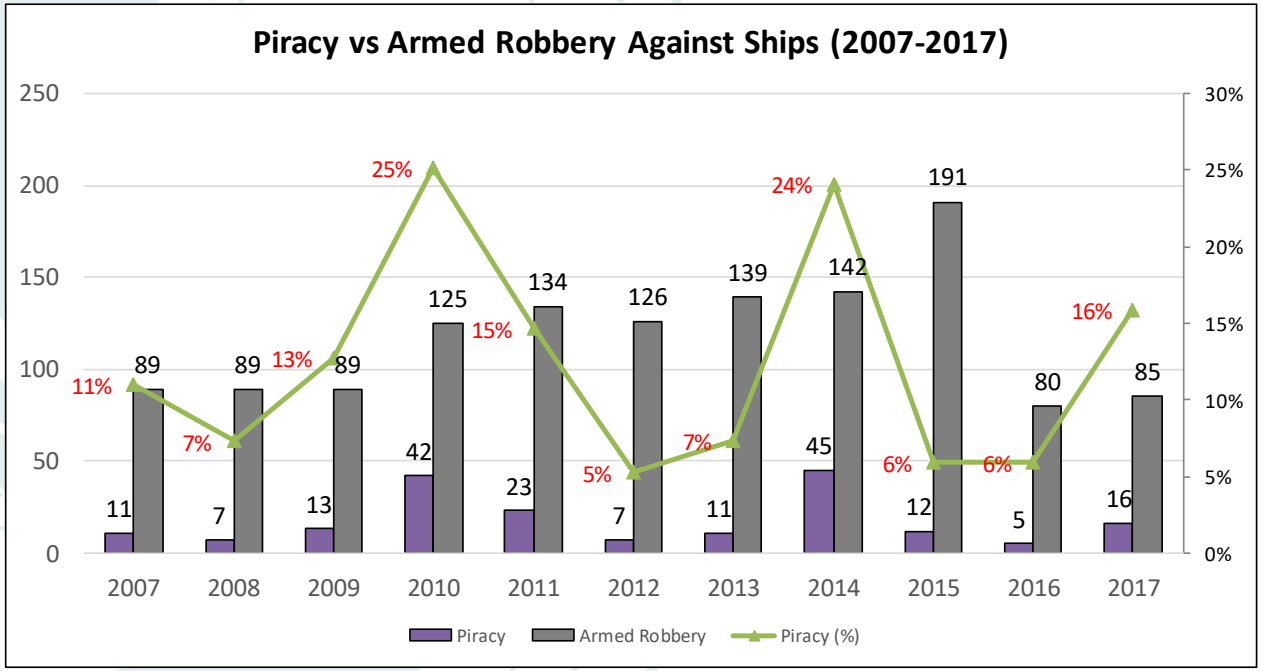
- Philippines, Bangladesh, South China Sea & Straits of Malacca and Singapore
- Abduction of crew (last actual incident in Mar 17)
- Hijack of ships for theft of oil cargo (3 incidents)

Improvement …

- Ports/anchorages in India, Malaysia & Vietnam

Situation Update 2017

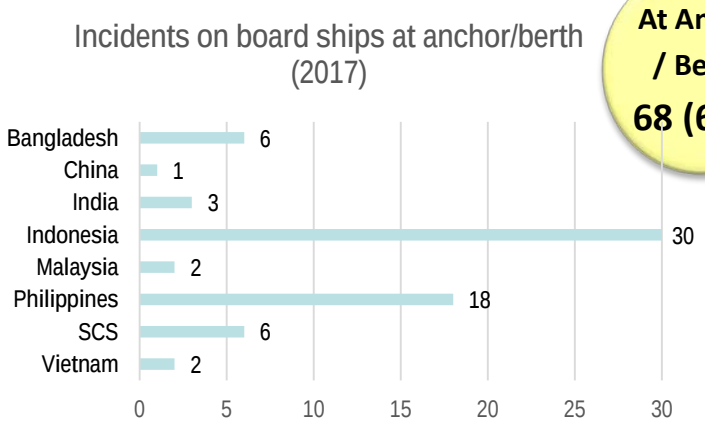
Piracy vs Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia



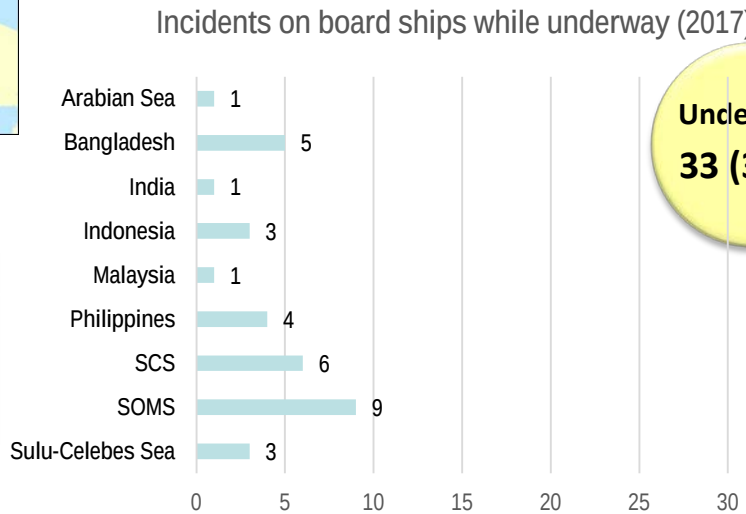
- **Majority armed robbery against ships**
- **Piracy (mostly South China Sea)**
  - **5%-7% (2008, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016)**
  - **11% -18% (2007, 2009, 2011, 2017)**
  - **24%-25% (2010, 2014)**

Update by Location

Location & Status of Ships - 2017



At Anchor / Berth: 68 (66%)

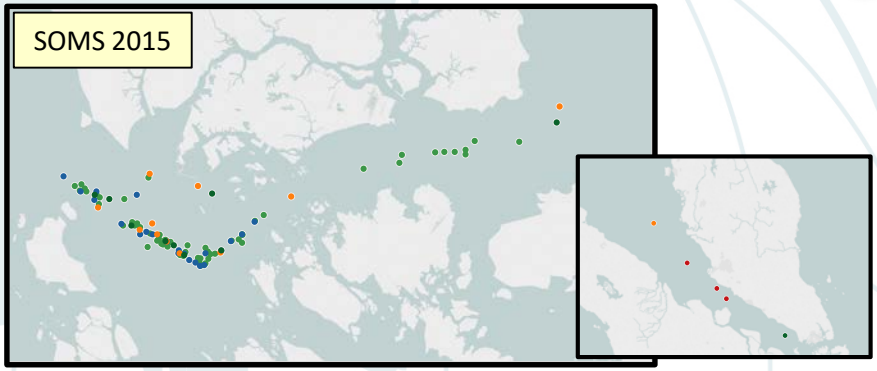


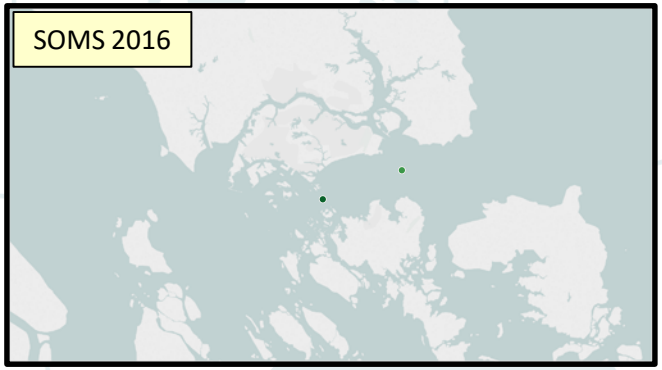
Underway: 33 (34%)

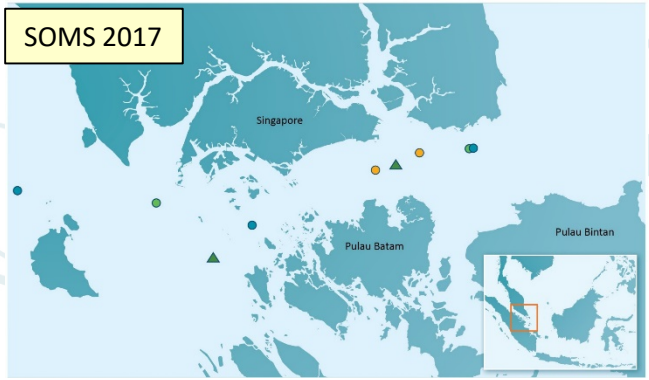
Indonesia (**33**), Philippines (**22**), SCS (**12**), Bangladesh (**11**), SOMS (**9**), India (**4**), Malaysia (**3**), Sulu-Celebes Sea (**3**), Vietnam (**2**), China (**1**), Arabian Sea (**1**)

Update by Location

(1) Straits of Malacca & Singapore







Arrest in 2016

Past 3 years …

- 104 (2015) → 2 (2016) → 9 (2017)

2017

- 8 in Singapore Strait (6 eastbound lane, 2 westbound lane)
- 1 in Malacca Strait
- 2 x CAT 2, 3 x CAT 3, 2 x CAT 4 and 2 x attempted
- ReCAAP ISC raised ***Incident Alert*** on 31 Oct 17

Possible reasons

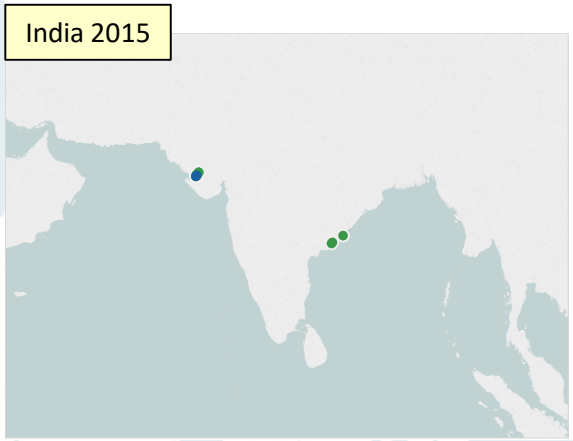
- Complacency
- Lower surveillance by littoral States

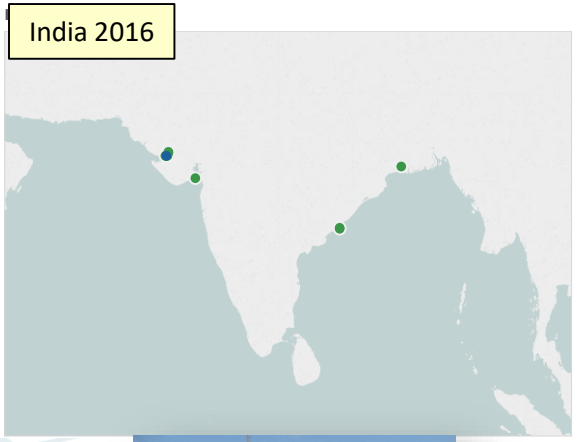
Recommendations

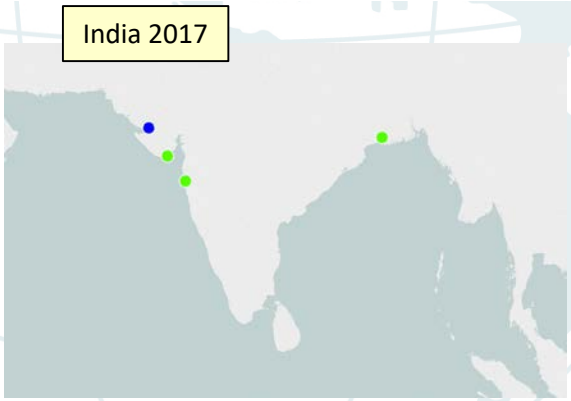
- Vigilance of crew, adopt BMP
- Timely reporting to coastal State
- Step up enforcement by littoral States

Update by Location

(2) India







Arrest of perpetrators by ICG

Improvement in 2017

- 12 (2015) → 12 (2016) → 4 (2017)
- 1 x CAT 3, 3 x CAT 4
- Improvement in Kandla port (9 of 12 in 2015, 8 of 12 in 2016, 1 of 4 in 2017)

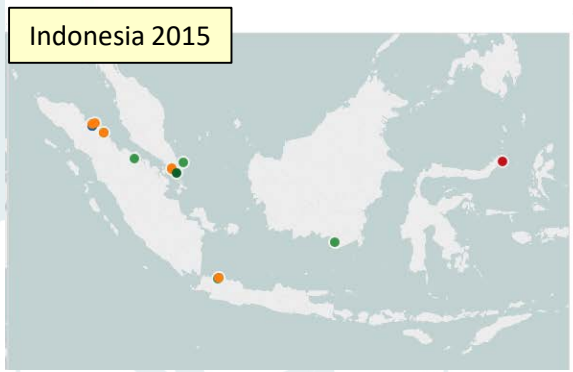
Possible reasons

- Preventive measures by ICG
  - ☑ Intensive sea patrols
  - ☑ Broadcast of advisories via NAVTEX
  - ☑ Community Interaction Programme in local fishing hamlets, etc.
- Arrest of perpetrators
- Enhanced vigilance by crew

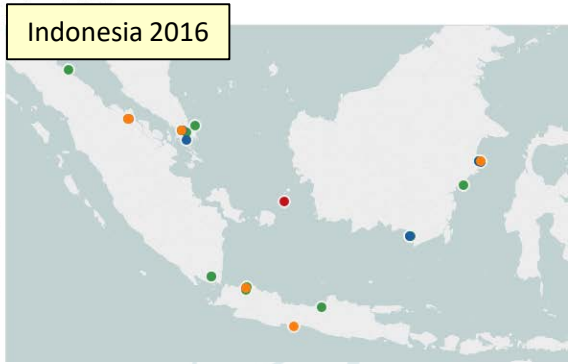
Update by Location

(3) Indonesia

Indonesia 2015



Indonesia 2016



Indonesia 2017

Perpetrators arrested by Indonesian authority

(Photograph courtesy of TNI-AL)

Past 3 years …

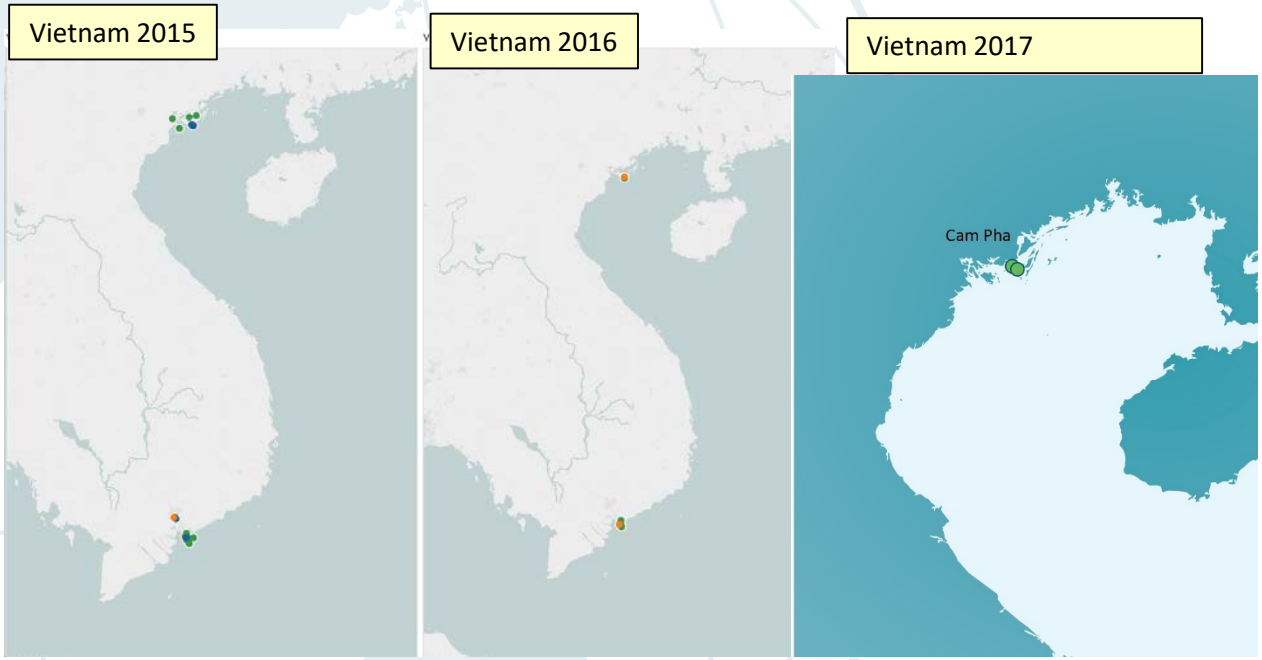
- 23 (2015) → 32 (2016) → **33** (2017)
- 1 x CAT 1, 15 x CAT 3, 14 x CAT 4, 3 x attempted
- CAT 1: Hijack of tug boat & barge for oil cargo (*Ever Prosper*)

Recommendations

- More enhanced port security at certain ports/anchorages
- Crew to exercise enhanced vigilance

Update by Location

(4) Vietnam



Lowest among the past 3 years

- 27 (2015) → 9 (2016) → **2** (2017)
- 2 x CAT 4 incident in Cam Pha
- Improvement in Vung Tau port (5 of 27 in 2015, 7 of 9 in 2016, no incident in 2017)

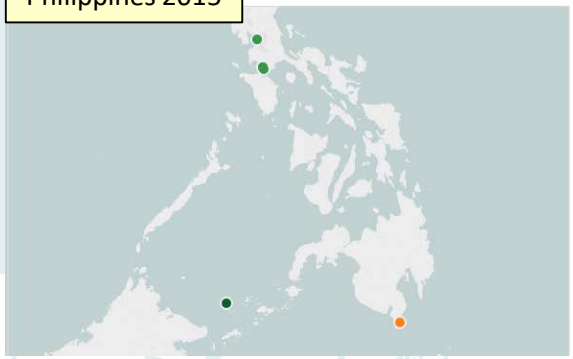
Possible reasons

- Better information sharing and coordination among governmental agencies
- Close monitoring and surveillance
- Create employment for fishermen in Vung Tau area

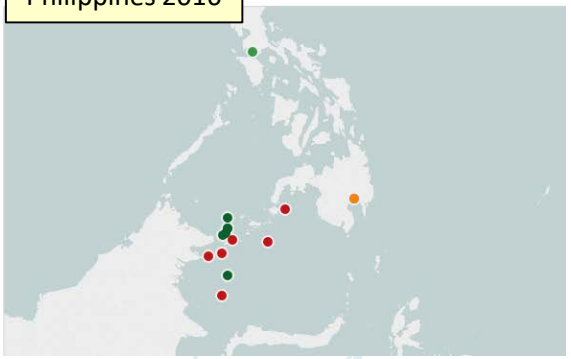
Update by Location

(5) Philippines

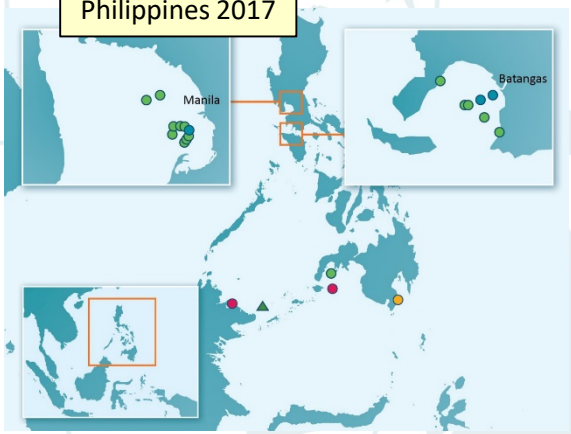
Philippines 2015

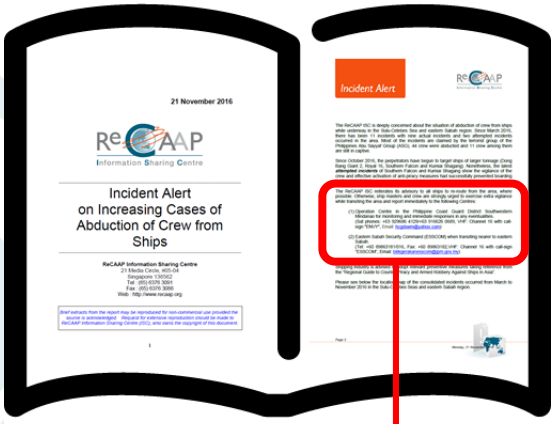


Philippines 2016



Philippines 2017





The ReCAAP ISC reiterates its advisory to all ships to re-route 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 following Centres:

(1) Operation Centre in the Philippine Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao for monitoring and immediate responses in any eventualities. (Sat phones: +63 929686 4129/+63 916626 0689, VHF: Channel 16 with call-sign "ENVY", Email: hcgdswm@yahoo.com)

(2) Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM) when transiting nearer to eastern Sabah. (Tel: +60 89863181/016, Fax: +60 89863182,VHF: Channel 16 with call-sign "ESSCOM", Email: bilikgerakanesscom@jpm.gov.my)

Incidents remain high in 2017

- 8 (2015) → 15 (2016) → <u>22</u> (2017)
  - 18 ports/anchorage (10 Manila, 7 Batangas, 1 Davao)
  - 4 underway
- 2 x CAT 1, 1 x CAT 2, 3 x CAT 3, 15 x CAT 4 & 1 x attempted
- 3 abduction of crew (2 actual & 1 attempted)

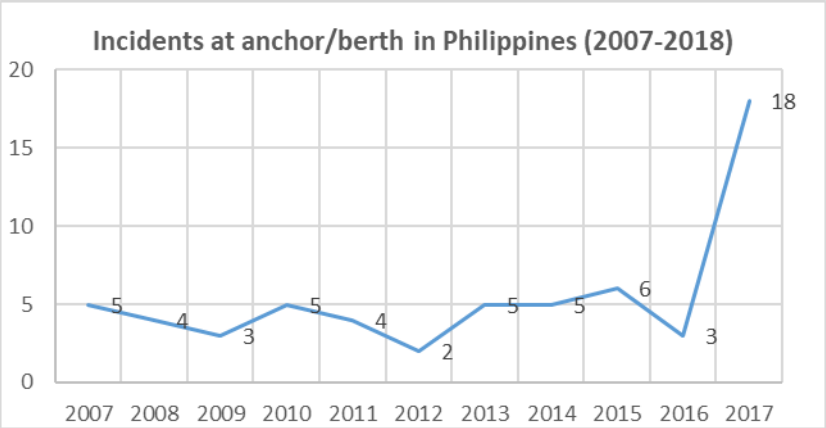
Recommendations

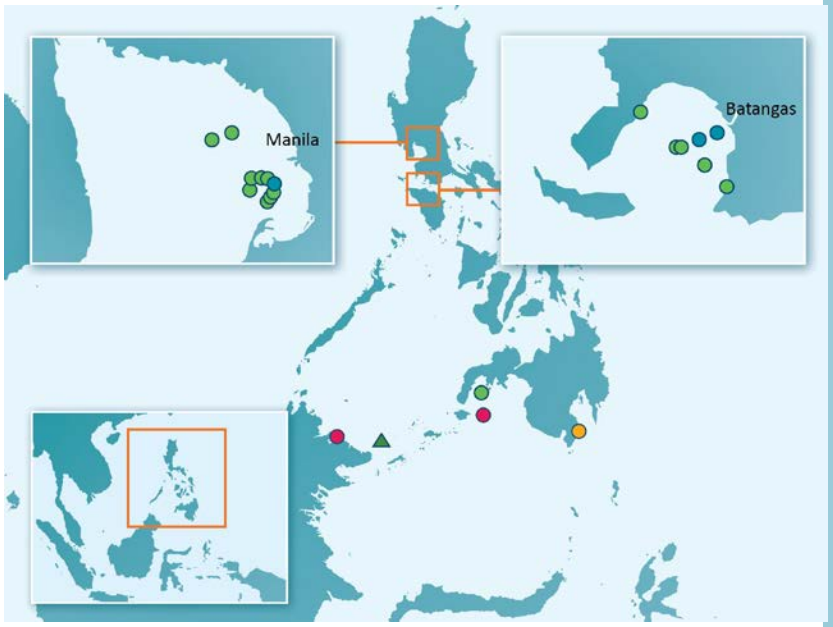
- ReCAAP Advisory
- Authorities to step up surveillance and presence
- Crew to exercise extra vigilance

Update by Location

Batangas & Manila ports/anchorages

- 18 incidents at anchor/berth in 2017, highest in past 11 years
- Mostly CAT 4 [15 x CAT 4]
- 10 in Manila, 7 in Batangas, 1 in Davao
- **Modus Operandi**
  - **Manila** – container ships, climbed through hawse pipe, common items stolen (life raft, firefighting apparatus/equipment)
  - **Batangas** – tankers, perpetrators targeted items that are relatively light in weight and easily sold for cash
  - Occurred during hours of darkness
  - Small boats were commonly sighted
  - No crew injured



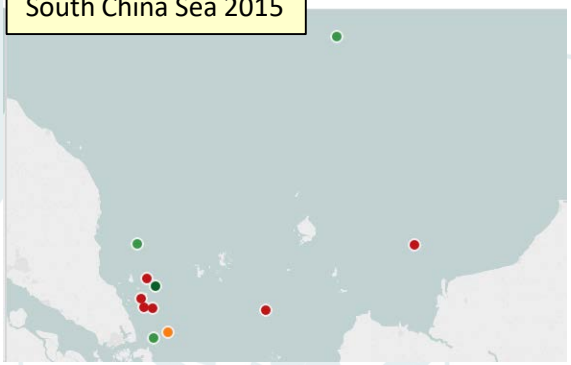


Update by Location

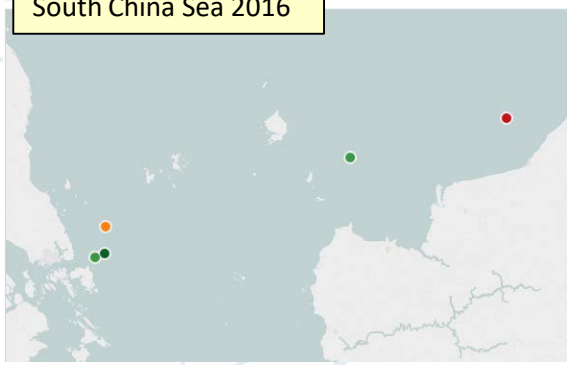
(6) South China Sea

ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre

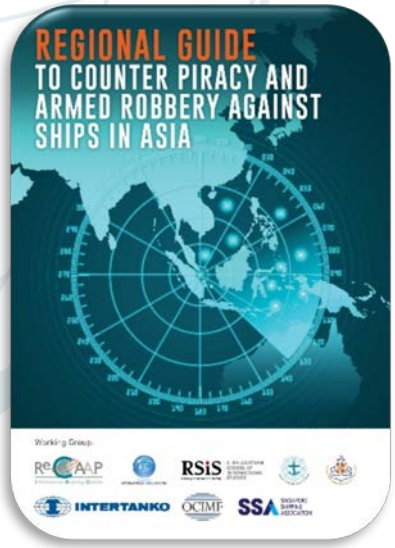
South China Sea 2015



South China Sea 2016



South China Sea 2017



Increase in number of incidents

- 11 (2015) → 5 (2016) → 12 (2017)
- 2 x CAT 1, 4 x CAT 2, 2 x CAT 3, 3 x CAT 4, 1 x attempted
- Of concern:
  - Ships while at anchor/berth (6)
  - Ships underway (6) include 2 x CAT 1 (hijack of ships for theft of oil cargo)

Recommendations

- Ships to sail closer to coast, if possible
- Adopt preventive measures (Regional Guide)
- Crew to be vigilant when underway, particularly hours of darkness
- Avoid anchor outside Port Limit

Update by Location

(7) Bangladesh

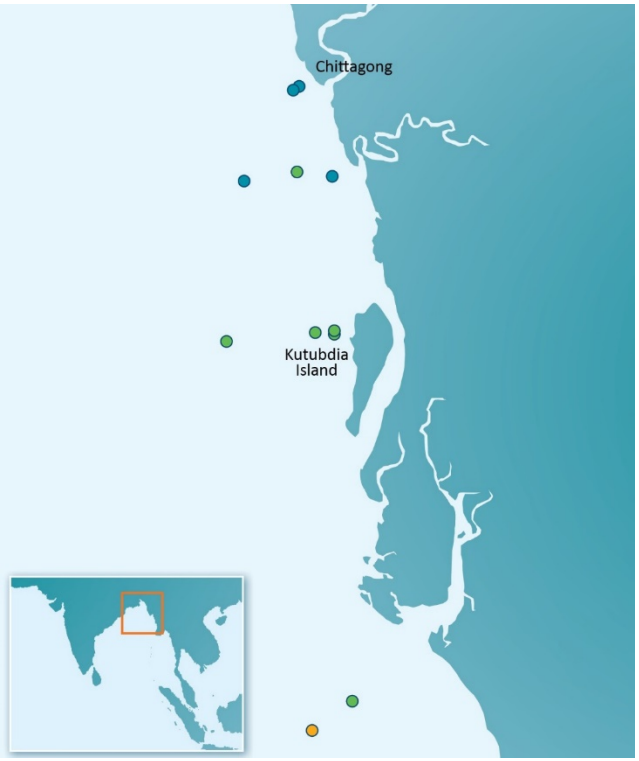
Increase in number of incidents

- 6 (2013) → 16 (2014) → 10 (2015) → 2 (2016) → 11 (2017)
- Of 11 incidents in 2017, 5 involved ships underway
- 5 x incidents involved perpetrators armed with knives, 6 x incidents not armed/no reported
- 9 x incidents (loss of ship stores, life raft/unsecured items and cash/property [1])
- 2 x incidents (perpetrators escaped empty-handed when alarm raised)

Recommendations

- Crew to increase watch-keeping during hours of darkness, raise alarm when sighted suspicious people
- Report incident to the coastal State immediately
- Authorities to step up surveillance in areas of concern

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Ports/ anchorages	6	15	10	2	6
Underway	0	1	0	0	5
Total	6	16	10	2	11



Theft of Oil Cargo Incidents

1) Situation Update

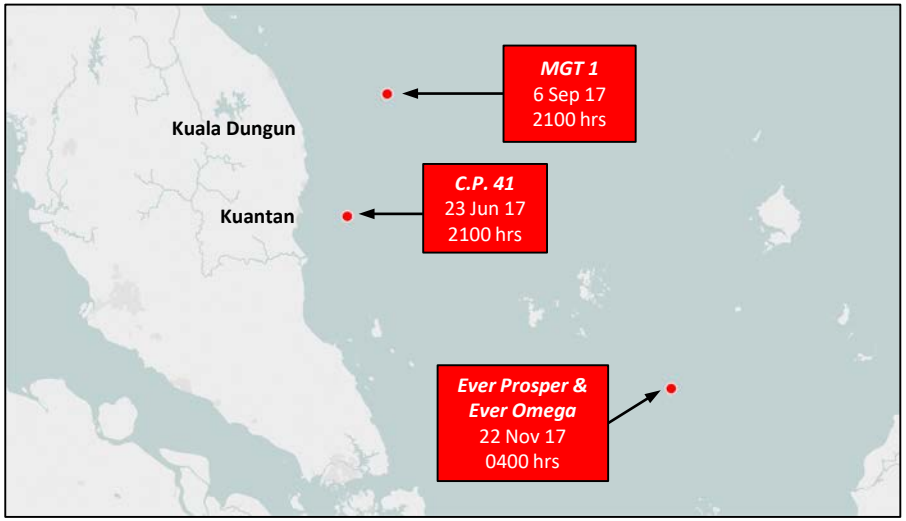
ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre

Trend: Highest in 2014

- 4 (2012) → 3 (2013) → 15 (2014) → 12 (2015) → 3 (2016) → 3 (2017)

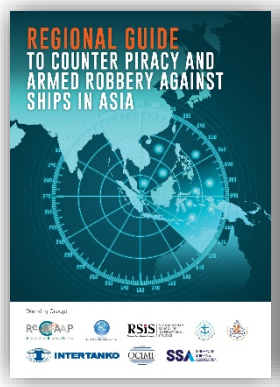
Three incidents in 2017

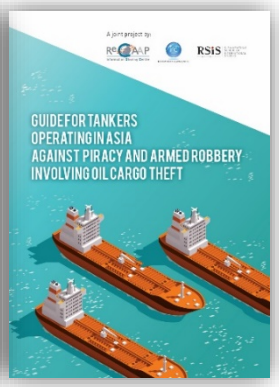
- ***C.P. 41*** : 23 Jun
- ***MGT 1*** : 6 Sep
- ***Ever Prosper*** : 22 Nov



Recommendations

- Shipping industry to adopt best practices (Regional Guide, Tanker Guide)
- Timely reporting by crew
- Info sharing/Alerts (ReCAAP ISC/FPs & Regional Authorities)
- Response and cooperation among LEAs
- Arrest and prosecution – deterrence



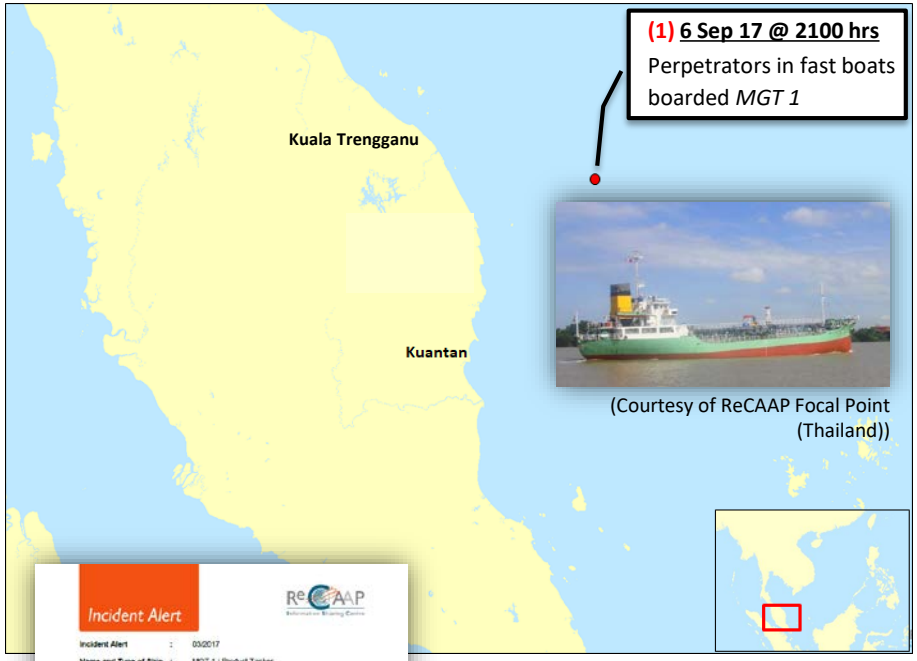


2) Arrest of Perpetrators of *MGT 1*

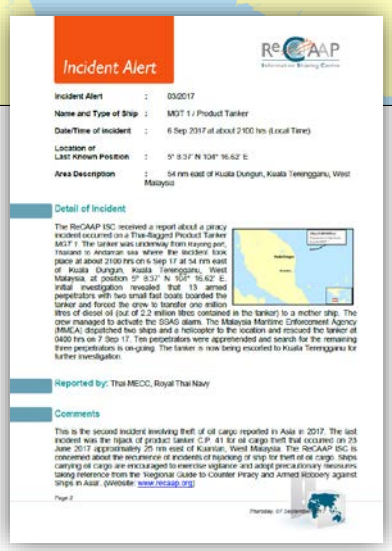
- **6 Sep 17**: *MGT 1* underway from Rayong Port, Thailand to Andaman Sea
- **At about 2100 hrs**, 13 armed perpetrators boarded the ship from two fast small boats
- Forced crew to transfer diesel oil to phantom ship, *Neptune 09*
- **Ship crew sent SSAS and distress signal**
  - ☑ Flag State, Coastal State and ships in vicinity

Action by ReCAAP & MMEA:

- ReCAAP FP Thailand reported to ReCAAP ISC and all FPs on **6 Sep 17**
- Added inputs from MMEA
- ReCAAP ISC published ***Incident Alert*** to warn shipping industry



(Courtesy of ReCAAP Focal Point (Thailand))



Incident Alert

Incident Alert : 03/2017

Name and Type of Ship : MGT 1 / Product Tanker

Date/Time of incident : 6 Sep 2017 at about 2100 hrs (Local Time)

Location of Last Known Position : 5° 8.37' N 104° 16.62' E

Area Description : 54 nm east of Kuala Dungun, Kuala Terengganu, West Malaysia

Detail of Incident

The ReCAAP ISC received a report about a piracy incident occurred on a Thai-flagged Product Tanker MGT 1. The tanker was underway from Rayong port, Thailand to Andaman sea where the incident took place at about 2100 hrs on 6 Sep 17 at 54 nm east of Kuala Dungun, Kuala Terengganu, West Malaysia at position 5° 8.37' N 104° 16.62' E. Initial investigation revealed that 13 armed perpetrators with two small fast boats boarded the tanker and forced the crew to transfer one million litres of diesel oil (out of 2.2 million litres contained in the tanker) to a mother ship. The crew managed to activate the SSAS alarm. The Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) dispatched two ships and a helicopter to the location and rescued the tanker at 0400 hrs on 7 Sep 17. Ten perpetrators were apprehended and search for the remaining three perpetrators is on-going. The tanker is now being escorted to Kuala Terengganu for further investigation.

Reported by: Thai MECC, Royal Thai Navy

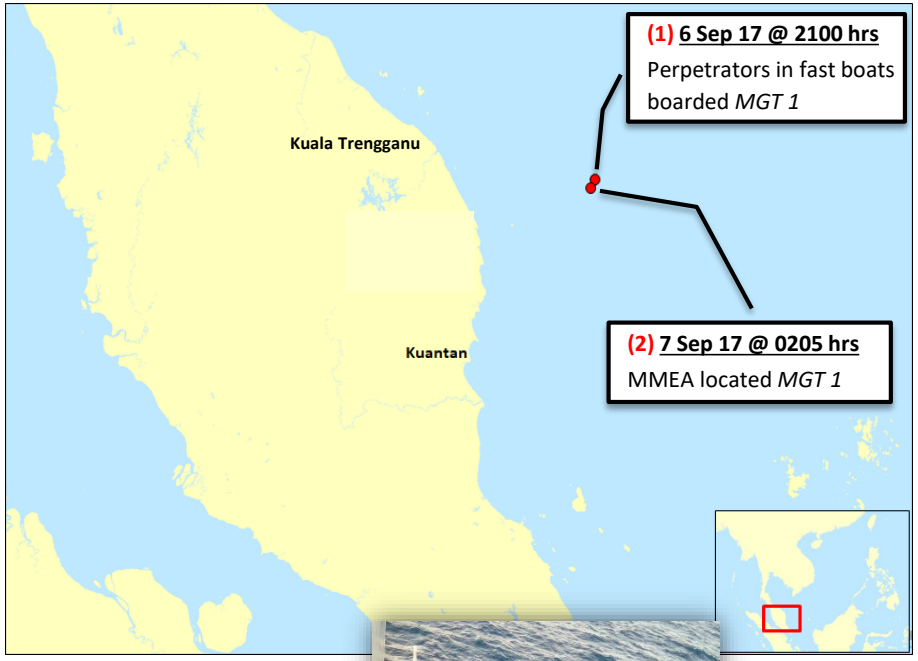
Comments

This is the second incident involving theft of oil cargo reported in Asia in 2017. The last incident was the hijack of product tanker C.P. 41 for oil cargo theft that occurred on 23 June 2017 approximately 25 nm east of Kuantan, West Malaysia. The ReCAAP ISC is concerned about the recurrence of incidents of hijacking of ship for theft of oil cargo. Ships carrying oil cargo are encouraged to exercise vigilance and adopt precautionary measures taking reference from the 'Regional Guide to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia'. (Website: www.recaap.org)

Name of vessel	*MGT 1*
Type of vessel	Product tanker
Flag of vessel	Thailand
GT	983

2) Arrest of Perpetrators of *MGT 1* – *Cont'd*

- MMEA deployed Special Task and Rescue Team (STAR Team) and aircraft
- **7 Sep 17 at 0205 hrs**: MMEA aircraft located *MGT 1* and *Neptune 09*
- STAR team arrested 10 perpetrators
- 3 perpetrators escaped in a speed boat
- MMEA escorted arrested perpetrators, *MGT 1* & *Neptune 09* to Kuala Trengganu
- MMEA arrested Mastermind (in Johor) in afternoon of **7 Sep 17**
- Latest update
  - ☑ One of three escaped perpetrators arrested
  - ☑ Mastermind & 11 perpetrators – 16 yrs imprisonment; five strokes of cane for eight of them



Perpetrators arrested
(Courtesy of MMEA)

Best practices

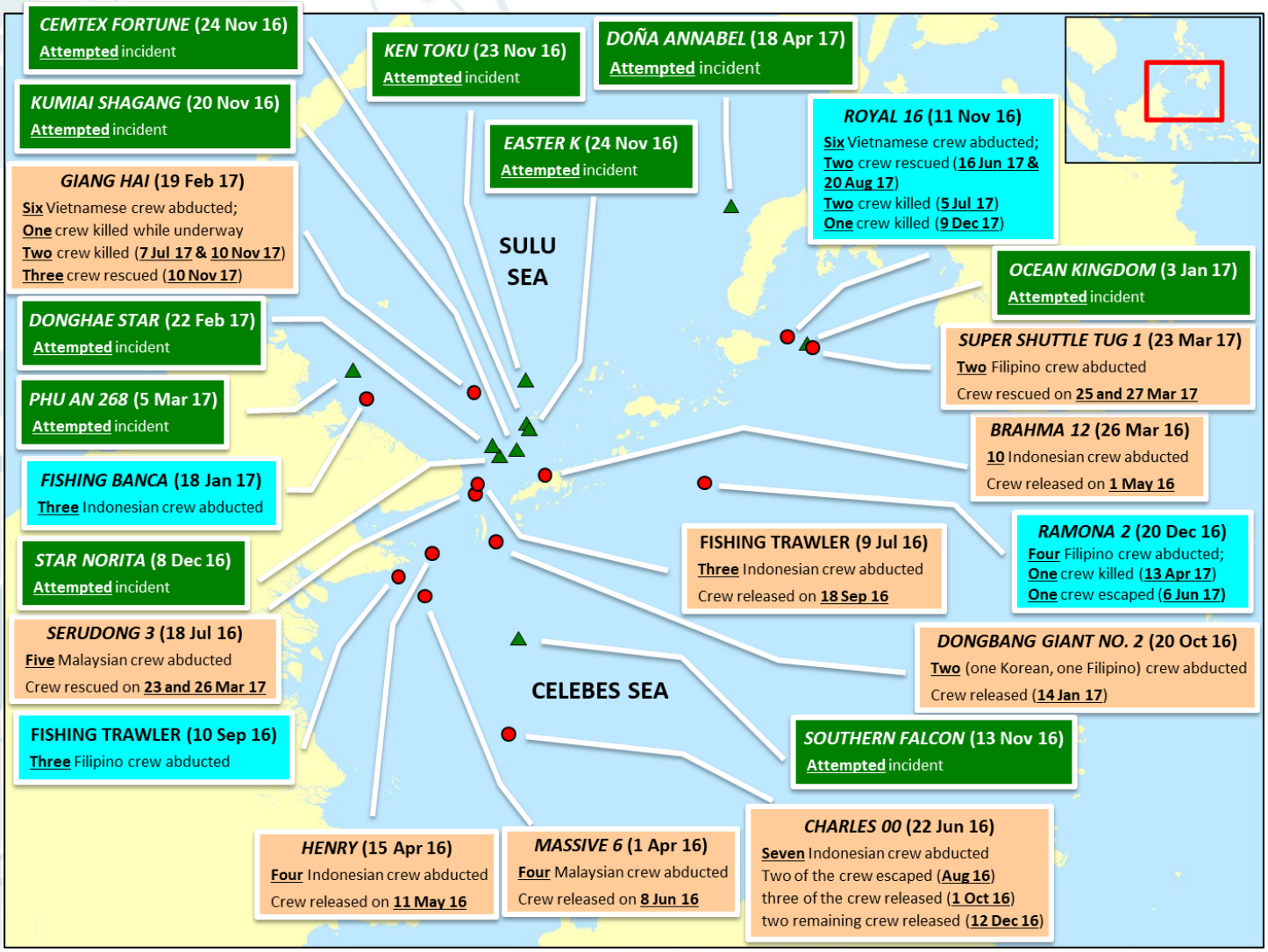
- ✓ **Crew alerted Coastal State and ships in vicinity**
- ✓ **Timely reporting by FP and regional authorities**
- ✓ **Immediate response from authorities → arrest**
- ✓ **ReCAAP ISC's Alert to warn shipping industry**

Abduction of Crew Incidents

1) Situation Update (2016 - 2017)

13 actual incidents and 10 attempted incidents

ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre



Crew killed: 7

Crew released/ rescued: 43

Crew in captivity: 9

Attempted incident

Abduction of Crew Incidents

2) Status of Abducted Crew

Ship involved	No. of crew abducted	Status (Rescued/Released/Killed)	No. of crew in captivity
Brahma 12 (26 Mar 16)	10	All crew released	-
Massive 6 (1 Apr 16)	4	All crew released	-
Henry (15 Apr 16)	4	All crew released	-
Charles 00 (22 Jun 16)	7	2 crew rescued, five crew released	-
Fishing Trawler (9 Jul 16)	3	All crew released	-
Serudong 3 (18 Jul 16)	5	All crew rescued	-
Fishing Trawler (10 Sep 16)	3	Nil	3
Dongbang Giant No. 2 (20 Oct 16)	2	All crew released	-
Royal 16 (11 Nov 16)	6	3 crew killed, 2 crew rescued	1
Ramona 2 (20 Dec 16)	4	1 crew killed, 1 crew rescued	2
Fishing Banca (18 Jan 17)	3	Nil	3
Giang Hai (19 Feb 17)	6	3 crew killed, 3 crew rescued	-
Super Shuttle Tug 1 (23 Mar 17)	2	All crew rescued	-
TOTAL	**59**	**28 released, 15 rescued, 7 killed**	**9**

Correct as of 31 Dec 17

Abduction of Crew Incidents

ReCAAP ISC's Advisory to Shipping Industry

- Re-route from area, where possible
- Exercise extra vigilance and report the incidents
- Maintain communication for monitoring by authorities, and immediate responses in any eventualities

1. **Philippine Coast Guard District**
   Southwestern Mindanao Operation Centre
   Tel: +63 929686 4129
   Tel: +63 929686 0689
   VHF: Channel 16 with call-sign "ENVY"
   Email: hcgdswm@yahoo.com

2. **Navy - Littoral Monitoring Station (LMS)**
   Bongao, TawiTawi
   Tel: +63 917774 2293
   VHF: Channel 16
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Way Forward

Summary & Lessons Learned

- **Increase in incidents in Bangladesh, Philippines, SOMS & SCS in 2017 compared to 2016 due to:**
  - Lower surveillance by authorities
  - Complacency of crew
  - More need to be done before situation worsens
- **Improvements in some areas – commendable, but no room for complacency**
- **Situation is fluid…shifting from one location to another; one modus operandi to another… ReCAAP ISC encourages collective and shared responsibilities among all stakeholders on**
  - Timely and accurate reporting by ships
  - Enhanced surveillance and quick response by enforcement agencies
  - Adopt BMP (*Regional Guide to Counter Piracy & Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia*)
  - Pro-active than reactive measures

ReCAAP
Information Sharing Centre

Thank you!

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