

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: - CSIRO

DEST Question No. E222_05

Senator Carr asked on 2 June 2004, EWRE Hansard page 81.

Question:

Senator Carr: Would you provide me with some details about the maintenance and repairs that have been undertaken on the vessel in the last 12 months, together with the costs?

Dr Garrett: We will take that on notice.

Senator Carr: I would like a list of the equipment that has proved to be faulty or non-operational, the amount of down time and the location and cost of the repair. Has any research time been lost at sea as a result of faulty or non-operational equipment? How many sea days did the *Southern Surveyor* spend undertaking research in 2003-04? How many do you anticipate for 2004-05?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Southern Surveyor

The maintenance and repairs for the period 1 June 2003 to 31 May 2004 are as follows:

Category	Cost
Tools and equipment	1,981.46
Survey and inspection	42,139.32
Hull and superstructure	82,373.56
Deck equipment for example, winches	107,918.48
General work and cleaning	542.25
Cargo systems	990.14
Lifesaving safety and emergency equipment	4,494.27
Life raft and rescue boats	19,608.37
Sanitary system	5,951.77
Diesel alternators	6,791.11
Accommodation and amenities	12,486.01
Cranes	9,022.55
Steering gear and thrusters	638.00
Medical supplies and equipment	1,241.64
Bulkheads and floor coverings	1,293.36
Main engines	74,073.03
Fire detection and fire fighting	3,693.00
Office outfit and stationary	632.18
Air Condition, Heating equipment and refrigeration	30,467.89
Air systems	3,175.03
Hotel and laboratory outfit	170.22

Fuel Oil and Lubrication Oil transfer and purification	3,676.74
Sea Water and Fresh Water cooling systems	17,111.75
Fresh Water generation and supply	6,104.00
Automation and machinery control	34,147.89
Bilge and ballast system	11,522.31
Computers and networks	18.09
Navigation equipment	5,389.84
Propellers and transmissions	1,999.22
Scientific equipment and refrigeration	14,442.52
Electrical distribution	22,448.88
Total	<u>526,544.88</u>

The 2003-04 budget allowance for the category "maintenance and repairs" was \$214,000 less than the \$526,545 recorded above. However, the overall budget of \$8.9 million for the National Facility in the 2003-04 financial year was within tolerable variances, with an operating result deficit of \$156,000 versus a budget deficit of \$39,000. The year 2003-04 was the first full year of operation after refit, and with this experience the "maintenance and repairs" budget category has been expanded to \$581,000 for 2004-05.

Besides the above routine repair and maintenance listed above, the failure of a hydraulic pipe during voyage SS05/2004 resulted in scientific winches being inoperable. This voyage commenced 3 May from Sydney and was due to berth in Noumea on 30 May. Due to the failure, the vessel arrived in Noumea three days ahead of schedule for repairs on 27 May 2004.

The hydraulic failure occurred in an area between Australia and New Caledonia, this being two days steaming from Australia and one day from Noumea. The repairs were completed on 2 June and voyage SS06/2004 sailed the same day, two days behind schedule.

The repairs to the hydraulic pipe work were completed by local contractors in Noumea, Maintenance Generale Caledonienne (MGC) at a cost of AUD\$33,000. In addition, CSIRO provided supervisory assistance for the repairs from Hobart at a cost of \$3825, this figure covering travel and accommodation. The cost of the repair is not included in the repair and maintenance table above.

Overall, five days were lost due to the hydraulic failure, this loss shared between voyages SS05 and SS06.

As time lost in voyage SS05 curtailed scientific research, two additional sea days have been granted to the Chief Scientist of that voyage in SS12/2004 later this year, which is in a similar location.

There have been no other breakdowns or failures during the 2003/04 schedule which have resulted in anytime at sea being lost, beyond the normal operating window of a few hours.

The number of days at sea for 2003-04 was 184. The scheduled number of days at sea for 2004-05 year, both as the National Facility and "pool research charter" will be 246.