



Monthly Summary of Theft, Robbery, and Piracy at Sea Incidents in the Singapore Strait (correct as at 1 Nov 2024)

Number of Incidents & Vessel Types			This Year to Date																				
<div>Incidents <u>Occurred</u> in Oct 2024</div> <table><tr><th>Date, Time</th><th>#</th></tr><tr><td>2 Oct, 0109 (UTC+8)</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>18 Oct, 0055 (UTC+8)</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>18 Oct, 0208 (UTC+8)</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>18 Oct, 0255 (UTC+8)</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>23 Oct, 0035 (UTC+8)</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>26 Oct, 2355 (UTC+8)</td><td>1</td></tr></table> <div>Incidents <u>Reported</u> in Sep (Delayed Reporting)</div> <table><tr><th>Date</th><th>#</th></tr><tr><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>			Date, Time	#	2 Oct, 0109 (UTC+8)	1	18 Oct, 0055 (UTC+8)	1	18 Oct, 0208 (UTC+8)	1	18 Oct, 0255 (UTC+8)	1	23 Oct, 0035 (UTC+8)	1	26 Oct, 2355 (UTC+8)	1	Date	#	-	-	<div><div>Legend:</div><div><div>Bulk Carrier</div><div>Tug and Barge</div><div>Tanker</div><div>Supply Vessel</div><div>Incidents in Oct</div></div></div>		
Date, Time	#																						
2 Oct, 0109 (UTC+8)	1																						
18 Oct, 0055 (UTC+8)	1																						
18 Oct, 0208 (UTC+8)	1																						
18 Oct, 0255 (UTC+8)	1																						
23 Oct, 0035 (UTC+8)	1																						
26 Oct, 2355 (UTC+8)	1																						
Date	#																						
-	-																						
			Vessel Types	#	Incident Location	#																	
			Bulk Carrier	33	Phillip Channel	32																	
			Tug and Barge	6	Westbound Lane of TSS	4																	
			Tanker	5	Eastbound Lane of TSS	5																	
			Supply Vessel	1	Batam Anchorage/Port	4																	
			Incident Types		#																		
			Boarding		44																		
			Attempted Boarding		0																		
			Suspicious Approach		1																		
			Total Number of Incidents		#																		
			Singapore Strait		41																		
			Batam Anchorage/Port		4																		

Key Observations & Assessments

- Total six (6) incidents occurred in Oct 2024 – five (5) in Phillip Channel, and one (1) in Eastbound Lane of TSS. *[Note: Referenced IFC Spot Commentary 2/24 on 19 Oct 2024, three (3) incidents occurred in Phillip Channel in one night [18 Oct] between 0055 (UTC+8) and 0233 (UTC+8). Based on proximity of the first two (2) incidents, time interval and number of perpetrators, it was likely that the same group of perpetrators were involved in both incidents. However, the third incident (~12nm from the earlier two (2) incidents) was likely conducted by a different group of perpetrators. This is second time in 2024 that IFC recorded three (3) incidents in one night in the Singapore Strait (SS); the first was on 14 Sep 2024.]*
 - Phillip Channel: Of the five (5) incidents, four (4) involved perpetrators reportedly armed with knives [2, 18 – 0208 (UTC+8), and 0255 (UTC+8), and 23 Oct], however one (1) involved confrontation with the perpetrators [18 Oct – 0208 (UTC+8)]. Of note, no injury was reported in all the incidents, and one (1) incident [2 Oct] reported ship tools stolen.
 - Eastbound Lane of TSS: One (1) incident [26 Oct] involved perpetrators armed with knives, however no confrontation and injury reported. Nothing was reported stolen.
- The incident numbers in Oct 2024 is higher than Sep 2024 (four (4) incidents). This is inline with IFC’s expectation for Q4 2024, where we expect locals to resort to petty crime in coastal waters to supplement their income due to the combined effects of (1) unfavourable weather conditions in the SCS, affecting fishing yields; and (2) increased financial obligations leading up to year-end festivities.
- Based on past trends, IFC assesses that the incident numbers in Nov 2024 are likely to remain comparable to Oct 2024. Notwithstanding, all vessels should remain vigilant and take all necessary measures to deter perpetrators and prevent boarding. IFC will continue working with regional authorities to step up enforcement efforts in known hotspots.

[Note: Since Jan 2024, there was a total of four (4) incidents off Batam, Indonesia (29 Feb, 5 and 25 June, and 3 Aug), it was assessed that these incidents were likely conducted by the same group of perpetrators operating in the 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, usually operating in groups of 4-7 pax, using small boats to target slow-moving vessels (7-12 knots) with low to medium freeboard (less than 7m).
- 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 41 incidents in SS since Jan 2024, 20 reported armed, and 5 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, and can help prevent subsequent boardings on other transiting vessels.**
- 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*.

Contact IFC at +65 6594 5705 / 9626 8965 or information_fusion_centre@defence.gov.sg