

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

Question No. 35

Senator Marshall asked the following question at the hearing on 26 May 2008:

How many complaints have Customs received? Breakdown whether they have been from people who have been prosecuted for not reporting within time frames, or other issues.

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

In 2007 there were five complaints related to yachting or yacht reporting . They were:

Lodged 21/03/07 – Complaint by a skipper of a 40ft catamaran about conduct of a Customs Vessel that followed his catamaran

Lodged 16/04/07 Complaint about 96 Hour reporting rule for yachts

Lodged 11/05/07 Complaint via Ministerial about customs treatment of Yachts entering Australia

Lodged 04/06/07 Complaint about 96 Hour reporting rule for yachts

Lodged 06/09/07 Complaint about 96 Hour reporting rule and related customs activities

In 2008 (YTD) there have been two complaints which *may* relate to yachting or yacht reporting. They were:

Lodged 14/04/08 Complaint relating to fact sheets on the internet that relate to clearance options for visiting smallcraft

Lodged 29/05/08 Complaint about damaged caused to a vessel during boarding by Customs (Oceanic Viking)

None of the abovementioned complaints related to a prosecution. In 2007, two cases relating to yachting or yacht reporting which were not recorded in the Customs Complaints and Compliments Management System were successfully prosecuted. As at June 2008, four unrecorded cases have been successfully prosecuted.