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## **Harbour to be cleaned in aim to help marine life**

Territorians are set to join forces for the annual Darwin Harbour Clean-Up Day next month to give Darwin Harbour and surrounding waterways a needed overhaul.

A vital element of everyday life in the Top End, Darwin Harbour is home to a great variety of marine creatures, but every year thousands of kilograms of rubbish and debris threaten the pristine eco system.

"Darwin Harbour is our backyard," Jim Smith, Sea Darwin Eco Tours, said. "Thousands of marine animals live here and it is up to us to protect their habitat and living environment and keep it clean."

Mr. Smith, who joined the inaugural Darwin Harbour Clean-Up Day last year together with volunteers from over 20 government and non-government organisations, said it is a "privilege" to do his bit to give Darwin's environment "a better future".

Tons of debris was collected on land and from the water around Darwin and on Cox Peninsula. "Volunteers collected more than 1,800 plastic drink bottles and more than 7,600 aluminium cans in the 2010 Clean Up," Mr Smith said.

"It's a great cause to make sure Territorians and their children and grand-children still can enjoy our wonderful harbour with all its pristine marine life in years to come."

Last year Sea Darwin's volunteer crew of holidaying school children fished a crocodile skin handbag from Sadgroves Creek. The bag was handed in to the Water Police and eventually found its way back to a grateful (and recently-burgled) owner. This year Sea Darwin's crew will be joined by young members of the Parks and Wildlife Junior Ranger program.

The annual Darwin Harbour Clean-Up Day will be held on July 5.

The 2011 Darwin Harbour Clean-up is organised by the Northern Territory Seafood Council and OceanWatch Australia's SeaNet through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country initiative and Territory Natural Resource Management's Coastcare Program.

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Photo opportunity with Sea Darwin available on request  
Photos from 2010 Darwin Harbour Clean Up available on request  
For further information please contact Lyn Lambeth (08) 8981 5194



**NT Water Police with the crocodile skin handbag retrieved by Sea Darwin crew**