



Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee

Seminar Series - From Corals to Mudflats

Marine habitats will take centre stage when week two of the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee seminar series begins tomorrow night.

Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts marine biologist Neil Smit will aim to provide the audience with an overview of our current knowledge of marine habitats within the Darwin Harbour region and what is needed to manage them.

Titled *From Corals to Mudflats*, Dr Smit's presentation will outline the importance of intertidal and subtidal mudflats and their importance in the food chain, what has been achieved since 2003 and what research and information is needed to enable sustainable management of the Harbour's marine flora and fauna.

"While Darwin Harbour is a relatively pristine environment in comparison with other major cities, it is important for people to realise that a wide range of human activities do occur in Darwin Harbour region, which may have a direct or indirect impact on our valued marine environment," Dr Smit said.

"Extensive fauna information and data sets exist, however marine habitats have not been systematically surveyed in the harbour.

"As a consequence, faunal assemblages are only known from specific locations and in other areas habitats are either unknown or poorly described.

"And with the exception of mangroves and a few algal records, information on the marine flora does not exist."

Other topics expected to be presented at tomorrow night's continuation of the seminar series are set to focus on fish assemblages in mangrove forests and a hydrodynamic model of Darwin Harbour.

The free seminar series is being held tomorrow, Wednesday and Thursday from 6.30pm to 7.30pm at the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT in Darwin.

Ends

Issued: 3pm Monday, 27 February 2006

'Our Harbour, Our Life, Our Future'