

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 25 February 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14/28)

Senator Whish-Wilson (L&CA 37) asked:

Senator WHISH-WILSON: In relation to that, what surveillance against illegal fishing activity is being undertaken in our Macquarie Island Patagonian toothfish fishery at the moment?

Mr Pezzullo: Unless the deputy can answer that off the bat, I will just have to take that on notice—in terms of our current rate of effort.

CHAIR: Can I add Heard and McDonald Islands too, in Australia's territorial Exclusive Economic Zone.

Senator WHISH-WILSON: I would also like to include, if you have to take it on notice, the Heard and McDonald Islands fisheries as well.

CHAIR: That is what I just said!

Mr Pezzullo: Chair, with your indulgence, we will pick up both, then, in our response on notice.

Answer:

During recent aerial monitoring missions, surveillance was undertaken within the Macquarie Island Marine Park and the Exclusive Economic Zone for the purpose of detecting illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing activities.

Awareness in the Heard Island and McDonald Island Exclusive Economic Zone is maintained through the use of satellite surveillance and vessel patrols through cooperative arrangements. These arrangements allow Australian Customs and Border Protection Service officers to participate in French Southern Ocean patrols under a cooperative treaty which allows Australian fisheries laws to be enforced in these areas.