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# Hijacking and theft of oil cargo from tug boat, *Ever Prosper* towing barge, *Ever Dignity*

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# Incident Update

**Name of vessel** : *Ever Prosper*

**Type of vessel** : Tug boat

**Official number** : 330974

**GT** : 126

**Name of vessel** : *Ever Dignity*

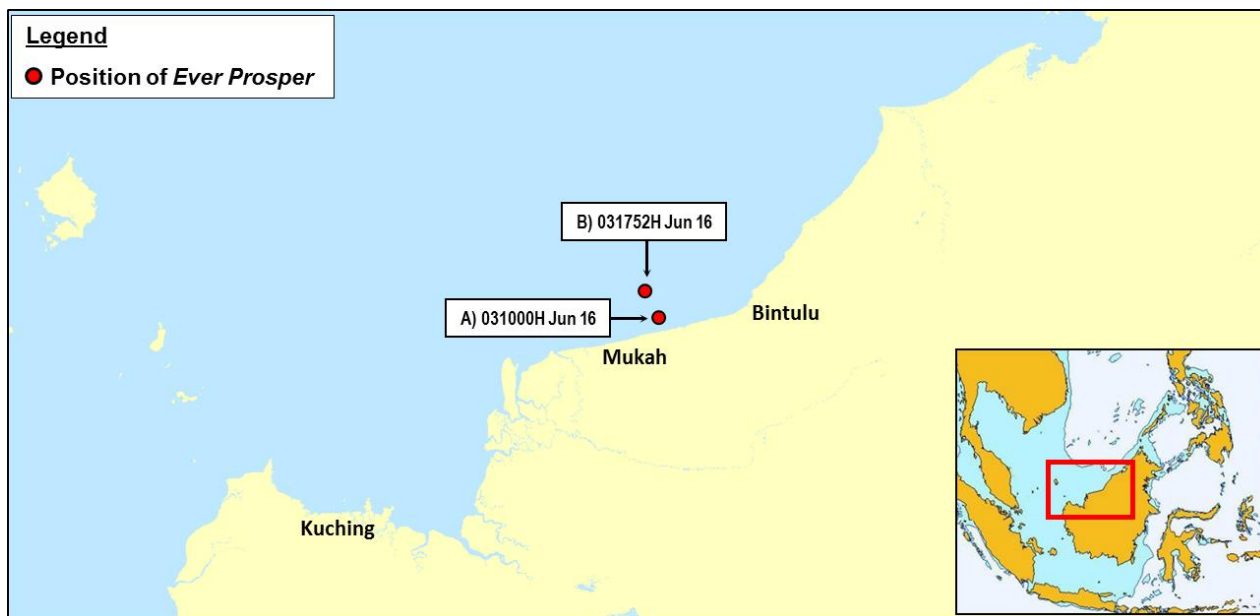
**Type of vessel** : Barge

**Official number** : 334884

**GT** : 2104

## Background

1. On 3 Jun 16, the ReCAAP ISC received information from the Sarawak and Sabah Shipowners' Association (SSSA) that the owner of tug boat, *Ever Prosper* towing barge, *Ever Dignity* had lost communication with the ships on 2 Jun 16. The barge *Ever Dignity* was carrying crude palm kernel oil (CPKO). Another of the company's tug boat, *Ever Master* sighted a tug boat and barge were alongside the hijacked ships pumping out the CPKO. At about 0900 hrs on 3 Jun 16, *Ever Prosper* and barge, *Ever Dignity* were reported off Mukah, Sarawak, East Malaysia. See map below.



Reported positions of *Ever Prosper* and *Ever Dignity*

## **Actions by ReCAAP ISC and the Authorities**

2. The ReCAAP ISC reported the incident to the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) immediately. Two MMEA ships were despatched from Bintulu, Sarawak to the location of the ships which was estimated 35 nm away from Bintulu. The MMEA reported that the perpetrators had robbed the crew and pumped out 3000 litres of the CPKO the night before, and entered Bintulu port after completed the transfer. The 10 crew was safe and one of the crew suffered injury to one of his eyes, believed to be punched by the perpetrators. The MMEA ships escorted *Ever Prosper* and *Ever Dignity* into Bintulu port in the early morning of 4 Jun 16; and the injured crew was brought to the hospital. Investigation is ongoing.

## **Comments by the ReCAAP ISC**

3. This is the second incident of hijacking of ship for oil cargo theft in 2016. The first oil cargo theft occurred on board *Hai Soon 12* on 8 May 15 off Pulau Belitung, Indonesia, was successfully foiled by the Indonesian authorities who intercepted and boarded *Hai Soon 12*, rescued the crew, arrested the perpetrators and recovered the full cargo. The ReCAAP ISC continues to work closely with SSSA and MMEA to gather detailed information about the incident and provide further updates when available.