MARSEC Weekly Report
18 – 23 Jan 2020

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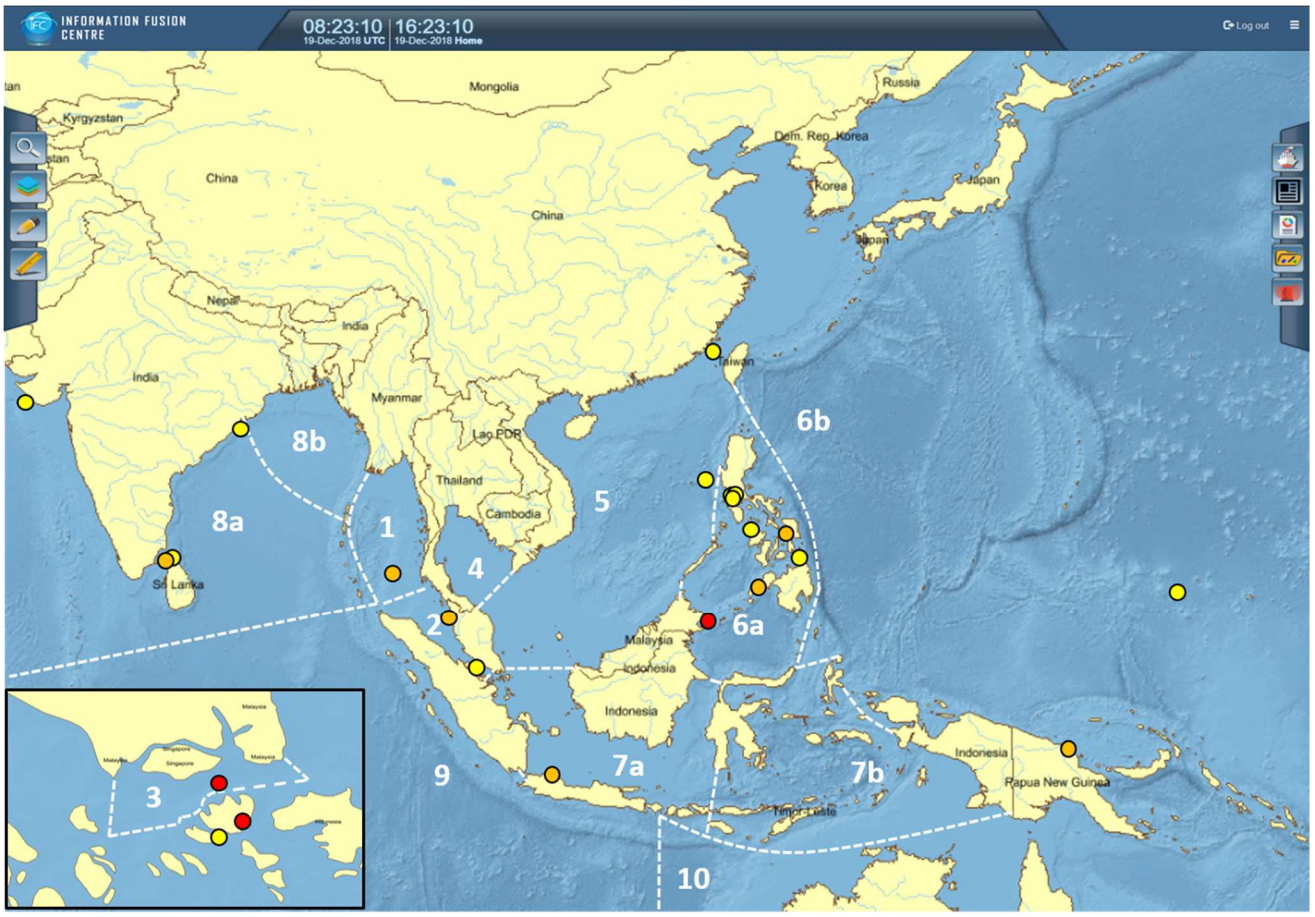
OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS IN THE IFC AREA OF INTEREST (AOI)



For the period from 18 Jan to 23 Jan 2020, the number of reported incidents within the IFC AOI are as follows:

Category	Number of Incidents	Page Reference
Theft, Robbery and Piracy at Sea (TRAPS)	3	2-4
Maritime Terrorism (MT)	0	4
Maritime Incidents (MI)	13	5-7
Illegal, Unregulated, Unreported Fishing (IUU)	7	8-9
Contraband Smuggling (CS)	0	9
Irregular Human Migration (IHM)	0	9
Others	0	10

Releasable to Maritime Industry

SECTION A: THEFT, ROBBERY AND PIRACY AT SEA (TRAPS)

21 Jan - Attempted Actions/ HORIZON MARU/ Chemical Tanker/ Indonesia Flagged/ Anchored/ Off Kabil, Batam, Indonesia/ DB220120

1. IFC received information from Malaysia ILO that an attempted action occurred onboard an Indonesian Flagged Tanker HORIZON MARU, while anchored at position, Lat 01 04 09N Long 104 09 01E, off Kabil, Batam, Indonesia at 210344 (UTC+7) Jan 20.

2. Vessel Details:
a. Name: HORIZON MARU
b. Call Sign: PMHJ
c. IMO: 9048017
d. MMSI: 525016211
e. Flag: Indonesia
f. Type: Chemical Tanker
g. Ship Owner: Bahtera Maju Selaras PT
h. Ship Operator/Manager: Bahtera Maju Selaras PT
k. LPOC: Merak, Indonesia
l. NPOC: Kabil, Indonesia

3. Incident Details:
At 210344 (UTC+7), HORIZON MARU was boarded by four perpetrators armed with sharp weapons in Kabil waters, eastern Batam island, Indonesia. Crew managed to fight robbers off, and in the process, captured one of the perpetrators, while the other three fled overboard. One crew suffered face injury. The captured robber was handed over to police. Tanker alerted ships in the vicinity and police via VHF Ch.16.

IFC Comments:
Indonesian ILO has verified that perpetrators attempted to steal spare parts but were unsuccessful as they were confronted by the crew, who managed to capture one of the perpetrators.

https://maritimebulletin.net/2020/01/21/failed-tanker-robbery-crew-captured-one-robber-indonesia/
https://batam.tribunnews.com/2020/01/21/terungkap-identitas-perompak-kapal-tanker-horizon-maru-di-batam-tinggal-di-batuaji-dan-bengkong

18 Jan - Sea Theft/ KIM HOCK TUG 9 and LKH 2882/ Tug and Barge/ Singapore Flagged/ Underway/ Singapore Strait/ DB200120

1. IFC received information that Singapore registered tugboat "KIM HOCK TUG 9" (KHT9) towing a barge "LKH 2882", reported on VTIS channel 14 that she was boarded by an unknown number of perpetrators while underway within the eastbound lane of Traffic Separation Scheme in Singapore Strait at 181135 (UTC+8) Jan 20.

2. Vessel Information
a. Name: KIM HOCK TUG 9
b. Callsign: 9V3504
c. IMO: 9767120
d. MMSI: 563034220
e. Flag: Singapore
f. Type: Tug and Barge
g. Ship Owner: Kim Hock Tug & Barge Pte Ltd (Singapore)
h. Ship Operator/Manager: Kim Hock Tug & Barge Pte Ltd (Singapore)
i. LPOC: Singapore
j. NPOC: Vietnam

3. POCC informed MSTF HQ that KIM HOCK TUG 9 reported that there were two sampans alongside the barge LKH 2882. KHT9 reported two to three perpetrators boarded the barge but subsequently disembarked the barge before both sampans peeled off and followed astern of KHT9. MSTF HQ conducted EO scans and sighted both sampans in vicinity of KHT9 and subsequently sighted four perpetrators boarded and stole scrap metal before disembarking. Concurrently, Company Security Officer (CSO) of KHT9 reported to IFC via Voluntary Community Reporting (VCR) of the incident.

4. At 181551 (UTC+8), another repeated incident happened on the same vessel at location Lat 01 15.35N Long 104 03.24E (in east bound lane of TSS). Seven perpetrators were sighted on board LKH 2882. Two PCG craft were dispatched in intercept. However, the perpetrators fled on their sampans upon seeing the Police Coast Guard (PCG) craft. The vessel continued on her journey to Vietnam.

5. Sea Security Task Group (GUSKAMLA) and Batam Naval Base found scrap iron demolition activities carried out by boats at Tanjung Uma jetty located near Batu Ampar. Upon checking further the scrap metal was gotten from sea. The small wooden boat would load the scrap metal and sell it to collectors in Batu Ampar. Investigation is still ongoing.

MPA – POCC Singapore
https://channel-indonesia.com/20/2020/01/14/43/14/guskamla-koarmada-i-berhasil-menangkap-jaringan-pencurian-di-selat-singapura/
http://koranpelita.com/2020/01/20/guskamla-koarmada-i-berhasil-menangkap-jaringan-pencurian-di-selat-singapura/
http://www.kabarsenayan.com/guskamla-koarmada-i-berhasil-menangkap-jaringan-pencurian-di-selat-singapura/

Events outside of the reporting period:

16 Jan - Hijacking-Kidnapping/Trawler/Malaysia Flagged/Underway, Five Indonesians Kidnapped/Off Tambisan, Malaysia/DB200120

Five Indonesian fishermen were abducted in waters off Tambisan by kidnap-for-ransom groups linked to Abu Sayyaf.

IFC Comments:
Philippine ILO shared that Philippine Navy and Coast Guard conducted a naval blockade in Sulu and its adjacent islands.
Philippine, Indonesia and Malaysia ILOs have verified the details of the incident with their respective OPCENs, including ESSCOM.

https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/five-indonesian-fishermen-kidnapped-by-abu-sayyaf-off-lahad-datu-waters
https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2020/01/20/abu-sayyaf-militant-gunned-down#cxrecs_s

SECTION B: MARITIME TERRORISM (MT)

NSTR

SECTION C: MARITIME INCIDENTS (MI)

22 Jan - Vessel Detained/ Unauthorised Oil Transfer/ Tug & Tug/ Off Batam City, Indonesia/ DB230120

Local authorities detained two tugs for unauthorized oil transfer in the waters off Batam City.

https://batam.tribunnews.com/2020/01/22/kronologi-penangkapan-kapal-bumn-milik-pelindo-yang-diduga-jual-minyak-ilegal-ke-singapura

21 Jan - Vessel Detained/ Unauthorised Anchorage/ Cargo Vessel/ Off Malacca, Malaysia/ DB230120

Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency detained a foreign General Cargo Vessel for unauthorized anchorage in waters off Upeh Island.

https://www.facebook.com/maritimmalaysia/posts/2707317629360135?__tn__=-R

21 Jan - Sunk-Capsized/ Rough Seas, Human Error/ Local Passenger Vessel/ One Dead, 27 Rescued/ SAR/ Off Boracay, Philippines/ DB220120

The Philippine Coast Guard rescued 27 people from a vessel that sunk in waters off Boracay, but one passenger died.

https://coconuts.co/manila/news/1-chinese-tourist-dead-27-others-rescued-after-boat-sinks-off-boracay/
https://www.philstar.com/nation/2020/01/22/1986693/boat-capsizes-boracay-chinese-tourist-dies

20 Jan - Mechanical Failure/ Ballast Water System Failure/ Cargo Ship/ 10 Rescued/ SAR/ Off Zhangzhou, China/ DB210120

Local authorities rescued 10 foreign crew members from a tilting cargo vessel with a faulty ballast water system in waters off Zhangzhou.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-01/20/c_138721088.htm

19 Jan - Collision/ Human Error, Poor Visibility/ Fishing Vessel vs Fishing Vessel/ 18 Rescued/ Gopalpur Sea, India/ DB210120

Two fishing vessels collided, forcing 18 fishermen, four of whom were injured, to jump overboard and swim to shore.

https://www.orissapost.com/4-fishermen-hurt-as-2-boats-collide-on-gopalpur-sea/

18 Jan - Sunk-Capsized/ Water Ingress/ Trawler/ Four Rescued/ SAR/ Off Kankasanthurei, Sri Lanka/ DB210120

The Sri Lankan Navy rescued four foreign fishermen from a sinking trawler in waters off Kankasanthurei.

https://news.navy.lk/eventnews/2020/01/19/202001191800/

Events outside of the reporting period:

17 Jan - Others/ Flooding/ Water Ingress/ Fishing Vessel/ Five Rescued/ SAR/ Off Porbandar, India/ DB230120

The Indian Coast Guard rescued five fishermen on a fishing boat with severe flooding.

https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/connect+gujarat+english-epaper-cgujeng/indian+coast+guard+rescues+fishing+boat+subhamurti-newsid-160438218

09 Jan - Vessel Detained/ Unauthorized Voyage/ Fishing Vessel/ Off Mariveles, Bataan, Philippines/ DB230120

1. IFC received information from Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) ILO that a fishing banca with nine fishermen onboard was apprehended and detained by Coast Guard Station Bataan Law Enforcement Team off Mariveles, Bataan for the following Maritime Safety violations:
a) Masters failure to accomplish Masters Declaration of Safe Departure (MDSD)
b) Leaving port without PCG clearance
c) Connivance between the master and shipowner to leave port without submitting MDSD
d) Expired Fishing Vessel Safety Certificate
e) Expired Minimum Safe Manning Certificate

2. The fishing boat was temporarily detained within the impounding area at Municipality of Mariveles, Bataan.

Philippine Coast Guard OPCEN

10 Jan - Mechanical Failure/ Engine Failure/ Local Passenger Vessel/ 129 Rescued/ SAR/ Off Surigao City, Surigao Del Norte, Philippines/ DB230120

IFC received information from Philippine Coast Guard ILO that 129 passengers and crew of a passenger motor banca were rescued by joint SAR team of Coast Guard Station Surigao Del Norte, Philippine National Police-Maritime Group and other volunteers after their boat encountered engine trouble off Barangay Lisondra, Surigao City, Surigao Del Norte.

Philippine Coast Guard OPCEN

12 Jan - MEDEVAC/ Fractured Arm and Leg/ Bulk Carrier/ One Rescued/ SAR/ Off Grande Island, Philippines/ DB230120

IFC received information from Philippine Coast Guard ILO that a crew member on board a bulk carrier was suffering from a fractured right arm and right leg and was medically evacuated by Coast Guard Station Zambales off Grande Island.

Philippine Coast Guard OPCEN

12 Jan - MEDEVAC/ Head and Arm Injury/ Bulk Carrier/ One Rescued/ SAR/ Off Corregidor Island, Philippines/ DB230120

IFC received information from Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) ILO that a crew member of a Bulk Carrier incurred head and right arm injury after falling in the ship's cargo hold and was medically evacuated by the Philippine Coast Guard off Corregidor.

Philippine Coast Guard OPCEN

14 Jan - Missing/ Cause Unknown/ Fishing Vessel/ Seven Missing/ SAR/ Off Dasol, Philippines/ DB210120

The Philippine Coast Guard remains on the lookout for seven fishermen who went missing near the waters off Barangay Hermosa, Dasol, Pangasinan.

https://www.rappler.com/nation/249755-philippines-coast-guard-searching-fishermen-lost-sea
https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/01/19/7-fishermen-in-pangasinan-remain-missing-pcg/

13 Jan - Missing/ Cause Unknown/ Small Boat/ One Rescued/ SAR/ Off Guam/ DB200120

The U.S Squadron (VP) 45 conducted SAR and found a person on a small craft who has been missing for four days, in waters off Guam.

https://www.dvidshub.net/news/359683/ctf-72-conducts-successful-search-and-rescue-operation-off-coast-guam

SECTION D: ILLEGAL, UNREGULATED, UNREPORTED FISHING (IUU)

21 Jan - Poaching/ Two Indonesian Fishing Vessels Detained/ Unknown Number of Foreign Fishermen Arrested/ Illegal Fishing/ Off Phang-Nga Province, Thailand/ DB230120

IFC received information from Thai ILO that foreign fishermen onboard two foreign fishing vessels were apprehended off Phang-Nga province by the Royal Thai Navy Offshore Patrol Vessel for engaging in illegal fishing without a license to fish in Thailand's waters. The apprehended persons along with their belongings and fishing gear were handed over to Phang-Nga Naval Base, Phang-Nga Province for onward action.

RTN OPCEN

19 Jan - Local/ One Fishing Vessel Detained/ One Local & Four Foreign Fishermen Arrested/ Illegal Fishing/ Off Johor, Malaysia/ DB220120

The Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency apprehended a local fishing vessel with a local skipper and four foreign fishermen who were fishing without permits.

https://www.facebook.com/maritimmalaysia/photos/a.503049696453617/2703156029776295/?type=3&theater

20 Jan - Poaching/ One Indonesian Fishing Vessel Detained/ Five Foreign Fishermen Arrested/ Illegal Fishing/ Off Mari, Papua New Guinea/ DB210120

Local authorities apprehended five foreign fishermen illegally fishing in waters off Mari.

https://postcourier.com.pg/javanese-men-nabbed-for-illegal-entry/

18 Jan - Poaching/ One Indian Fishing Vessel Detained/ Four Foreign Fishermen Arrested/ Illegal Fishing/ Off Delft Island, Sri Lanka/ DB210120

The Sri Lankan Navy apprehended four foreign fishermen for poaching in territorial waters off Delft Island.

https://news.navy.lk/eventnews/2020/01/19/202001191800/
https://www.siasat.com/four-indian-fishermen-arrested-sri-lankan-navy-1798011/

Events outside of the reporting period:

12 Jan - Local/ One Fishing Vessel Detained/ Two Local Fishermen Arrested/ Illegal Fishing Methods/ Off Naga, Zamboanga Sibugay, Philippines/ DB230120

IFC received information from Philippine Coast Guard ILO that two local fishermen on board an outrigger motorized boat were apprehended by Coast Guard Station Zamboanga Sibugay Maritime Law Enforcement team for illegally fishing using compressor off Naga, Zamboanga Sibugay.

Philippine Coast Guard OPCEN

12 Jan - Local/ One Fishing Vessel Detained/ Two Local Fishermen Arrested/ Illegal Fishing Methods/ Off Carigara, Leyte, Philippines/ DB230120

IFC received information from Philippine Coast Guard ILO that two fishermen onboard an unnamed motor boat were apprehended by joint Maritime Law Enforcement team of Coast Guard Sub-Station Carigara and Carigara Fishery Law Enforcement Team for illegally fishing using trawl fishing inside the municipal water of Carigara, Leyte.

Philippine Coast Guard OPCEN

17 Jan - Local/ Two Fishing Vessels Detained/ Eight Foreign Fishermen Arrested/ Illegal Fishing/ Off Georgetown, Malaysia/ DB200120

The Penang Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) apprehended two local fishing vessels used by eight foreign fishermen for fishing in unauthorized waters.

https://www.facebook.com/maritimmalaysia/videos/460521944836004

SECTION E: CONTRABAND SMUGGLING (CS)

NTSR

SECTION F: IRREGULAR HUMAN MIGRATION (IHM)

NSTR

SECTION G: OTHERS

NSTR

IFC RECOMMENDATIONS

IFC advises:

1. All mariners to report any incidents timely to the nearest coastal state and to the IFC at the earliest possible time.

2. Ships moving at slow speed or are choosing to remain at anchor in areas where sea robbery/theft is regularly reported should remain vigilant and adopt necessary and/or added security measures. Please refer to IFC Spot Commentary 1/19, 2/19, 3/19 and IFC Analyst Journal 1/19 for the latest assessment of the situation in the affected area off Singapore Strait and its approaches.

3. All mariners to take note on the description of the perpetrators and to take photos of the perpetrators if possible. Where available, CCTV footage capturing the incident should be provided to the coastal state authorities for follow-on investigation.

4. Shippers and Seafarers operating in the Sulu-Celebes seas are strongly recommended to be vigilant and to establish contact with the Philippines, Malaysian and Indonesian Authorities to report their presence. Please refer to IFC Spot Commentary 4/18 for the latest assessment of the situation in that affected area.

5. Shippers are advised to take note that the threat of terrorist activity in the maritime domain remains a possibility in the region due to ISIS and the Al-Qaeda. The possibility of this threat was previously quoted in Al-Qaeda's online magazine "Resurgence", which called for the disruption of global trade and shipping through acts of piracy, among other tactics. Shippers are therefore advised to exercise vigilance and to adopt self-defensive measures as stated in the Regional Guide to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia, especially when transiting narrow choke points and areas which are known to have experienced incidents of sea robbery/piracy.

PAST IFC SPOT COMMENTARIES

2019

Analyst Journal 1/19 – Sea Robberies, Sea Thefts and Attempted Actions Surrounding the Approaches to Singapore Strait (Off Tanjung Piai, Off Tanjung Setapa, Phillip Channel and Southern Approaches to South China Sea).
IFC Spot Commentary 3/19 – Observations of Sea Robbery, Sea Theft and Attempted Actions Incidents in Singapore Strait and Approaches from end of Nov to Dec 2019.
IFC Spot Commentary 2/19 – Observations of TRAPS incidents in the Southern Approaches-South China Sea (SCS) since 31 May to 26 Sep 2019.
IFC Spot Commentary 1/19 – Observations of TRAPS incidents in the area off Tg Piai, Malaysia/ Western Approaches-Singapore Strait since 1 January to 27 May 2019.

2018

IFC Spot Commentary 4/18 – Observations between 5 to 8 December for incidents in the Sulu-Celebes Sea/Eastern Sabah
IFC Spot Commentary 3/18 – Kidnapping Incident of Two Crew on Fishing Vessel “DWIJAYA 1”, Off Semporna.
IFC Spot Commentary 2/18 – Attempted Actions on Tug boat “EVER ALPHA”, Pulau Tambisan, Malaysia.
IFC Spot Commentary 1/18 – Observations on Sea Theft and Robberies recorded in Singapore Strait and its approaches – January to December 2017.

2017

IFC Spot Commentary 5/17 – Abduction of 5 Local Fishermen off Poblacion coast, Pangutaran, Sulu, Philippines.
IFC Spot Commentary 4/17 – Attempted Piracy / Oil Siphoning Incident on Oil Tanker MT MGT 1, Malaysia.
IFC Spot Commentary 3/17 – Abduction of Crew from SUPER SHUTTLE TUGBOAT 1, Basilan Strait.
IFC Spot Commentary 2/17 – Abduction of Crew of Giang Hai off Sibutu Passage.
IFC Spot Commentary 1/17 – Kidnapping, Harassment and Suspicious Activities in Waters off East Sabah and Southern Philippines.

2016

IFC Spot Commentary 2/16 - Kidnapping, Harassment and Suspicious Activities in Waters off East Sabah and Southern Philippines.
IFC Spot Commentary 1/16 – Kidnapping at Sea by Armed Groups in Waters off East Sabah and Southern Philippines.

Note: Information herein were derived from various internal and external sources such as Focal Points, OPCENs and other maritime stakeholders. Seafarers should remain vigilant especially in areas where the threat level is assessed to be of concern in accordance with the IFC's Assessments via its Weekly Report or Spot Commentaries. Ships should apply the appropriate security measures (such as Tugs and Barge Guide, Guide for Tankers Operating in Asia, or Regional Guide to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia). Ship masters should also be aware and refer to the Maritime Security Charts Q6112 and Q6113, both published by the UK Hydrographic Office.

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