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MEDIA RELEASE

DARWIN HARBOUR CLEAN-UP

The first ever marine debris clean-up of Darwin Harbour is getting underway this morning at locations around the harbour.

"Northern Territory commercial fishermen are committed to protecting the Territory's fish habitats, maintaining healthy fish populations, and keeping the Territory's waterways clean so that all future Territorians can enjoy one of our best assets: fresh Territory seafood," said Northern Territory Seafood Council CEO, Katherine Sarneckis.

"To get over 25 government, non-government and private stakeholders working together on this is fantastic," said NT SeaNet Officer, Ms Lyn Lambeth.

"Around Darwin we have boats setting out from Fishermen's Wharf at 7:30 am to collect marine debris from areas identified as rubbish hotspots by Larrakia Marine Rangers during their pre-survey work." Ms Lambeth went on to say

Out by Rapid Creek footbridge Conservation Volunteers have assembled a team of 10 to scour the shoreline as far as Nightcliff Jetty.

Due to launch the clean-up at Rapid Creek, the member for Solomon, Damian Hale said "I encourage everyone to get involved. As a long term Top Ender I have enjoyed many great hours on the harbour, we must protect it."

Members of the Wagait Beach and Belyuen communities are joining in the hunt for rubbish on Cox Peninsula.

"Collecting rubbish is something fishermen do as part of their daily work at sea, it just makes sense to look after our marine environment." Said commercial fisher and Wagait Shire Council member Ms Vera Lamont.

At Two Fella Creek on Cox Peninsula volunteers from the Two Fella Conservation Group are setting off along Harney's Beach, with schoolchildren are enthusiastically helping out in this last week of their school holidays.

The Darwin Harbour Clean-up 2010 has been made possible with funding from the Natural Resource Management Board NT's Coastcare Program, through the Australian Government's Caring for our Country scheme. The project is being administered and organised by the Northern Territory Seafood Council and OceanWatch Australia's SeaNet Program.

For further information please contact the NT SeaNet Officer, Lyn Lambeth on 0421 054 274

2010 PROJECT SUPPORTERS AND PARTICIPANTS

Amateur Fishermen's Association NT
Australia Bay Seafoods
Australian Offshore Solutions
Belyuen Community Government Council
Carpentaria Ghost Net Programme
Coastcare
Conservation Volunteers Australia
Darwin City Council
Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee
Darwin Port Corporation
Department of Resources – Fisheries
INPEX
Larrakia Development Corporation
Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation

Natural Resource Management Board NT
Northern Territory Seafood Council
NT Commercial Fishing Industry
NT Government (NRETAS)
NT Police Marine and Fisheries
Enforcement Unit
OceanWatch Australia
Sea Darwin Eco Tours
The Market Door, Wagait Beach
Two Fella Creek Conservation Group
Wagait Beach Supermarket
Wagait Shire Council
WA Seafood Exporters