

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/600) PROGRAMME – Australian Customs and Border Protection Service

Senator Whish-Wilson (Written) asked:

For the time period since 2004 are you able to provide the instances where the Department had involvement in intercepting illegal fishers in the Southern Ocean?

Answer:

In January 2004, Border Protection Command (BPC) was involved in the successful interception and apprehension of the *Maya V* for illegal fishing in Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) around the Heard Island and McDonald Islands.

In September 2005, BPC was involved in the successful interception and apprehension of the *Taruman* for illegal fishing in Australia's EEZ around Macquarie Island.

Since this time, no illegal, unregulated or unreported fishing vessels have been detected operating inside the Heard Island and McDonald Islands or Macquarie Island EEZs.

However, Australian Customs and Border Protection Service surveillance flights outside the Southern Ocean, contribute to the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices Including Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in South East Asia by tracking and identifying the passage of IUU vessels as they transit northwards to offload their catch. This forewarning to RPOA-IUU member countries has succeeded in the disruption and denial of port access to four IUU vessels during 2012-2014.