

Robberies on Ships Underway Continue to Rise in the Singapore Strait

By admin On December 16, 2022 In Cargo, Insurance Marine News, Keep, Marine Liability

ReCAAP, the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia, has highlighted an increase in sea robbery incidents in the Singapore Strait.

ReCAAP said that the busy sea lanes continued to experience increased levels of petty crimes, primarily robberies involving the theft of equipment, spare parts, or scrap, often from ships underway.

Two new incidents were reported to ReCAAP within 30 minutes of each other on November 21st, both by tugs underway in the westbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme near Singapore. In these incidents nine men in the first case and 14 men in the second, boarded barges being towed in the strait. They stole scrap metal and escaped.

ReCAAP noted the similarity of the incidents but said that it was uncertain if it was the same group in both instances.

There was a similar robbery on November 9th. In that case, the tug had the barge on a long tow (approximately 1,800ft). A perpetrator boarded the barge and stole a mooring rope as there was no cargo aboard the barge.

On November 19th the crew of an unidentified bulk carrier reported that it had seen five perpetrators in the engine room while they were underway. The boarders were believed to have fled when they were seen. A search of the vessel could not locate the individuals and the crew reported that nothing was stolen.

RECAAP noted that these continued to be low-level crimes where the boarders rarely carried weapons and fled when discovered, the authorities still point to a strong rise in the number of incidents in 2022. Also, whereas in the past, when the reports were concentrated in smaller areas, they are now becoming more diverse between both traffic lanes. the precautionary area, and outside the zone.

ReCAAP ISC urged the relevant littoral States to increase patrols and enforcement in their respective territorial seas/archipelagic waters.

With four additional incidents in November, ReCAAP reported that the Singapore Strait represented two-thirds of the reports in Asia for 2022.