

Strategic Regional Environmental and Baseline Assessment (SREBA) - AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS

Fact Sheet

What is a SREBA and why is it being done?

SREBA stands for Strategic Regional Environmental and Baseline Assessment. It is a set of research studies to understand the current situation of the local people in the region along with plants, animals, water, and air quality, so that any changes over time can be measured through ongoing monitoring programs. This will give the Northern Territory Government (NT Government) up to date and accurate information to make decisions about the development of the onshore gas industry in the Beetaloo region.

What does the Aquatic Ecosystems domain study?

The Aquatic Ecosystems study will survey animals and plants that live in water including fish, turtles, invertebrates, and aquatic plants. This will include targeted surveys for threatened or significant species. Aquatic plants and animals can be found in temporary and permanent waterways.

Who is doing the study?

The Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security Flora and Fauna Division are leading the Aquatic Ecosystems study. The team is made up of aquatic scientists and technicians who specialise in research of aquatic plants and animals.

How are Aquatic Ecosystems studied?

The Aquatic Ecosystems study will commence with detailed mapping and classification of aquatic ecosystems across the study region. Following this, the team will:

- Conduct surveys of aquatic biodiversity
- Identify key refuge areas
- Identify areas of high conservation value
- Identify significant species
- Identify sensitive areas and/or habitats
- Recommend approaches to future monitoring aquatic biodiversity.

How will the findings be used?

Baseline information collected during this study will be used to understand the regional significance of aquatic ecosystems, identify any impacts of onshore shale gas activities and prevent negative impacts on people and the environment. Information collected and reports generated through this study will be publicly available, except where it is identified as culturally sensitive, commercial-in-confidence, or sensitive for privacy reasons.

More information

Vist nt.gov.au/sreba for further information or contact us via sreba@nt.gov.au



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Blue Catfish *Neoarius graeffei* (Photo by Dave Wilson)



Electrofishing (Photo by Peter Dostine)



Archerfish *Toxotes chatareus* (Photo by Dave Wilson)



Worrell's turtle *Emydura subglobosa worrelli*
(Photo by Dion Wedd)