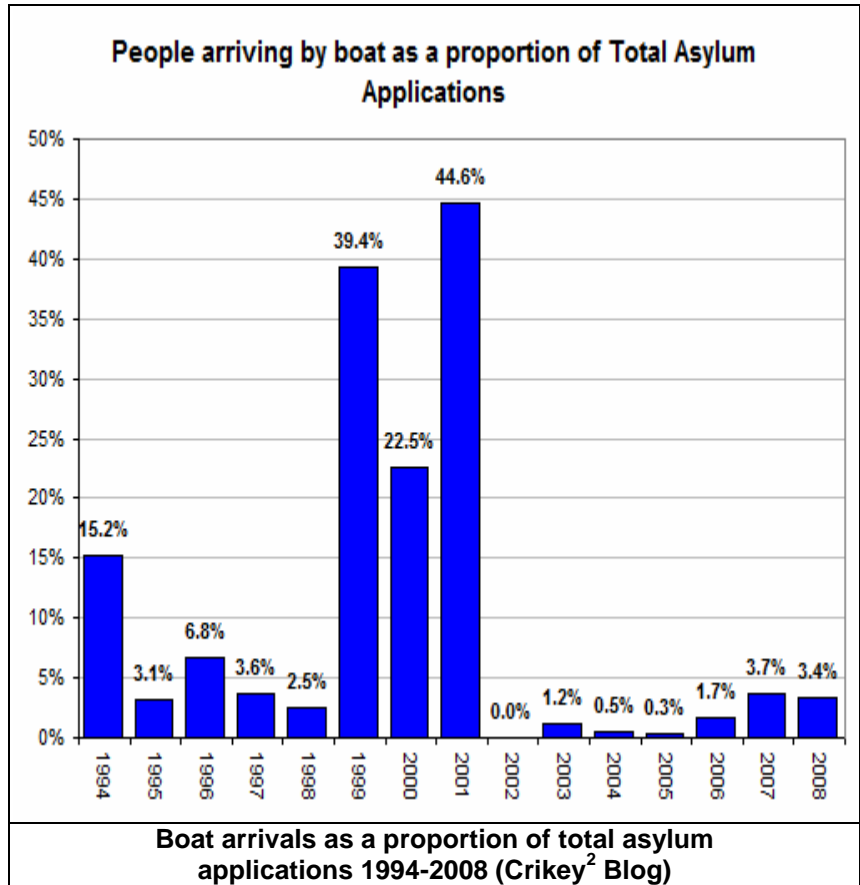


Keeping Perspective: Australia's boat arrivals

(re-compiled by Project SafeCom 2009-12)

"The first boat arrived in Darwin in April 1976 carrying five Indochinese men. Over the next five years there were 2059 Vietnamese boat arrivals with the last arriving in August 1981. The arrival of 27 Indochinese asylum seekers in November 1989 heralded the beginning of the second wave"¹.

Australia's boat arrivals 1976-2011		
year	no of boats	passengers
1976	56	111
1977		868
1978		746
1979		304
1981		30
1989	1	27
1990	2	198
1991	6	214
1992	6	216
1993	3	81
1994	18	953
1995	7	237
1996	19	660
1997	11	339
1998	17	200
1999	86	3,721
2000	51	2,939
2001	43	5,516
2002	1	1
2003	1	53
2004	1	15
2005	4	11
2006	6	60
2007	5	148
2008	7	161
2009	60	2,727
2010	132	6,502
2011	69	4,572
2012	259	16,261
total	871	47,871



1. Boat numbers 1976-1981

The number of boats between 1976 and 1981 is ambiguous. Betts (footnote 2) and Phillips & Spinks only show passenger numbers; Andreas Schoenhardt (footnote 4) puts the number (between 1976 and 1978) at 55 boats, and Fraser's Immigration Minister Ian Macphie tells the House of Representatives on May 1, 1980 that 53 boats have arrived since 1976.

2. The years 2001-2004: Howard did not stop the boats

Possum Comitatus (footnote 5) explains, that "The Pacific Solution ... diddled the stats by redefinition. Boats still made the attempt to enter Australia ... yet we know that SIEV(s) 5, 7, 11 and 12 in 2002 attempted to make the journey and were returned to Indonesia while SIEV(s) 4, 6 and 10 actually sank. That was in very late 2001 through late 2002. In 2003 we know that boats were still attempting to make the voyage such as SIEV 14, but were again towed back from whence they came. The UNHCR estimates that 1600 people were diverted throughout the time of the Pacific Solution, but hard numbers are difficult to come by." Additionally, during 2002 two boats attempted to sail directly to New

Zealand from Indonesia; one boat is presumed to have foundered with 34 passengers, a second one was stopped in Dili. In 2004 another boat attempted this journey³.

2. Stats from Oct 2009

From Oct 2009 data are compiled from media reports and Immigration Department & Minister for Home Affairs media releases. Numbers of arrivals do not include crew: only passengers are counted.

¹ Phillips, Janet and Spinks, Harriet. (2009). *Boat arrivals in Australia since 1976*. Parliamentary Library, Social Policy Section Background Note. Online only 25 June 2009 updated 14 July 2009; 4 August 2009, 18 November 2009. Location: <http://www.aph.gov.au/library/pubs/bn/sp/sp/boatarrivals.htm>

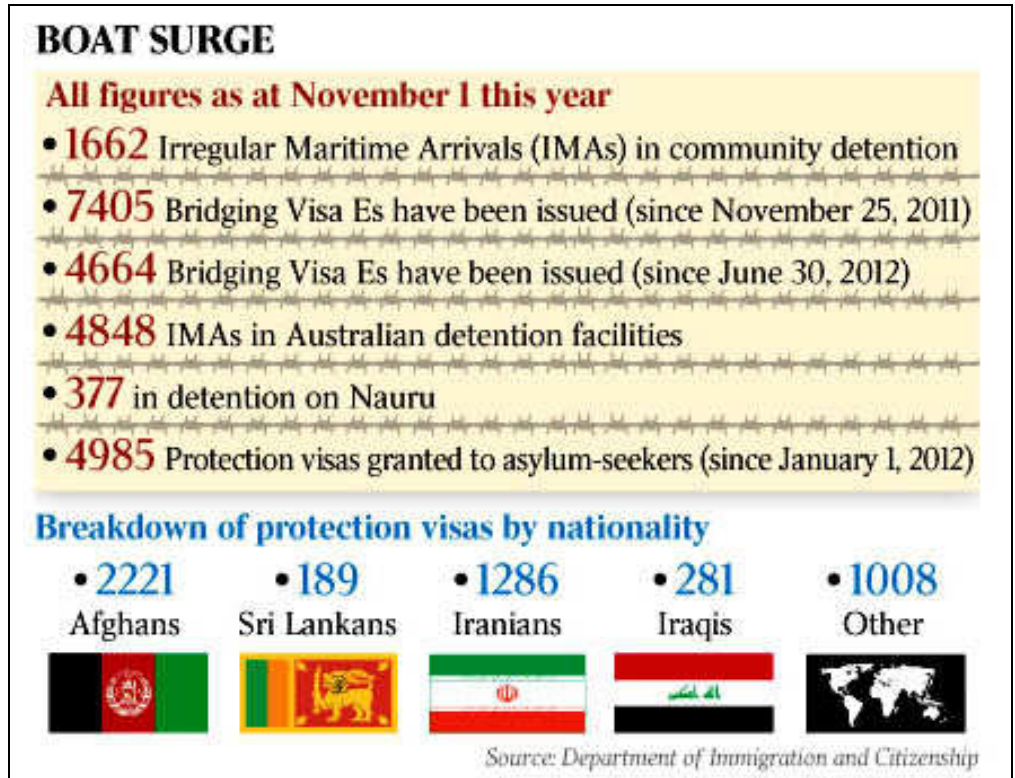
² Possum Comitatus, Push vs. Pull – Asylum Seeker Numbers and Statistics. *Crikey*, 19 Oct. 2009 See <http://blogs.crikey.com.au/politics/2009/10/19/push-vs-pull-asylum-seeker-numbers-and-statistics/>

³ Six asylum boats aim for NZ in eight years. *Otago Daily Times*, 18 Dec 010 <http://www.odt.co.nz/news/national/141390/six-asylum-boats-aim-nz-eight-years>

Annual boat arrivals in Australian waters 2012

2012 proved to be an extraordinary year for boat arrivals. An annual record number of boats arrived; The Gillard Labor government initiated extraordinary and extremely punitive laws approving offshore processing on Nauru and Manus Island (PNG); it 'excised' the entire country for migration purposes -- but the boats kept coming, and the daily, weekly or monthly arrival frequency even increased since these laws were passed.

(Image source: see footnote⁴)



Below is the table of asylum boat arrivals in Australian waters during the year 2012. The table was compiled by Project SafeCom Inc.⁵ from web-based media statements by the Federal Minister for Home Affairs. Some additional details have been provided from media reports.

Annual boat arrivals in Australian waters 2012				
	press release date ⁶	passengers	crew ⁷	location
1	January 3	35	2	southwest of Ashmore Reef
2	January 3	16	1	(Burmese) Tiwi Islands, off Darwin
3	January 7	119	2	north of Christmas Island
4	January 17	74	2	east-north-east of Christmas Island
5	January 19	56	2	north-east of Christmas Island
6	February 11	125	2	north of Christmas Island
7	February 15	121	6	north north-west of Ashmore Islands
8	February 15	69	2	north-west of Christmas Island
9	February 17	63	2	north north-east of Christmas Island
10	February 17	71	0	west of Christmas Island
11	February 18	79	2	near Christmas Island
12	February 21	143	4	north of Christmas Island
13	February 22	98	2	north of Christmas Island
14	February 22	96	2	north of Christmas Island
15	March 6	26	0	north-west of Christmas Island
16	March 13	34	3	northeast of Ashmore Reef
17	March 24	50	2	south-east of Ashmore Islands
18	April 2	43	2	north of Tiwi Islands
19	April 3	81	3	north-west of Ashmore Islands
20	April 5	71	0	north-east of Scott Reef

⁴ From Rick Morton, *Most refugees not in detention*. The Australian, November 05, 2012. See <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/immigration/most-refugees-not-in-detention/story-fn9hm1gu-1226510186758>

⁵ Homepage for this document is <http://www.safecom.org.au/ref-documents.htm#boats>

⁶ Hon Jason Clare, Minister for Home Affairs, Media Releases: <http://www.ministerhomeaffairs.gov.au/>

⁷ Zero crew in this table means "no crew mentioned in ministerial press release".

Annual boat arrivals in Australian waters 2012

	press release date ⁶	passengers	crew ⁷	location
21	April 6	49	4	north of Ashmore Islands
22	April 9	10	0	Darwin Harbour (Chinese – lawful arrivals)
23	April 11	99	0	west of Christmas Island
24	April 11	156	0	north-west of Christmas Island
25	April 13	75	2	north-east of Christmas Island
26	April 14	19	0	north of Christmas Island
27	April 18	55	2	southwest of Browse Island
28	April 26	50	2	near Ashmore Islands
29	April 27	60	0	north-west of Ashmore Islands
30	April 29	164	6	north-west of Christmas Island
31	April 30	27	0	north of Christmas Island
32	May 6	103	2	north of Christmas Island
33	May 6	138	0	north of Christmas Island
34	May 7	64	4	north of Ashmore Islands
35	May 10	60	0	north north-west of Ashmore Island
36	May 11	99	2	north east of Christmas Island
37	May 12	84	0	west of Christmas Island
38	May 15	121	2	north-west of Christmas Island
39	May 16	63	0	(Sri Lankan) ½ NM off Cocos (Keeling) Islands
40	May 18	68	0	north-west of Christmas Island
41	May 20	175	0	near Christmas Island following AMSA request
42	May 21	44	0	west-south-west of Christmas Island
43	May 21	38	0	north of Christmas Island
44	May 28	88	0	(Sri Lankan) north west of Christmas Island
45	May 30	40	0	(Sri Lankan) arrived at Cocos Island
46	June 1	4	2	east-north-east of Ashmore Islands
47	June 2	87	1	northwest of Christmas Island
48	June 3	150	0	north of Christmas Island
49	June 4	85	3	north-west of Ashmore Islands
50	June 5	49	0	north-west of Christmas Island
51	June 7	23	2	west-southwest of Ashmore Islands
52	June 9	100	2	north-east of Christmas Island
53	June 9	24	2	south-west of Ashmore Islands
54	June 10	32	0	(Sri Lanka direct) Cocos (Keeling) Islands
55	June 11	38	2	near Christmas Island
56	June 11	110	0	near Christmas Island
57	June 13	72	2	north of Christmas Island
58	June 13	25	3	north-east of Ashmore Islands
59	June 13	34	0	(Sri Lanka direct) Cocos (Keeling) Islands
60	June 15	37	1	east of Scott Reef
61	June 20	52	0	north-west of Christmas Island
62	June 20	69	0	north-west of Christmas Island
63	June 21	117	0	near Christmas Island
64	June 21-24	200	2	90 presumed dead, n-w of Christmas Island
65	June 24	60	0	south-west of Christmas Island
66	June 27	134	0	Foundered vessel 4 drownnw of Christmas Island
67	June 27	93	0	(Sri Lankan) north-west of Christmas Island
68	June 28	44	0	west-south-west of Christmas Island
69	June 29	100	0	north of Christmas Island
70	June 29	41	0	north-east of Ashmore Islands
71	June 30	67	0	at Cocos (Keeling) Islands
72	July 1	53	0	west of Christmas Island
73	July 2	39	0	west of Christmas Island
74	July 4-5	162	0	in distress 63 nm south-west of west Java
75	July 6	31	0	(Sri Lankan) west of Christmas Island
76	July 8	28	0	(Sri Lankan) at Cocos (Keeling) Islands
77	July 10	81	0	in distress 40 km off Indonesian coast
78	July 10	7	0	north-west of Christmas Island
79	July 11	65	0	in distress 100 NM north of Christmas Island
80	July 15	27	0	(Sri Lankan) north-west of the Cocos Islands

Annual boat arrivals in Australian waters 2012

	press release date ⁶	passengers	crew ⁷	location
81	July 16	50	1	(Sri Lankan) 14 NM west of Christmas Island
82	July 16	49	0	81 NM north-west of Christmas Island
83	July 16	58	3	Near oil rig 184 km north-west of Darwin
84	July 17	112	2	north-west of Christmas Island
85	July 18	65	0	off Christmas Island
86	July 18	55	0	at Cocos (Keeling) Islands
87	July 19	25	0	near Christmas Island
88	July 20	44	0	west of Ashmore Islands
89	July 20	15	0	at Cocos (Keeling) Islands
90	July 22	144	0	northeast of Christmas Island
91	July 23	123	0	no known details
92	July 23	36	0	at Cocos (Keeling) Islands
93	July 24	160	0	in distress north of Christmas Island
94	July 25	80	0	at Cocos (Keeling) Islands
95	July 26	52	2	north of Christmas Island
96	July 27	3	0	Boigu Island – Torres Strait (held at Horn Island)
97	July 28	15	2	near Broome WA (Browse Island)
98	July 29	49	0	north-west of Cocos Keeling Islands
99	July 30	35	2	north of Christmas Island
100	July 30	52	0	west of the Cocos Islands
101	July 31	65	4	south-west of Sumba Island, Indonesia
102	August 1	28	0	west of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
103	August 1	69	0	at Cocos (Keeling) Islands
104	August 1	43	2	north of Christmas Island.
105	August 2	6	0	northwest of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands
106	August 10	211	0	north-east of Christmas Island
107	August 10	49	0	north-west of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
108	August 10	6	0	north of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
109	August 11	32	0	north-east of Ashmore Islands
110	August 12	87	0	north-west of Ashmore Islands
111	August 12	31	0	west of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
112	August 13	87	0	north of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
Parliamentary debate about “offshore processing” legislation on Nauru and Manus Island (PNG) was followed by announcements that arrivals beyond August 13 are likely to be “deported” to those offshore locations.				
113	August 14	71	0	east of Ashmore Islands
114	August 15	67	0	AMSA / SAR: HMAS Maitland & merchant ship, south of Java
115	August 15	62	0	AMSA / SAR: 48 nm south of East Java
116	August 16	63	4	north-west of Christmas Island
117	August 17	63	0	at Cocos (Keeling) Islands
118	August 17	57	0	north-west of Christmas Island
119	August 17	40	0	north-west of Christmas Island
120	August 17	31	0	north-west of Christmas Island
121	August 19	17	0	at Cocos (Keeling) Islands
122	August 20	19	2	east of Ashmore Islands
123	August 22	70	0	east of Christmas Island
124	August 22	37	0	north-west of Ashmore Islands
125	August 25	80	0	southwest of Indonesia
126	August 27	77	0	on North Keeling Island
127	August 27	165	0	near Christmas Island
128	August 28	49	0	north of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
129	August 28	54	0	north of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
130	August 28	43	0	north of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
131	August 29	56	2	northeast of Christmas Island
132	August 29	25	0	northwest of Christmas Island
133	August 31	31	0	north of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
134	September 1	62	2	northeast of Christmas Island
135	September 2	81	0	north north-west of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
136	September 2	48	0	north-west of Ashmore Islands

Annual boat arrivals in Australian waters 2012

	press release date ⁶	passengers	crew ⁷	location
137	September 3	56	0	at Cocos (Keeling) Islands
138	September 6	80	0	northeast of Ashmore Islands
139	September 6	66	0	northwest of Christmas Island
140	September 7	63	0	north-west of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
141	September 8	99	0	near the lagoon at Cocos Islands
142	September 8	28	2	north-east of Christmas Island
143	September 8	75	3	north-west of Ashmore Islands
144	September 9	39	0	north-west of Christmas Island
145	September 10	81	3	north of Christmas Island
146	September 10	58	0	west-north-west of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
147	September 10	82	0	AMSA assistance north of Christmas Island
148	September 10	63	0	north-north-east of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
149	September 11	65	0	north-west of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
150	September 13	148	3	east of Ashmore Islands
151	September 16	70	2	north of Christmas Island
152	September 16	7	0	west of Christmas Island
153	September 17	10	0	north-west of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
154	September 20	67	0	north-west of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
155	September 22	17	0	west of Christmas Island
156	September 23	66	2	north of Christmas Island
157	September 23	169	0	Indo waters rescue 45 nm south of Sunda Strait
158	September 25	12	0	east-south-east of Ashmore Islands
159	September 26	38	0	north-west of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
160	September 26	15	0	north-west of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
161	September 27	55	0	rescue - north-west of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
162	September 27	74	0	north-west of Ashmore Islands
163	September 28	195	3	near Christmas Island
164	September 28	72	0	north of Cocos (Keeling) Islands this afternoon
165	September 29	61	2	north east of Christmas Island
166	September 30	146	3	north of Ashmore Islands
167	October 2	39	0	north of Christmas Island
168	October 3	27	0	at Cocos (Keeling) Islands
169	October 4	117	0	at Cocos (Keeling) Islands
170	October 8	98	3	north west of Ashmore Islands
171	October 9	100	0	west of Ashmore Islands
172	October 9	75	0	north of Ashmore Islands
173	October 10	9	0	west of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
174	October 11	70	0	north of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
175	October 12	6	0	north-east of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
176	October 12	7	0	north-east of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
177	October 12	53	0	north-northeast of Christmas Island
178	October 13	188	0	north east of Christmas Island
179	October 14	49	0	north-west of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
180	October 14	104	0	north-west of Christmas Island
181	October 14	34	0	north of Cocos (Keeling) Islands - from AMSA rescue Oct 11 by MV Glorious Sentosa
182	October 14	114	0	north of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
183	October 14	36	0	west of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
184	October 16	6	0	north of Christmas Island
185	October 17	139	0	north-north-east of Christmas Island
186	October 18	64	2	north of Christmas Island
187	October 18	65	0	west of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
188	October 18	74	3	north of Ashmore Island
189	October 20	50	5	north of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
190	October 21	5	0	west-north-west of Christmas Island
191	October 22	9	0	west of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
192	October 22	101	0	west of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
193	October 23	11	0	west of Christmas Island
194	October 24	36	5	north of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
195	October 24	37	0	north of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
196	October 24	17	1	north of Cocos (Keeling) Islands

Annual boat arrivals in Australian waters 2012

	press release date ⁶	passengers	crew ⁷	location
197	October 24	47	2	east of Christmas Island
198	October 26	23	3	north-east of Christmas Island
199	October 27	6	0	west of Christmas Island
200	October 28	62	0	north-north west of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
201	October 28	34	1	south-east of Ashmore Islands
202	October 29	18	0	north-west of Christmas Island
203	October 29	63	0	north of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
204	October 29	42	0	north-east of Christmas Island overnight
205	October 29	17	0	north-east of Christmas Island overnight
206	October 30	11	0	north west of Christmas Island
207	October 31	51	2	north east of Christmas Island
208	November 3	63	0	north-north west of Christmas Island
209	November 3	12	0	west-north-west of Christmas Island
210	November 3	90	0	west-north-west of Christmas Island
211	November 4	49	0	north-west of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
212	November 4	105	0	north-west of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
213	November 5	110	0	north-west of Christmas Island
214	November 6	63	0	north-north-west of Ashmore Islands
215	November 6	8	0	at Cocos (Keeling) Islands
216	November 6	24	0	at Cocos (Keeling) Islands
217	November 6	26	0	at Cocos (Keeling) Islands
218	November 7	3	2	north of Ashmore Islands
219	November 7	81	0	east of Ashmore Islands
220	November 8	35	0	north of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
221	November 10	48	0	north-west of Christmas Island
222	November 13	6	2	south-south-east of Ashmore Islands
223	November 14	87	0	at Cocos (Keeling) Islands
224	November 15	86	0	west of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
225	November 16	59	2	north-east of Christmas Island
226	November 17	53	3	north-west of Christmas Island
227	November 18	59	2	south-east of Christmas Island
228	November 18	136	2	north of Christmas Island
229	November 19	72	0	west of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
230	November 19	54	3	north-west of Ashmore Islands
231	November 19	56	4	north-east of Ashmore Islands

On November 25, 2012 Immigration Minister Chris Bowen announced that boat arrival numbers were such that he would release many asylum seekers into the Australian community on Bridging Visas – without work rights – while others would be “deported” for processing to Nauru and Manus Island. However, under pressure the Minister’s work ban for Bridging Visa holders in this category was ‘softened’.

232	November 21	55	0	west of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
233	November 21	82	0	south-west of Christmas Island
234	November 22	37	2	east-south-east of Ashmore Islands
235	November 24	6	0	west of Christmas Island
236	November 25	87	0	north-west of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
237	November 26	77	2	north-north-west of Christmas Island
238	November 27	80	3	north-north-east of Christmas Island
239	November 28	13	0	west of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
240	December 1	34	2	north of Christmas Island
241	December 1	109	2	north of Christmas Island
242	December 2	34	3	north of Christmas Island
243	December 2	36	2	south-east of Christmas Island
244	December 4	105	0	north-west of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
245	December 5	42	2	north-north-west of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
246	December 5	110	0	south-east of Ashmore Islands
247	December 11	57	2	north of Ashmore Islands
248	December 14	29	0	north of Christmas Island
249	December 14	86	0	north of Christmas Island
250	December 15	56	3	north east of Ashmore Islands
251	December 15	97	4	north of Christmas Island

Annual boat arrivals in Australian waters 2012

	press release date ⁶	passengers	crew ⁷	location
252	December 15	54	0	north-east of Christmas Island
253	December 16	28	0	north-east of Christmas Island
254	December 17	54	0	north of Christmas Island
255	December 24	87	3	north-north-east of Christmas Island
256	December 24	35	0	north-west of Cocos (Keeling) Island
257	December 26	95	3	east of Ashmore Islands
258	December 26	6	2	north of Christmas Island
259	December 30	37	3	vicinity of Ashmore Islands
	totals	16261	225	