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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**A SPARKLY HARBOUR TODAY**

Over two and a half tonnes of rubbish was collected from Darwin Harbour's coastlines and waters in Darwin's first ever marine debris clean-up day, organised by the Northern Territory Seafood Council and OceanWatch Australia.

"The community relies on the seafood industry to provide the high quality seafood and the seafood industry is reliant on a healthy marine environment," said Northern Territory Seafood Council CEO, Ms Katherine Sarneckis.

"It was a disappointing reminder of how poorly some people treat our marine environment, as we were collecting items such as dirty nappies, food and drink containers, plastic bags and cigarette butts which are easily to dispose responsibly," Ms Sarneckis said.

"Yesterday there were 93 people picking up rubbish on land and from the water, 48 around Darwin and 43 over on Cox Peninsula," reported OceanWatch's NT SeaNet Officer, Ms Lyn Lambeth.

"The boats began their rubbish hunt at 7:30am and quickly filled their bags as they competed with the outgoing tide which forced them back to Fisherman's Wharf three hours later," Ms Lambeth said.

"And Darwin Harbour clean-up would not have been complete without a brush with a crocodile.

"School children on board the Sea Darwin Eco Tour boat who were cleaning up in the Sadgroves Creek found a crocodile skin hand bag complete with crocodile skin purse containing credit cards," stated Ms Lambeth.

"The hand bag was handed over to the police boat helping in the clean-up and eventually reunited with its relieved owner, the victim of a recent break-in.

Cox Peninsula members of the Wagait Beach and Belyuen Communities and the Two Fella Creek Conservation Group collected 357 kilograms of rubbish from five sites.

"It's great to see the Belyuen and Wagait Beach Communities working together on this," said Mr Joe Kelly, Belyuen Community and organiser of the West point clean up site.

Some of the heaviest items collected included 500 kilograms of truck tyres pulled from the water around Fishermen's Wharf, 300 kilograms of bundled floats and ropes taken by the police boat over at East Arm and 17 shopping trolleys taken from the water at the wharf and along the coast at Coconut Grove.

Volunteers and workers from numerous government, non-government and private stakeholders covered eight different sites on land.

Eight boats were out on the water covering Sadgroves Creek, East Arm and around Fishermen's Wharf.

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.



**One of the 17 trolleys recovered from Darwin Harbour Marine Clean-Up**

### ***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

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