



Monthly Summary of Boarding and Attempted Boarding Incidents in the Singapore Strait (correct as at 1 May 2024)

Number of Incidents & Vessel Types			This Year to Date			
<div><div></div> New Incident</div> <div><div></div> Anchorages</div> <div><div></div> Bulk Carrier</div> <div>Reported this Month</div> <div>3</div> <div><div></div> -1.4 vs 12 month average</div>				Location	#	Δ
				Singapore Strait	13	3
				Batam Anchorage	1	0
<div>Date</div> <div>Apr 14</div> <div>Apr 6</div>		<div>Incidents</div> <div>2</div> <div>1</div>		Vessels	#	Δ
				Bulk Carrier, Underway	11	1
				Tug and Barge, Underway	2	-
				Bulk Carrier, Anchored	1	0

Key Observations and Assessments

- Total three (3) incidents in Apr 24; two (2) incidents (involving Tugs and Barges) in Westbound Lane of TSS, and one (1) incident (involving a Bulk Carrier) in Phillip Channel. All 3 incidents were classified as Sea Theft, and had no reported injuries. Only one (1) incident reportedly involved stolen property.
- The perpetrators in one (1) incident (14 Apr) reportedly stole scrap metal; all five (5) perpetrators involved were arrested by the local authorities within the same day.
- One (1) incident occurred during hours of darkness (between 0200H and 0400H), and two (2) occurred in daylight. IFC assessed that the perpetrators would conduct opportunistic boardings on suitable vessels throughout the day.
- Perpetrators continue to target vulnerable vessel types such as Bulk Carriers, and Tugs and Barges. Consistent with past trending, these vessels would remain preferred targets due to their ship characteristics (i.e. slow speed, and low freeboard). IFC assessed that the perpetrators' modus operandi would likely remain consistent with petty crime.

[Note: There was an incident in Batam Anchorage, Indonesia on 29 Feb 2024, and the last reported incident in this anchorage was in Feb 2020, and may be conducted by the same group of perpetrators operating in the Singapore Strait (SS). Vessels are encouraged to step up vigilance when transiting in the SS and also when anchored in ports/anchorages.]

Modus Operandi: Remains Largely Consistent With Petty Crime

- Based on recent years' incident reports, perpetrators mostly avoided confrontation and fled immediately upon being sighted by crew.
- Perpetrators may be armed, operating in groups of up to 5-6 pax, using small boats to target slow-moving vessels (7-12 knots) with low freeboard (less than 8m).
- Bulk Carriers and Tankers – Perpetrators typically target the vessel types at night, may be armed (e.g. with knives or steel bars), and have reportedly confronted crew members (out of 13 incidents in SS since Jan 2024, 6 reported armed, and 0 reported with confrontation), and they usually steal engine parts and/or stores. The same group of perpetrators may target multiple vessels in the same night or over successive nights in the same area.
- Tugs and Barges – Perpetrators are usually unarmed, and steal scrap metal. The vessel type have been targeted in both daylight and in hours of darkness.

Recommended Actions for All Transiting Vessels

- Always remain vigilant, particularly when transiting known areas of concern in the Phillip Channel, and waters off Bintan and Batam. Prompt reporting to local authorities is important to enable timely responses.
- Adopt Ship Protection Measures recommended in the [Regional Guide 2 to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia](#), e.g., (1) turn on weather deck lighting around the accommodation block and rear facing lighting on the poop deck, (2) maintain an all-round lookout at an elevated position with focus on suspicious small craft(s) approaching or in proximity to the ship's aft, and (3) sound ship's alarm when suspicious small craft(s) sighted.
- To guard against successive boarding attempts by perpetrators, transiting vessels are encouraged to stay informed by participating in Voluntary Community Reporting as depicted in [4th Edition MARSEC Charts Q6112 and Q6113](#). Upon sighting of suspicious activities or perpetrators onboard, [immediately report to local authorities](#) and inform the IFC; [do not](#) confront perpetrators.