

**Parliament of Australia Hansard**  
**Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts**  
**Legislation Committee**  
**Department of the Environment and Heritage: Discussion**  
**25 May 2006**

[Senator SIEWERT](#)—I do have quite a few. One is on deep sea **trawling**. I want to follow up specifically a motion that was passed by the Senate a couple of months ago on the implementation of the UN resolution about taking urgent action. I am wondering how the Australian government is progressing that. I am happy, if you cannot answer that straightaway, for you to take it on notice.

Ms Petrachenko—The question of **bottom trawling** is being progressed at the United Nations, as you are aware. Australia was one of the countries that spoke recently—last June—on that topic. It was then debated in the UN General Assembly last October, I believe. The results of that have led to a review by regional fisheries management organisations of how well they are implementing measures against destructive fishing practices such as **bottom trawling**. All regional fisheries management organisations will have to report back to the United Nations at the upcoming UNGA. That deals with areas that are covered by regional fisheries management organisations. But throughout the oceans and high seas there are areas that are not covered by regional fisheries management organisations. We believe that countries need to take appropriate measures for their nationals using flag state and other measures to ensure that appropriate fishing methods are taking place.

Domestically—and the minister may wish to speak about this—for example, in the south-east, in the MPAs that were recently announced, **bottom trawling** is not allowed in those marine protected areas, which are key habitats. So the idea very much is to look at what the key habitats are. The same thing would be on the high seas. We identify those areas. If a regional fisheries management organisation is not in place, it is to make best efforts to put one in place that can regulate the fishing. That is what we are doing as well in discussions with New Zealand, Chile and other countries, for potentially the South Pacific.