

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

Question No. 216

Senator Webber asked the following question at the hearing on 31 October 2005:

Can Customs provide data on the total number of sea days by surface vessels for dedicated patrols to detect illegal fishing activity in the AFZ (during the last month / year / 3 years)?

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

Assets that support the Civil Maritime Surveillance Program (CMSP) are multitasked to identify all activities of interest to the clients of the Program. There are no assets assigned exclusively in respect of suspected illegal fishing. During 2004/05 Customs delivered 2,372 sea days and the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) delivered 582 sea days to the CMSP. In 2003/04 Customs delivered 2,459 sea days and the RAN delivered 500 sea days. In 2002/03 Customs delivered 2,331 sea days and the RAN delivered 781 sea days. RAN figures do not include additional sea days provided against the people smuggling Operation Relex.