

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

Question No. 106

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 23 May 2007:

Interception and destruction of a Type 3 Fishing vessel:

- (a) When was the decision made to destroy the vessel?
- (b) Can you identify the location where the interception took place?
- (c) Are pictures of the catch available to the Committee?
- (d) Were personal effects and equipment removed before the vessel was destroyed?

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

- (a) Apprehension and destruction notice was given by the delegate of the Chief Executive Officer of Customs at 0850 GMT on 26 February 2007 following assessment from the Commanding Officer of the Australian Customs Vessel that the Type 3 vessel was unseaworthy and presented a quarantine risk.
- (b) The vessel was sighted on 26 February 2007 at 0708 GMT at 1151 S 124.49.4 E . It was boarded on 26 February 2007 at 0729 GMT at 1150.2 S 124.45.8 E.
- (c) No. The catch consisted of 4 kg of shark fin.
- (d) The compass, flag and charts were returned to the master, and the crew were advised to take their belongings from the vessel when they were apprehended.