

Darwin Harbour

Summary

Water quality at the outer and mid Harbour monitoring sites was in excellent condition.

Nature of system

- Estuarine system with outer estuary well mixed via tidal inflows and outflows
- Maximum tidal range of nearly 8 m
- Perennial freshwater inflows from Howard River, Berry Creek and Darwin River
- Extensive mangrove habitat and inter-tidal mudflats












Potential sources of pollution

- Sediment, nutrient, industrial and other human-related pollutants in stormwater runoff from rural, urban and industrial catchment diffuse sources during the wet season
- Sewage treatment plant wastewater discharges at several points in the Harbour
- Other licensed wastewater discharges at several points in the Harbour



Mangroves, Bleasers Creek

Darwin Harbour marine water quality

Indicator and units	Water quality objective outer area	Compliance outer area	Water quality objective mid area	Compliance mid area
 pH	7.0–8.5	8.1–8.3 ✓	7.0–8.5	7.4–8.2 ✓
 Chlorophyll a (µg/L)	<1	0.8 ✓	<2	1 ✓
 NO _x (µg N/L)	<10	2 ✓	<20	4 ✓
 Ammonia (µg N/L)	<20	5 ✓	<20	5 ✓
 Total nitrogen (µg N/L)	<440	170 ✓	<270	180 ✓
 Total phosphorus (µg P/L)	<20	10 ✓	<20	10 ✓
 Filterable reactive phosphorus (µg P/L)	<10	4 ✓	<5	4 ✓
Number of samples		15–16		19–20
2011 rating				
2010 rating (2009 data)		A		B
2009 rating (2001–2008 data)		A		A