Mr C J van Rooyen to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

Whether he will provide details and the impact/success of high seas anti-poaching trips including joint international training trips undertaken by his department to curb illegal fishing along the South African Coast?
South Africa does not conduct anti-poaching patrols in the high seas. However, South Africa does conduct anti-poaching activities in the South African Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and in the Marion and Prince Edward Island Exclusive Zones. These EEZs occur within a 200 km radius of the South African, Prince Edward and Marion Islands coastlines.

Joint operations, funded by SADC, have taken place between South Africa, Namibia, Mozambique and Tanzania. The aim of these joint patrols is to curb Illegal Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) vessels fishing activities occurring in South African and other SADC countries’ waters.

The most recent example of a joint international operation is the one between South Africa and Mozambique that is scheduled to take place from 18 November 2006. The purpose of this joint patrol is to address the illegal activities of Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported vessels within the Exclusive Economic Zones of the two countries.