

6<sup>th</sup> June 2011

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Clean-Up Day to help protect Darwin's pristine marine environment**

In an aim to protect the Top End's marine environment and keep Darwin Harbour Clean Up volunteers and marine stakeholders will be joining forces in the annual Darwin Harbour Clean-Up Day on July 5.

"Darwin Harbour Clean-Up will do its bit towards keeping our Harbour clean to protect the Territory's marine environment – something the seafood industry is very passionate about," Northern Territory Seafood Council Chief Executive Officer Katherine Sarneckis said.

Held for the first time in 2010, the Clean-Up saw more than 90 people collect tons of debris on land and from the water around Darwin and on Cox Peninsula – including 500 kilograms of truck tyres and 300 kilograms of bundled floats and ropes. Seventeen shopping trolleys were taken from the water at the Darwin wharf and along the coast at Coconut Grove.

"Commercial fishing vessels collect marine debris from our oceans as part of their everyday operations, but they recognised that more help is needed," Ms Sarneckis said.

Volunteers and workers from over 20 government and non-government organisations and businesses as well as the general public collected more than 1,800 plastic drink bottles and more than 7,600 aluminium cans in the 2010 Clean-Up.

NT SeaNet Officer Lyn Lambeth said it was important for the Northern Territory to "keep our valuable marine environment clean".

"It was great to see more than twenty organisations and almost 100 volunteers join forces in last year's Clean-Up. For this year's Clean Up we are aiming the increase participation with more water-based marine debris collection," Ms Lambeth said.

"Darwin Harbour is such a vital element of our every day life – and all Territorians are encouraged to help keep this beautiful place clean," Ms Lambeth said.

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.

### **2011 PROJECT SUPPORTERS AND PARTICIPANTS**

Amateur Fishermen's Association NT  
Australian Marine Conservation Society  
Australian Quarantine and Inspection  
Service

Austurtle  
Belyuen Community  
GhostNets Australia  
Conservation Volunteers Australia

Commercial Fishing Industry  
Darwin City Council  
Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee  
Darwin Port Corporation  
NT Fisheries  
INPEX  
1st Combat Engineering Regiment,  
Robinson Barracks  
Larrakia Development Corporation  
Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation  
Larrakia Rangers  
Local Government Association  
Natasha Griggs MP  
Northern Territory Seafood Council NT  
NT Government (NRETAS)  
NT Water Police

OceanWatch Australia  
Parks and Wildlife  
Sea Darwin  
Paspaley Pearls  
Power and Water Corporation  
Sea Darwin Eco Tour  
Tangaroa Blue Ocean Care Society  
Tasmanian Seafoods  
Tek Diving Services  
Territory Natural Resource Management  
The Australian Marine Conservation  
Society  
Two Fella Creek Conservation Group  
Wagait Beach Supermarket  
Wagait Shire Council

**For further information please contact Lyn Lambeth on 8981 5194**  
Photos: 2010 Darwin Harbour Clean Up photographs are available on request



**Photo caption: Volunteers help sort and record rubbish during the 2010 clean-up**