

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2009

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: AFMA01

Division/Agency: Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Topic: Number of days *Oceanic Viking* patrolled the Southern Ocean

Hansard Page: 14 (26/05/2009)

Senator Macdonald asked:

Senator IAN MACDONALD—Are you able to give me on notice the number of days the *Oceanic Viking* has patrolled the Southern Ocean for fisheries matters in the last, say, three years? Firstly, do you have that information and, secondly, is it the sort of thing that you would ask?

Prof. Hurry—Let me give you that information on notice.

Answer:

The table below provides the number of days the *Oceanic Viking* has patrolled the Southern Ocean for fisheries matters in the current financial year as well as the previous three financial years.

Financial Year	Number of patrol days
2005-2006	203
2006-2007	199
2007-2008	212
2008-2009	185

The figure for 2008-2009 has been provided up to 9 June 2009.

This information has been provided by the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service which manage the patrols conducted by the *Oceanic Viking*.

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Question: AFMA02

Division/Agency: Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Topic: Coast Guard

Hansard Page: 15 (26\05\2009)

Senator IAN MACDONALD—It is a new name but did not quite go to the Coast Guard name that we were assured it was going to have. I should ask the minister what happened to the Coast Guard.

Senator BOSWELL—Good thought, Senator Macdonald. What did happen to the Coast Guard, Senator Sherry? It is relevant to this part of your colleague's department.

Senator Sherry—I am not sure that he was the lead minister responsible for the policy, but I will take it on notice.

Senator IAN MACDONALD—Unfortunately Senator O'Brien has left us, but he used to be an expert on the Coast Guard that we were going to have when he was told time and time again it was a silly idea. But you will take that on notice; thanks, Minister.

Senator Sherry—I will.

Answer:

The responsible agency for the Border Protection Command is the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service.

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Question: AFMA03

Division/Agency: Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Topic: Overfishing

Hansard Page: 18 (25\05\2009)

Senator Colbeck asked:

I would be interested in getting some details of the specific recovery plans that you have in place, if you can provide that to me. I am happy to take that on notice.

Answer:

The **attached table** details the recovery plans or rebuilding strategies in place for 16 species from Commonwealth managed fisheries that were assessed in 2008 by the Bureau of Rural Sciences *Fisheries Status Reports 2007* as being overfished or where overfishing is occurring.

Definitions of Fishery Status Classifications:

“Fishery status” is classified with reference to predefined reference points described in the Commonwealth Harvest Strategy Policy. The terms “Not overfished” and “Overfished” describe status of the fish stock and are independent of any trend or application of management measures. The status of the stock is based upon the size of the population measured as biomass.

The terms “Not overfishing” and “Overfishing” relate to the rate of mortality due to fishing activity and are a measure of management effectiveness in controlling this rate.

The term “Uncertain” describes any situation where there is inadequate information. It can be applied to situations where information is not available to assess the status of the fish stock; or where information is not available to estimate the rate of fishing mortality acting on the fish population.

The stock rebuilding strategies detailed in the attachment have been developed to address the situation where stock levels are at or below biomass limit reference points as per provisions of the Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy. They are different from formal recovery plans which are required under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* when species are assessed as conservation dependant.

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Question: AFMA04

Division/Agency: Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Topic: Coral Sea Fishery Stakeholder meeting

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boswell asked:

1. What role did Imogen Zethoven play at a Coral Sea Fishery Stake Holder meeting on the 6 April 2009?
2. What organisation was she representing at this meeting on the 6 April 2009?
3. Was she in a government nominated role at this meeting on the 6 April 2009?
4. Would the organisation she is representing at this meeting on the 6 April 2009 be considered a stakeholder?

Answer:

1. Imogen Zethoven AO attended the Coral Sea Fishery stakeholder meeting on 6 April 2009 as a representative of the PEW Environment Group. The Coral Sea Fishery stakeholder meeting is an annual public meeting, to which staff of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, industry members, scientists with expertise in the fishery, relevant Commonwealth agencies and other interested persons or associations attend. Ms Zethoven participated in general discussions and presented an item on the PEW's proposal for a Coral Sea heritage park.
2. Ms Zethoven represented the PEW Environment Group.
3. No.
4. Yes.

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Question: AFMA05

Division/Agency: AFMA

Topic: Cost Recovery Impact Statement Review

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Colbeck asked:

1. Provide list of groups consulted during the review of cost recovery arrangements as part of the review?
2. When will the final Impact Statement be provided to the Minister for consideration?

Answer:

1. The following groups were consulted during the review of Australian Fisheries Management Authority's cost recovery arrangements:

Industry Organisations
Northern Prawn Fishery Industry Council
Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Industry Association
South East Fishery Association
Commonwealth Fisheries Association
Lakes Entrance Fisherman's Cooperative Ltd
South East Trawl Fishery Industry Association
Northern Prawn Fishery (Queensland) Trawl Association Inc
Great Australian Bight Fishing Industry Association
Resource Assessment Groups
Southern Squid Jig Fishery Resource Assessment Group
Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Resource Assessment Group
Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery Resource Assessment Group
Northern Prawn Fishery Resource Assessment Group

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Question: AFMA05 (continued)

Shelf Resource Assessment Group
Deepwater Resource Assessment Group
Shark Resource Assessment Group
Small Pelagic Fishery Resource Assessment Group
Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery Resource Assessment Group
Sub-Antarctic Fisheries Resource Assessment Group
Great Australian Bight Resource Assessment Group
Slope Resource Assessment Group
Southern and Eastern Scafish and Shark Fishery Resource Assessment Group
Management Advisory Committees
Eastern Tuna and Billfish Management Advisory Committee
Great Australian Bight Trawl Management Advisory Committee
Gillnet Hook and Trap Management Advisory Committee
Northern Prawn Management Advisory Committee
Southern Bluefin Tuna Management Advisory Committee
Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Management Advisory Committee
Commonwealth Trawl Management Advisory Committee
Sub-Antarctic Fisheries Management Advisory Committee
Western Tuna and Billfish Management Advisory Committee
Small Pelagic Fishery Management Advisory Committee

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Question: AFMA05 (continued)

Southern Squid Jig Management Advisory Committee
Torres Strait Prawn Management Advisory Committee
Western Deepwater Trawl and North West Slope Management Advisory Committee
Other
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation
CSIRO
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Department of Finance and Deregulation

2. Consultation on the Cost Recovery Impact Statement (CRIS) is continuing and it is expected that the final CRIS will be provided to the Minister for his consideration by 30 September 2009.