



Combating illegal fishing

The Joint Standing Committee on Treaties will examine an international agreement to stop illegal fishing at a public hearing to be held on Monday 17 March in Canberra.

Australia's commercial fishing industry is its fifth largest food producing industry, worth \$2.3 billion and employing over 10 000 people. The Australian Fishing Zone is the third largest in the world, covering approximately 9 million square kilometres. Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing threatens the industry and those who depend on it.

Committee Chair Wyatt Roy said the agreement was an important step in the fight to eliminate illegal fishing.

"The long-term conservation and sustainable use of Australia's fish stocks and marine environment is important to our food security as well as our economy," he said.

Australia has been at the forefront of international efforts to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. The measures included in this agreement will deny entry to ports for vessels suspected of involvement in illegal fishing and deny the use of ports for landing, transshipping, packaging or processing illegal fish catches. These measures are designed to make it difficult for illegal fish catches to reach the market, making the trade less viable.

The committee will also examine two agreements for the exchange of information on taxes, one with Brunei and the other with Guatemala. These agreements are part of Australia's ongoing commitment to the OECD's work to combat international tax evasion.

Public Hearing: Monday 17 March 2014, Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra

11.10am Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

11.30am Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yan Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on the Exchange of Information with respect to Taxes and Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Guatemala for the Exchange of Information Relating to Tax Matters

The hearing will be broadcast through: www.aph.gov.au/live

Copies of the treaties and submissions received can be found at: [http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary Business/Committees/House of Representatives Committees?url=jsct/under_review.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=jsct/under_review.htm).

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

MEDIA CONTACTS

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