

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

Question No. 37

Senator Abetz asked the following question at the hearing on 26 May 2008:

Provide a copy of the exact route that the *Oceanic Viking* took from port, whilst she was whale watching and coming back.

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

The Customs patrol vessel *Oceanic Viking* departed Fremantle on 8 January 2008 and returned to port on 28 February 2008. The *Ocean Viking* effectively finished its mission in direct relation to the surveillance of Japanese whaling activity on 15 February 2008.

The success of these surveillance activities is, in part, dependant on not releasing operational details such as patrol routes into the public domain. A personal briefing on the patrol can be provided to the honourable senator if requested.