

# **Background Quality Report**

## **Statistical Series 5 - Activities**

### **Bulletin 5.01 – Military Aid to Civil Authorities**

## **1. Introduction**

### **Overview**

Bulletin 5.01 Military Aid to Civil Authorities provides information on the number of vessels boarded by the Royal Navy Fishery Protection Squadron within British fishery limits and convictions arising. Following a change to the format of the UK Defence Statistics (UKDS) publication, whereby information previously released in UKDS will now be published separately in the form of Statistical Bulletins, this Bulletin is the successor to Chapter 7.

Defence Statistics (formerly known as DASA) has previously published statistics on Military Aid to Civil Authorities since 1992.

### **Methodology and Production**

Data are provided annually from the Marine Management Organisation (MMO).

The data supplier completes a standard template for Tables 5.01.01 and 5.01.02 using data that are derived from the UK Monitoring, Control and Surveillance System.

Table 5.01.01 provides a time series of statistics, from 2006/07 to 2012/13, with a baseline date of 2000/01.

Both tables have been checked for any obvious anomalies, but Defence Statistics cannot make an authoritative independent assessment of the data or their quality.

Definitions and explanations of the terminology used are provided in the Glossary. Table 5.01.01 and 5.01.02 are not National Statistics which is explicitly marked in the Bulletin.

### **Contact details**

The Head of DASA Web and Development Services is responsible for Bulletin 5.01. Their contact details are:

Defence Statistics (WDS)  
MOD Main Building  
3.K.50  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB

Tel: 020 780 78792

E-mail: [dasa-wds-hd@mod.uk](mailto:dasa-wds-hd@mod.uk)  
Web site: [www.dasa.mod.uk](http://www.dasa.mod.uk)

Defence Statistics welcome feedback on this Background Quality Report or any of the statistics mentioned.

## **2. Relevance**

The main users of Bulletin 5.01 will be those interested in MOD practices and in particular MOD support for fisheries protection. This is most likely to include politicians, the media and members of the general public who are situated in areas with a fishing industry.

While internal systems may be sufficient for internal use, the publication of these statistics in a bulletin format makes this information available publicly, regularly and as a time series. The Tables include information to set the data in context, so can be understood by a lay audience as well as those with professional interests.

### 3. Accuracy

The statistics are drawn from MMO administrative data systems and provided to Defence Statistics.

Both the MMO and The Royal Navy have undertaken quality control on the data in this bulletin. They have also been subjected to a "sense check" by Government Statisticians.

### 4. Timeliness and Punctuality

As an Official Statistic, the release date for Bulletin 5.01 was pre-announced on the [Publication Release Dates](#)<sup>1</sup> section of [Defence Statistics webpage](#)<sup>2</sup> and on the [National Statistics Publication Hub](#)<sup>3</sup> in accordance with the best practice guidelines set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Following guidance from an assessment carried out by the UK Statistics Authority on UKDS, the different chapters of UKDS have been separated and will be released as individual statistical bulletins. This is to allow information on various topics to be published as soon as the data is available, rather than waiting for all the other chapters to be completed as was the case with previous editions of UKDS. A key benefit of this change is that the timeliness of the statistics is remarkably improved, reducing the amount of time between the reference date of the statistics and the time of release.

### 5. Accessibility and Clarity

Statistical Bulletins are published on the [Defence Statistics website](#)<sup>2</sup>, where they are available as PDFs. The data underpinning the table are also available as an Excel file.

A brief introduction to the bulletin is provided on the front page, which states that this publication updates figures previously released in UKDS Chapter 7 in 2012. A summary of key points and trends in the statistics are included, as well as a link to the relevant Background Quality Report and the contact details of the responsible statistician.

The introduction of Bulletin 5.01 assists with the accessibility and clarity of this bulletin by setting out the context of the statistics, outlining the material in the tables, providing definitions and explanations of the terms used and giving information on methods and data quality.

Within the Tables there are further detailed notes and footnotes to clarify definitions, advise users of caveats in the data and explain changes since previous years.

### 6. Coherence and Comparability

The Tables in this Bulletin cover the years 2000/01 and 2006/07 to 2012/13, providing a seven-year time series, together with a snapshot of the beginning of the century.

The Fishery Protection statistics (Tables 5.01.01 and 5.01.02) only cover boardings and convictions arising, respectively, made by RN Fishery Protection Squadron, who operate under contract to the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Boardings carried out by the Scottish Executive Environment Directive and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland are not included. Therefore, this is a partial picture of both boardings and convictions. It also excludes the sea areas of the Faroes, Rockall and West of Scotland. The statistics are given for 2000/01 and from 2006/07 to 2012/13 providing a seven-year time series. The reason for the break in series for convictions in 2008/09 is clearly explained in the Bulletin.

### 7. Trade-offs between Output Quality Components

None identified.

## 8. Assessment of User Needs and Perceptions

Defence Statistics holds regular consultation meetings with both internal and external users of Defence Official Statistics, which provide a forum for user feedback on their needs and perceptions. Defence Statistics also publishes a summary of proposed changes on the home page of its website, inviting users to comment on the proposals by email. Proposed changes are also set out at the consultation meetings in order to change feedback from both internal and external users.

## 9. Performance, Cost and Respondent Burden

The outputs are produced from the administrative data provided by the Marine Management Organisation. The benefit of Defence Statistics publishing these statistics is that these administrative data are placed in the public domain and although they are not National Statistics, in an analogous way that ensures their independence from political interference and adherence to quality standards. The small burden that this places on the data suppliers is considered to be worthwhile to achieve this and the consequent public accountability provided by their publication.

## 10. Confidentiality, Transparency and Security

Bulletin 5.01 does not contain any identifiable personal data.

All staff involved in the production process have signed the Data Protection Act and all MoD, Civil Service and data protection regulations are adhered to. All data is stored, accessed and analysed using the MoD's restricted network and IT systems.

We adhere to the principles and protocols laid out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#)<sup>5</sup> and comply with pre-release access arrangements. The [Defence Statistics Pre-Release Access lists](#)<sup>6</sup> are available on the DASA website. This Bulletin is subject to the pre-release access arrangements.

## 11. References

	Reference	Website Location
1	Publication Release Dates	<a href="http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=68">http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=68</a>
2	Defence Statistics webpage	<a href="http://www.dasa.mod.uk">http://www.dasa.mod.uk</a>
3	National Statistics Publication Hub	<a href="http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/index.html">http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/index.html</a>
4	Code of Practice for Official Statistics	<a href="http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/code-of-practice-for-official-statistics.pdf">http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/code-of-practice-for-official-statistics.pdf</a>
5	Defence Statistics Pre-Release Access lists	<a href="http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php?pub=QR_PRAL">http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php?pub=QR_PRAL</a>

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