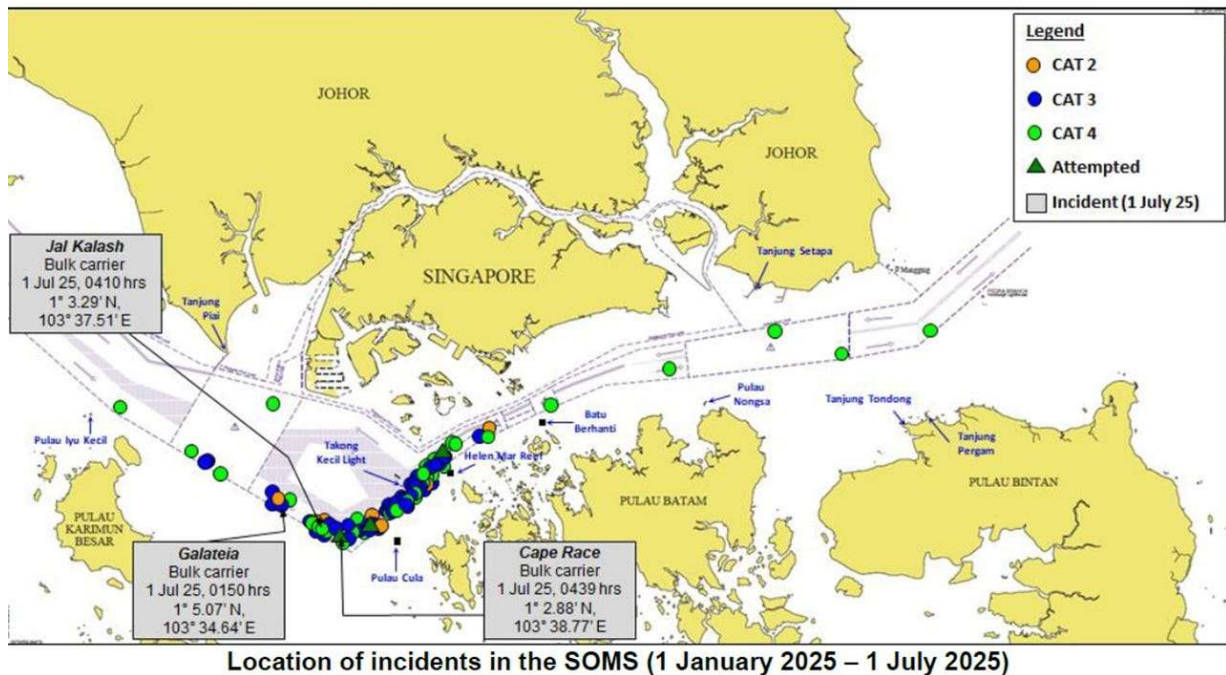


Sea robberies in Singapore Strait quadruple this year

The three latest boardings on 1 July, bringing the total to 81, included one where the robbers were armed with “gun-like” objects.

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by [Marcus Hand](#), Editor



Credit: ReCAAP

Sea robberies on ships transiting the Singapore Strait, already at 10 year-high, have continued unabated with the equivalent of nearly one incident every two days so far this year, with a total of 81 incidents in the busy shipping lane. There was one further incident in the Malacca Strait.

Three bulkers were attacked while transiting the Philip Channel in the Singapore Strait in the space of three hours in the early morning on 1 July, according to the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre

The incidents between 01:50 hrs and 04:40 hrs local time all took place in close proximity of each other between 1.4 and 3.5 nm apart.

“The perpetrators were armed with gun-like objects in one incident and reportedly not armed in the other two incidents,” ReCAAP said. No crew were injured in the incidents.

The vessels involved were the Cyprus-flagged *Cape Race*, the *Galateia*, and the [Singapore](#)-flagged *Jal Kalash*.

In one of the boardings engine spares were stolen while in the other two incidents nothing was reported taken. Previously ReCAAP has highlighted a potential black market for engine

spares in Indonesia to the south of the Singapore Strait although evidence of operations by criminal syndicates has been hard to come by.

ReCAAP said it was concerned at the increasing number of incidents with actual or attempted 81 armed robberies in the Singapore Strait so far this year compared to 20 reported in the same period in 2024. The number of incidents had already hit a 10-year high in early June and unlike recent years where there were peaks and troughs of sea robberies in key waterway incidents have continued unabated since the second half of 2024.

“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,” ReCAAP stated.

Observers have noted a lack of arrests by the [Indonesian](#) authorities with the groups of sea robbers operating from nearby Indonesian islands. In the past enforcement actions and arrests have acted to quell the number of incidents.

Ships transiting the area are urged by ReCAAP to “intensify vigilance and maintain sharp look-out while transiting the areas of concern, particularly during hours of darkness”.