# Chinese Vessel Collides with Philippine Ship in South China Sea Amid Ongoing Tensions



A Chinese vessel collided with a Philippine supply ship near the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea on Monday, June 17, 2024, according to China’s coast guard. The incident occurred near the Second Thomas Shoal, a submerged reef located within the Spratly Islands, a region claimed by multiple countries. China’s coast guard stated the Philippine ship entered the waters and ignored several warnings, approaching the Chinese vessel in a manner deemed unprofessional, which led to the collision. The Philippines has not yet commented on the event.

This latest incident underscores ongoing tensions in the South China Sea, an area marked by disputes involving China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan, and Brunei. The Philippines often cites a 2016 arbitration ruling that invalidated China’s extensive territorial claims in the region. These disputes have led to strained diplomatic relations and occasional maritime confrontations.

Simultaneously, Singapore is dealing with an environmental incident after a Netherlands-flagged dredger collided with a Singaporean tanker, resulting in an oil spill. The accident, caused by the dredger losing power, punctured the tanker’s oil tank, releasing approximately 400 tonnes of low-sulphur fuel oil into the sea. Cleanup efforts are ongoing, with about 1,500 volunteers aiding in the response, although concerns about the long-term environmental impact persist.