

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION SERVICE

**Question No. 92**

**Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 8 February 2010:**

Was the *Oceanic Viking's* reported monitoring of illegal fishing in the Southern Ocean over January 2010 in any way connected to the presence of Japanese whaling vessels in the same vicinity?

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

The *Oceanic Viking* continues to undertake fisheries enforcement patrols in conjunction with the French in the Southern Ocean. It was not in the vicinity of the whaling fleet or the Sea Shepard vessels during its recent patrol in January 2010.