

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION SERVICE

Question No. 17

Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 12 February 2013:

Senator BRANDIS: At the moment—today—how many patrols are being conducted by the French in collaboration with us?

Rear Adm. Johnston: There have been a number. I could talk about the patrols over 2012. I would probably prefer to avoid the patrol program in the current year. In 2012—

Senator BRANDIS: ... are there any today? Are there any French vessels conducting patrols in collaboration with the Australian authorities today?

Rear Adm. Johnston: Yes.

Senator BRANDIS: How many?

Rear Adm. Johnston: One.

Senator BRANDIS: How many of your officers are on that vessel?

Rear Adm. Johnston: I am not certain. It would be in that range. I could take that on notice.

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

At the time of this hearing there was one Southern Ocean patrol being conducted by a French vessel. One Customs and Border Protection officer and two Australian Fisheries Management Authority officers were embarked on this vessel, consistent with arrangements under the Cooperative Fisheries Surveillance Treaty.