

6 July 2010

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**DARWIN HARBOUR CLEAN-UP**

For the first time, a marine debris clean-up of Darwin Harbour is being undertaken with the support and participation of over 20 government, non-government and private stakeholders.

"Darwin Harbour Clean-Up will do its bit towards keeping our marine environment in tip top condition, a factor that is vital to our successful seafood industry," said Northern Territory Seafood Council Chief Executive Officer, Ms Katherine Sarneckis.

"Keeping the marine environment in pristine condition is something the seafood industry is passionate about." Ms Sarneckis went on to say.

"Commercial fishing vessels collect rubbish from our oceans as part of their everyday operations," she said.

"To have over twenty organisations working together to clean up Darwin Harbour is an excellent example of all user groups working together to maintain our valuable marine environment," Ms Sarneckis said.

"The event is a great opportunity to establish and strengthen links between marine and coastal stakeholder groups and will lead to an action plan for further monitoring and management. We hope to make this an annual event," said event organiser, OceanWatch Australia's NT SeaNet Officer, Ms Lyn Lambeth.

"We know that recreational fishers around Darwin care a great deal about the state of our harbour and AFANT is urging anyone who can to join in with other volunteers in the clean-up" said Mr Chris Makepeace, Executive Officer of the Amateur Fishermen's Association NT.

Pre-survey work undertaken in mid-June by Larrakia Marine Rangers identified hotspots around the harbour to target on the clean-up day.

Conservation Volunteers Australia is providing a team of volunteers to collect debris along the foreshore from Rapid Creek footbridge to Nightcliff Jetty.

The clean up will take place at targeted locations around Darwin Harbour on Tuesday July 13, 2010. Clean-up teams will be operating on shore and on the water throughout the day.

Members of the Wagait Beach and Belyuen Communities and the Two Fella Creek Conservation Group will be cleaning up around Two Fella Creek and Wagait Beach.

Water-based marine debris collection will take place under and around Fishermen's and Stokes Hill wharves, and other areas identified by the pre-survey work.

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 8981 5194**



**Photo: Larrakia Marine Rangers undertaking pre-survey work**

### ***2010 PROJECT SUPPORTERS AND PARTICIPANTS***

Amateur Fishermen's Association NT  
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