



# SALTWATER SCIENCE

NEWS FROM THE MARINE BIODIVERSITY GROUP

EDITION 1  
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Welcome to the first edition of Saltwater Science, the newsletter of the new Marine Biodiversity Group within NRETA. Saltwater Science will be produced bi-monthly and feature updates on our research and conservation projects, along with

information on public consultation opportunities for our strategic marine planning. We will also feature profiles on our staff and project partners.

We welcome comments and correspondence. Please see our contacts on Page 2.

## Who is the Marine Biodiversity Group?

The Marine Biodiversity Group has been established within the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts (NRETA). Although marine research has been conducted in the Northern Territory for a number of years, the formation of this group will enable all NRETA marine scientists to work together and share knowledge. With the greater global and national focus on sustainability of marine ecosystems, our group will provide a coordinated, directed and collaborative approach to marine research in the NT.

The Marine Biodiversity Group is also responsible for providing technical and policy advice on marine biodiversity conservation and management in the NT.

Our team of seven marine scientists and planners is led by Principal

Scientist, Professor Karen Edyvane (see staff profile). Staff have varied skills, including experience in GIS, remote sensing, biodiversity assessment, marine ecological studies, conservation assessments, impact assessment and monitoring and marine policy, analysis and planning.

The Marine Biodiversity Group is located at the newly established Arafura Timor Research Facility ([www.atrf.org.au](http://www.atrf.org.au)); a shared research facility with the Australian Institute of Marine Science, the Australian National University and Charles Darwin University.

We are currently undertaking a range of NHT / NRM funded collaborative marine research and conservation planning projects in the Northern Territory, as well as several externally funded international projects.



Arafura Timor Research Facility, Brinkin.

# Research Update

## Current Projects

Our current NHT/NRM funded projects include:

- Marine Debris Monitoring
- NT Marine and Coastal Atlas
- NT Marine Biodiversity Survey Program
- NT Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan
- NT Marine Protected Areas Strategy

## Marine debris monitoring

The marine debris monitoring project builds on extensive work done by WWF. Local aboriginal communities, rangers and conservation volunteers are key partners in the project, which

surveys marine debris annually at seven sites around the NT, to determine long-term trends in debris composition and volume.

Monitoring sites have been established at the

Tiwi Islands, Cobourg Peninsula, Elcho Island, Cape Arnhem, Groote Eylandt, Blue Mud Bay and Vanderlin Island.

The most recent surveys were conducted in late 2006 and preliminary results indicate that the highest proportion of marine debris continues to accumulate along the coast of northeast Arnhem Land and Groote Eylandt. For more information and interim survey results see our web site.



Cape Arnhem

## HOW TO CONTACT US:

If you would like to be on our contact list please send your name, postal address, email and phone details to one of the addresses below. A brief comment on your interest in the marine environment would also be appreciated.

### Location

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marinebiodiversity

### Postal address:

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Department of Natural  
Resources Environment  
and the Arts  
PO Box 496  
Palmerston NT 0831

## Staff Profile

### Professor Karen Edyvane

In our first edition we profile our team leader, Professor Karen Edyvane. Karen is an experienced marine biodiversity researcher and planner, who has led successful research and planning programs in South Australia and Tasmania.

Karen's specialist expertise includes state-wide marine biological surveys, habitat mapping and ecosystem classifications, conservation and threat assessments, and



Marine Protected Area identification and planning. She recently undertook the first conservation assessment of Tasmania's giant kelp forests.

Karen also has extensive national (and international) experience in marine and coastal research, policy and planning and stakeholder consultation. In the NT, Karen is involved in marine monitoring, planning and the development of Marine Protected Areas. Karen is also currently developing collaborative research projects and linkages within northern Australia and the Arafura Timor region.