



Modus Operandi

Type of incident: Absconded stateless fishing vessel – Samudera Pasific No. 8

Date of incident: 29 December 2013

Location of incident: Port of Cape Town

Country: South Africa

Description of Modus Operandi / Hiding Place:

The fishing vessel SAMUDERA PASIFIC No. 8 is a suspected vehicle of crime, used for the purpose of illegal fishing and labour abuse possibly amounting to human trafficking.

The vessel is believed to be part of a fleet of vessels using the same names and identifiers, and fraudulently sharing the same fishing licenses. The vessel is likely to have changed its name, flag, IMO number and/or call sign after leaving the Port of Cape Town, South Africa, on 29 December 2013.

The South African Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) has strong reasons to suspect that the vessel fled port to avoid further investigation. It is possible that the vessel will be scuttled.

Known identifiers of the vessel are provided in the table below. The information presented may contain inaccuracies, as the networks involved have made attempts to conceal the vessel's true identity. Please refer to the pictures to ascertain a possible match.

Kindly take note that the vessel is believed to pose an immediate threat to the safety and security of the persons on board and a pollution risk to the marine and coastal environment.

Type of incident:

In the morning of 29 December 2013 the two fishing vessels SAMUDERA PASIFIC No. 8 and BERKAT MENJALA No. 23 fled the Port of Cape Town, South Africa, in contravention of an arrest order issued by the Western Cape High Court. The BERKAT MENJALA No. 23 is the subject of a separate INTERPOL Purple Notice. The vessels were two in a fleet of ten fishing vessels that were arrested by the South African DAFF in November 2013 on suspicion of fishing offences in contravention of multilateral treaties regulating high seas fisheries. In addition, investigating officers hold evidence that the vessels have been used to fish illegally within the South African Exclusive Economic Zone.

Investigations further revealed that the fishers and crews on board the fleet of vessels have not been paid for several months, and that they work and live in substandard, unsafe and unhygienic conditions. A total of 75 fishers have been evacuated off the ten vessels.

Senior officers on board the SAMUDERA PASIFIC No. 8 presented a forged vessel registration certificate purportedly issued by Indonesia. Indonesian authorities have informed the South African DAFF that the document is a fabrication. The South African DAFF therefore has strong reasons to believe that the vessel is in fact stateless and that it now sails under a false name, IMO number and call sign.

Request:

If presented in port, the South African DAFF kindly asks that:

- the vessel is inspected;
- the persons on board are arrested;
- evidence and witness statements are gathered and forwarded to NCB Pretoria; and
- the vessel is seized in furtherance of on-going investigations and legal action.

If found at sea, the South African DAFF kindly asks that:

- the South African DAFF is promptly notified via NCB Pretoria;
- if applicable, the right to board and visit a vessel on the high seas reasonably suspected to be a ship without nationality in accordance with Article 110 of the Law of the Sea Convention is exercised in accordance with international law;
- law enforcement action is taken as deemed appropriate; and
- if applicable, the persons on board the vessel are returned to Cape Town, South Africa, to appear in court.

Recommended action:

It is strongly recommended that you **circulate this Purple Notice to your law enforcement bodies, including fisheries, ports and customs authorities**, to alert them about this modus operandi so that they may take whatever preventive and precautionary measures they deem necessary. All recipients are strongly encouraged to share data on suspects and modi operandi, and provide any investigative information that could help establish links with similar events as well as identify the perpetrators.

Vessel identifiers:

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|----------------|---|
| Vessel name | Samudera Pasific No. 8 /Samudera Pasific 08 | Status | Active |
| Vessel type | Fishing vessel | Year built | 1980 |
| Current flag | Indonesia | Length overall | 47,22 m |
| IMO number | 7921162 | Gross tonnage | 498 |
| MMSI number | | Deadweight | 377 |
| Call sign | YGFN | Builder | Niigata Shipbuilding & Repair, Niigata, Japan |
| National vessel registration no. | 498 No. 1063/Pd (earlier: 145 No. 513/PD and 26.07.0028.04.17095) | | |
| Current owner and operator | Panca Cahaya Teratai, PT Komp. City Resort Residence Blok D No.10 Cengkareng Timur, Jakarta Barat, Indonesia | | |
| Fishing gear | Tuna longliner/longline/drifting longline | | |
| Fishing licenses | CCSBT ¹ registration no. FV05443 (from 19.05.2009 to 18.05.2012) IOTC ² record no. IOTC003948 (from 01.07.2013 to 20.11.2013) | | |
| Historical data | | | |
| Month/Year | Name | Flag | Call sign |
| Unknown | Samudera Pasific No. 8 | Indonesia | YGFN |
| Until 2012 | Hakko Maru No. 18 | Mauritius | Unknown |
| Until Jan 2007 | Kawil No. 01/Kawil 01 | Philippines | Unknown |
| Unknown | Rey Mikhail | Unknown | Unknown |

¹ Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (http://www.ccsbt.org/site/authorised_vessels.php)

² Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (<http://www.iotc.org/English/record/search3.php9>)

Pictures:



Samudera Pasific No. 8, Port of Cape Town, South Africa, November 2013.



Samudera Pasific No. 8 (to the left), Port of Cape Town, South Africa, November 2013.

Confidential police information has been removed



Samudera Pasific No. 8 (to the left), Port of Cape Town, South Africa, November 2013.



Samudera Pasific No. 8, Port of Cape Town, South Africa, November 2013.

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