

IFC Regional Maritime Security Situation Brief

Theft, Robbery And Piracy at Sea, & Maritime Terrorism

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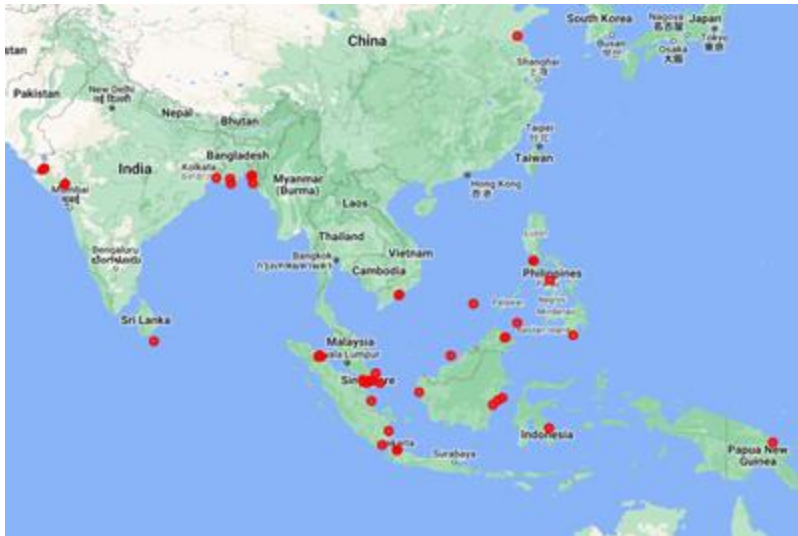




Theft, Robbery, And Piracy at Sea (TRAPS)

Number of TRAPS incidents in 2022: 104

+13% vs 2021
92 incidents in 2021



- Bulk Carriers were the most targeted vessel type in the IFC's AOI
- 26% of the incidents in IFC's AOI involved sightings of perpetrators with weapons such as knives, firearms, and machetes. Firearms were reportedly sighted in 5 incidents occurring in waters off Bangladesh, Indonesia, Philippines, and the South China Sea.

Type of vessels targeted

1

38 Bulk Carriers

2

26 Tankers

3

19 Tugs and Barges

4

7 Fishing Vessels

5

14 Others



Theft, Robbery And Piracy at Sea (TRAPS)

Key Areas of Concern



Singapore Strait: 55 Incidents

1

- More incidents reported in 2022 than 2021 (49) and 2020 (37)
- Majority of the incidents occurred in the Phillip Channel, and North of Bintan and Batam islands, often during periods of darkness
- Bulk Carriers, Tugs & Barges and Tankers were the most frequent targets

Chittagong Port/ Chattogram Area: 6 Incidents

2

- More incidents reported in 2022 than 2021 (0) and 2020 (2)
- Mainly occurred during the period of darkness, and at the anchorage
- Bulk Carriers and Tankers were the most frequent targets

Belawan Anchorage Area: 5 Incidents

3

- Same number of incidents as when compared to 2021
- Bulk Carriers and Tankers were the most frequent targets



Theft, Robbery And Piracy at Sea (TRAPS)

Modus Operandi: Generally similar to previous years

1

Singapore Strait:

- Observed an increase in Tugs and Barges incidents (14); 50% increase from 2021 (7)
- Observed an increase in incidents in the Phillip Channel near the end of 2022, with 14 incidents occurring in the months of Oct to Dec
- Perpetrators were observed to conduct opportunistic attacks on slow moving vessels (speeds of 7 to 12 knots) with low to medium freeboard of less than 7m, and usually operate in small boats with 4-6 pax and tend to avoid confrontation when sighted by crew



Picture of a typical wooden boat used by perpetrators in Singapore Strait

2

Chittagong Port/ Chattogram Area and Belawan Anchorage Area:

- Activities were usually conducted in small boats carrying 2-4 pax, and the perpetrators avoided confrontation
- In most of the cases, the incidents took place during period of darkness



Maritime Terrorism (MT)

Number of MT incidents in 2022: 0

↓ -1 vs 2021
1 incident in 2021

- No Maritime Terrorism (MT) incidents was reported in 2022, compared to 2021 (1) and 2020 (5).
- The Trilateral Cooperation Arrangement by Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines is likely to have a positive effect; conducting joint patrols in their respective areas in conjunction with the efforts from the national security agencies.
- While **NO** MT incidents was reported in 2022, all countries and the maritime community should remain vigilant.



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