



## Focus on Pacific fisheries and marine safety

In an effort to promote cooperation on fisheries surveillance and law enforcement in the South Pacific, the [Joint Standing Committee on Treaties](#) will examine an agreement to strengthen the Niue Treaty on Monday.

Committee Chair Luke Hartsuyker MP said that the treaty will provide another avenue for preventing illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the region, which depletes fish stocks through overfishing and poses a serious threat to food security in our region.

“Australia plays an important leadership role in this area and this agreement will help us to maximise our operational reach and effectiveness in monitoring illegal activity, such as IUU fishing,” Mr Hartsuyker said.

Also under examination are two new International Maritime Organization codes which will improve ship safety and protect the marine environment – the Polar Water Code will ensure that ships operating in polar waters are built to withstand the conditions, while the IGF Code will provide an international standard for ships using low-flashpoint fuels.

“Australia is responsible for search and rescue operations over a vast area, including the East Indian, South-west Pacific and Southern Oceans, as well as Antarctic waters and it is in our national interest to support the ongoing efforts of the International Maritime Organization to improve the safety of ships at sea,” Mr Hartsuyker said.

The Committee will also hear evidence regarding an agreement to eliminate double taxation with Germany.

### **Public Hearing:**

**Monday 29 February, Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra**

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| <b>11.10am</b> | <b><i>Agreement on Strengthening Implementation of the Niue Treaty on Cooperation in Fisheries Surveillance and Law Enforcement in the South Pacific Region</i></b>  |
| <b>11.50am</b> | <b><i>International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters<br/>International Code of Safety for Ships using Gases or other Low-flashpoint Fuels</i></b>  |
| <b>12.30pm</b> | <b><i>Agreement between Australia and the Federal Republic of Germany for the elimination of Double Taxation with Respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion and Avoidance</i></b> |
| <b>1.00pm</b>  | <b><i>Close</i></b>  |

The hearings will be broadcast through: [www.aph.gov.au/live](http://www.aph.gov.au/live)

Copies of the treaties and submissions received can be found at: [http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Joint/Treaties](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Treaties)

Alternatively, interested parties may email [jsct@aph.gov.au](mailto:jsct@aph.gov.au) or phone (02) 6277 4002.

### **MEDIA CONTACTS**

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