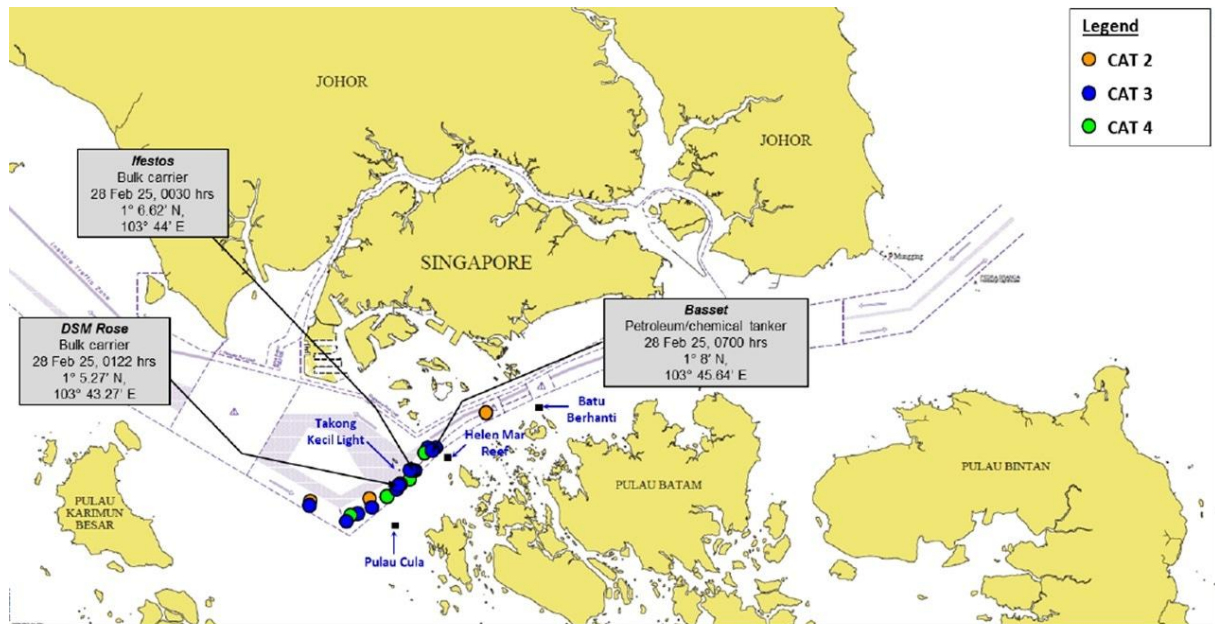


Multiple groups of robbers targeting ships in Singapore Strait

There were three ship robbery incidents in the space of a few hours on 28 February in the Philip's Channel section of Singapore Strait, with a total of 21 incidents in the waterway so far this year.

[Marcus Hand](#), Editor

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Location of incidents - Singapore Strait (1 January - 28 February 2025)

Credit: ReCAAP

Three incidents were reported in the Philip's Channel on 28 February between 00:30 and 07:00 hours local time, including one involving the [Singapore](#)-registered chemical tanker Basset where a seafarer was injured and evacuated to hospital.

According to ReCAAP engine spares were stolen in one incident and nothing was taken in the other two. Engine spares are a common item to be stolen in such robbery incidents in the Singapore Strait.

The Information Fusion Centre (IFC) believes that the three incidents on 28 February may have involved the same gang of perpetrators. IFC noted that the first two incidents, both on bulk carrier Ifestos and DSM Rose were within 1.1 nm of each other, took place less than hour apart, and 5 – 6 perpetrators were reported to have been involved. In the second and third incidents, the latter in which a crew member was injured, the perpetrators reported to be armed with similar equipment.

In total there have been 21 incidents of robbery against ships in the Singapore Strait this year, up from six in the same period last year, and some 16 of these incidents took place in the Philip's channel with vessels transiting in an easterly direction.

IFC noted that the incidents in Philip's Channel took place at an area where vessels heading in the Singapore Strait typically reduce speed significantly making them more susceptible to attacks.

Related: [Crew injured in Singapore Strait tanker 'unauthorised boarding'](#)

While the three attacks on 28 February are believed to be the work of the same group, IFC believes there are multiple groups of perpetrators in the region targeting vessels.

“Based on past trending, it was assessed that there were likely multiple groups of perpetrators operating in the PC, and these perpetrators had good knowledge of local waters and would continue to blend in with the traffic under the cover of darkness, and board when opportune. Perpetrators may target multiple vessels in the same night or over subsequent nights in the same area, especially if previous attempts were unsuccessful,” IFC said in its observations on the incidents.

In 2024 some 54 of the 62 ship robbery incidents in the Singapore Strait took place in the Philip’s Channel. IFC recommended heightened vigilance, particularly when transiting through Philips Channel in hours of darkness. Ship’s crew were advised not confront the perpetrators and to immediately report incidents to the local authorities and the IFC.

ReCAAP issued similar advice in terms of enhanced vigilance when transiting the area as well repeating previous calls for increased action for the authorities.

Related: [Continued spike in sea robbery incidents in the Singapore Strait](#)

“The ReCAAP ISC urges the littoral States to increase patrols/surveillance in their respective waters, respond promptly to incidents reported by ships, strengthen coordination and promote information sharing on incidents and criminal groups involved to arrest the perpetrators,” it said.