

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 122
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Programme: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Topic: Australian flagged shipping
Hansard Page: 36
Question Date: 23 February 2015
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Rice asked:

Senator CANAVAN: Do you have any data on what percentage of shipping through the Great Barrier Reef is Australian flagged?

Dr Reichelt: It would be available; I do not have it to hand.

Senator CANAVAN: That would be AMSA, I suppose.

Dr Reichelt: Yes. Most of the questions the senator has asked are under the direct control of maritime safety.

Senator CANAVAN: It would be mostly foreign, wouldn't it? We would be lucky to have, I think, 12 ships out there at the moment.

Senator RICE: If we could put that on notice, I might ask the same question of AMSA during this session of estimates.

Dr Reichelt: I think they would be better placed to brief you on it.

Senator RICE: But, given the increased risk of accidents from foreign owned ships, it sounds like it would be something that would be useful for the authority to know as well.

Dr Reichelt: It would be.

Answer:

Based on figures supplied by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) in the year 2014 2,632 foreign ships and 62 Australian ships arrived at ports adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef. Using these port arrival figures 2 per cent of shipping in the Great Barrier Reef is Australian flagged.

AMSA has suggested that these figures should be used with some caution as the matter is complex, for example, what vessels to include within the definition of a ship.