

Rapid Creek report card 2009

Water quality at the monitoring sites is in very good condition and in most cases complies with water quality objectives. Event-mean concentrations in the Moil subcatchment were greater than for the other sites in the region, indicating greater pollutant loads. The water-bug community at the biological monitoring sites is significantly or severely impaired.

Nature of system

- Rapid Creek is the largest freshwater system within the Darwin city area
- · A large proportion of the catchment has been cleared
- Stream corridor and riparian area remains relatively intact

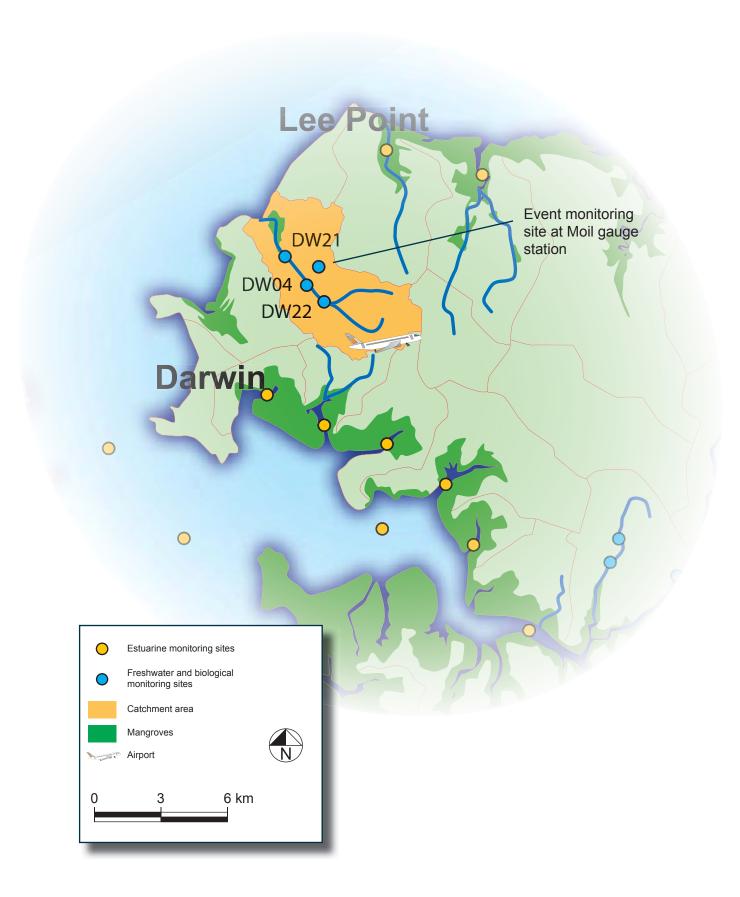
Sources of pollution

• High sediment, nutrient and other human-related pollutant loads during the wet season

fresh ideas | real results

Rapid Creek catchment

Rapid Creek catchment showing catchment boundary, features and monitoring sites.



Rapid Creek

Rapid Creek ambient freshwater quality

Symbol	Indicator and units	Water quality objective	Current condition	Sample number for current condition	Compliance	
(*/_	Electrical conductivity (µS/cm)	<200	42	24	~	
	Turbidity (NTU)	<20	2.5	24	✓	
	рН	6.0 –7.5	4.9 – 6.0	24	X	
02	Dissolved oxygen (%)	50 –100	54 – 83	21	✓	
	Total suspended solids (mg/L)	<5	NA	NA	NA /	
	Chlorophyll a (µg/L)	<2	0.3	20		
NOx	NOx (µg N/L)	<8	6	17		
AM	Ammonia (µg N/L)	NA	5	17		
TN	Total nitrogen (µg N/L)	<230	71	17		
TP	Total phosphorus (µg P/L)	<10	2.5	17	-	
FRP	Filterable reactive phosphorus (µg P/L)	<5	0.5	17	~	
Period s	ampled for current condition is 200	05-2008. NA Not a	available			

Rapid Creek catchment loads and event-mean concentrations

Symbol	Indicator and units	Moil subcatchment current condition event-mean concentration							
	Total suspended solids (mg/L)	56							
TN	Total nitrogen (µg N/L)	821							
TP	Total phosphorus (μg P/L)	87							
	Subcatchment area (ha)	36							
Wet seas	Wet season sampled for current condition is 2006-2007								
Symbol	mbol Rapid Creek whole catchment load for an average wet season								
	Total suspended solids load (tonnes/year)	1680							
TN	Total nitrogen (tonnes/year)	21.7							
TP	Total phosphorus (tonnes/year)	2.2							
	Total catchment area (ha)	2770							

	Site number	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	
	DW04					С	В		
	DW21	С	С	В	В	С	С	С	
	DW22					С			
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	Community pla	nting day	at Darwin	Internation	nal Airport	Rapid Cr	eek.	1	4
	Acknowledgem	ent - Darv	win Interna	ational Airp	ort. Copy	right David	d Silva	State	ALL PROPERTY.

Electrofishing in Rapid Creek

Fish surveys in Rapid Creek provide an indication of the health of fish communities in the creek and also help to identify exotic fish. Native fish species surveyed in 2006 and 2007 are shown in the Rapid Creek report card.

Electrofishing is a non-lethal way to research and collect data pertinent to endangered

fish species. Electrofishing is a widely recognised research method for all freshwater fish species in Australia, as well as turtles and freshwater crustaceans. Data collected include species name, length, size classes (adult and juvenile) and relative abundance of captured and observed species.

The process applies an electric current through a waterbody to create an electromagnetic field, which causes fish to swim toward the centre of the field and results in temporary stunning. Fish are then released back into the water unharmed. Data collection is undertaken on a 'shot by shot' basis, where a habitat



Hyrtl's Catfish (Neosilurus hyrtlii) is found in Howard River and Rapid Creek Photo by Dave Wilson

is sampled over a five minute period (1 shot). Fish are then identified, measured and habitat data are collected. A total of 10 shots per stream reach are undertaken, which includes different habitat types in the stream reach such as riffles and pools.



Rapid Creek

Fish survey results

Mean Length Count Mean Length Count (mm) Hypselectris compressa (Empire Gudgeon) 33 18 30 17 Lates calcarifor (Barrumundi) - - 310 1 Leiopotherapon unicolor (Spangled Perch) 43 14 106 2 Melanotaenia australis (Western Rainbowfish) 45 10 30 14 Melanotaenia nigrans (Blackbanded Rainbowfish) 28 1199 25 626 6	Mean length (mm) Count (mm)	Mean length (mm) Count (mm)	July 2007 survey	Site	Site DW22 Site DW21				
Lates calcarifer (Barrumundi) Leiopotherapon unicolor (Spangled Perch) Melanotaenia australis (Western Rainbowfish) Melanotaenia nigrans (Blackbanded Rainbowfish) Mogurnda mogurnda (Northern Trout Gudgeon) Mogurnda mogurnda (Northern Trout Gudgeon) Mesoilurus hyrtlii (Hyrtl's Catfish or Yellow-fin Catfish) Megalops cyrinoides (Tarpon) Note: Survey undertaken over set time (10 shots of 5 min = 50 min) at each site and counts include visual observations. August 2006 survey Site DW22 Site DW21 Site DW04 Species Mean length (mm) Hypseleotris compressa (Empire Gudgeon) Height (mm) Melanotaenia australis (Western Rainbowfish) Melanotaenia nigrans (Blackbanded Rainbowfish) Mogurnda mogurnda (Northern Trout Gudgeon) Melanotaenia nigrans (Blackbanded Rainbowfish) Mogurnda mogurnda (Northern Trout Gudgeon) Mesoilurus hyrtlii (Hyrtl's Catfish or Yellow-fin Catfish) Neosilurus hyrtlii (Hyrtl's Catfish or Yellow-fin Catfish) Ophisternon gutturale (Australian Swamp Eet) Note: Survey undertaken over set distance (100 m) at each site and counts do not include visual	Lates calcarifer (Barrumundi) Leiopotherapon unicolor (Spangled Perch) Melanotaenia australis (Western Rainbowfish) Melanotaenia nigrans (Blackbanded Rainbowfish) Mogurnda mogurnda (Northern Trout Gudgeon) Mogurnda mogurnda (Northern Trout Gudgeon) Mesoilurus hyrtlii (Hyrtl's Catfish or Yellow-fin Catfish) Megalops cyrinoides (Tarpon) Note: Survey undertaken over set time (10 shots of 5 min = 50 min) at each site and counts include visual observations. August 2006 survey Site DW22 Site DW21 Site DW04 Species Mean length (mm) Hypseleotris compressa (Empire Gudgeon) Height (mm) Melanotaenia australis (Western Rainbowfish) Melanotaenia nigrans (Blackbanded Rainbowfish) Mogurnda mogurnda (Northern Trout Gudgeon) Melanotaenia nigrans (Blackbanded Rainbowfish) Mogurnda mogurnda (Northern Trout Gudgeon) Mesoilurus hyrtlii (Hyrtl's Catfish or Yellow-fin Catfish) Neosilurus hyrtlii (Hyrtl's Catfish or Yellow-fin Catfish) Ophisternon gutturale (Australian Swamp Eet) Note: Survey undertaken over set distance (100 m) at each site and counts do not include visual	Lates calcarifer (Barrumundi) Leiopotherapon unicolor (Spangled Perch) Melanotaenia australis (Western Rainbowfish) Melanotaenia injrans (Blackbanded Rainbowfish) Mogurda mogurnda (Northern Trout Gudgeon) Neosilurus hyrtiii (Hyrti's Catfish or Yellow-fin 72 40 60 16 (Catfish) Megalops cyrinoides (Tarpon) August 2006 survey Site DW22 Species Melanotaenia australis (Western Rainbowfish) Hypseleotris compressa (Empire Gudgeon) Melanotaenia australis (Western Rainbowfish) Melanotaenia nigrans (Blackbanded Au 217 37 204 34 3 Rainbowfish) Mogurnda mogurnda (Northern Trout Gudgeon) Melanotaenia australis (Western Rainbowfish) Melanotaenia nigrans (Blackbanded Au 217 37 204 34 3 Rainbowfish) Mogurnda mogurnda (Northern Trout Gudgeon) Neosiliurus hyrtiii (Hyrti's Catfish or Yellow-fin 23 85 24 96 85 Children) Neosiliurus hyrtiii (Hyrti's Catfish or Yellow-fin 27 23 85 24 96 85 Children) Neosiliurus hyrtiii (Hyrti's Catfish or Yellow-fin 27 23 85 24 96 85 Children) Neosiliurus hyrtiii (Hyrti's Catfish or Yellow-fin 27 23 85 24 96 85 Children) Note: Survey undertaken over set distance (100 m) at each site and counts do not include visual observations.		Mean length		Mean length			
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Catfish) Ophisternon gutturale (Australian Swamp Eel) Note: Survey undertaken over set distance (100 m) at each site and counts do not include visual	Catfish) Ophisternon gutturale (Australian Swamp Eel) Note: Survey undertaken over set distance (100 m) at each site and counts do not include visual	Catfish) Ophisternon gutturale (Australian Swamp Eel) Note: Survey undertaken over set distance (100 m) at each site and counts do not include visual observations. Rapid Creek is the largest freshwater stream in the Darwin city area.		71	219	49	7	74	85
Note: Survey undertaken over set distance (100 m) at each site and counts do not include visual	Note: Survey undertaken over set distance (100 m) at each site and counts do not include visual	Note: Survey undertaken over set distance (100 m) at each site and counts do not include visual observations. Rapid Creek is the largest freshwater stream in the Darwin city area.		<i>y</i> -fin 97	23	85	24	96	85
		Rapid Creek is the largest freshwater stream in the Darwin city area.	Ophisternon gutturale (Australian Swan	np Eel) -	-	280	1	300	1
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Rapid Creek is the largest freshwater stream in the Darwin city area.	Rapid Creek is the largest freshwater stream in the Darwin city area.						THE PARTY OF THE P		