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IFC Shipping Advisory 1/20 – Sea Theft Involving Tug and Barge in Phillip Channel

IFC received information from the Malaysian International Liaison Officer on a sea theft which occurred onboard a barge while underway in Phillip Channel on 071200H Feb 20. Four small wooden boats with eight perpetrators boarded the barge while underway and stole 20kg of steel construction materials from the barge.

Pls advise your ship masters to watch out for these type of wooden boats that are operating in the vicinity of Phillip Channel. The photo below shows the boats used by perpetrators in the sea theft incident.



IFC Recommendations

1. The IFC recommends the following measures to be implemented while transiting or anchored:

- a. Activate the ship's Automatic Identification System (AIS) at all times.
- b. Timely reporting to the local authorities so that enforcement agencies can be cued for tactical response.
- c. Increase vigilance in watch-keeping and deploy additional lookouts. Be wary of suspicious small boats approaching. Take photo of the suspicious boat and send to IFC.
- d. Participate in the IFC Voluntary Community Reporting (VCR) System and provide status update, while in transit, as much as possible.
- e. Use CCTV cameras for coverage of vulnerable areas (if available)
- f. Keep ship's whistle, search lights and fog horn ready for immediate use.
- g. Secure or lift external ladders to prevent their use and to restrict external access to the bridge.
- h. Deploy Self-Protection Measures (SPM) eg. Rig the water spray hoses and foam monitors in a fixed position. Evasive manoeuvres have also been proven to deter perpetrators in the areas of concern.
- i. Secure all doors and hatches providing access to the accommodation and machinery spaces.
- j. Rig safety precautionary measures on the anchor cable hawse pipe while anchored.