Inspections Detect Asian Green Mussel

Primary Industry and Fisheries Minister Chris Natt today praised officers from the Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines (DPIFM) for acting quickly following a report of Asian green mussels on a vessel in Darwin Harbour.

Mr Natt said the aquatic pest (Perna viridis) was discovered on the hull of a rig tender in Darwin Harbour late yesterday.

“Officers from DPIFM, in co-operation with the vessel’s owners took immediate steps to move the vessel – it is now well outside Darwin Harbour,” Mr Natt said.

“I have been advised that it will be moved again as soon as possible – further out to sea and as far away from our coast as practical.

“Consideration is being given to any further steps that may need to be taken to further minimise the risks associated with the Asian green mussel.

“The rig tender was docked at Darwin’s East Arm Wharf when the discovery was made by commercial divers as part of an in-water hull survey.

“Asian green mussels can cause severe ecological and economic impacts and that is why our immediate priority is to protect Darwin Harbour and other Northern Territory waters.”

Mr Natt said the vessel owners have been extremely co-operative in this situation.

He said the rig tender’s activities are not related to that of the West Atlas jack-up rig that arrived in Darwin Harbour yesterday.
Media Contact: Edwin Edlund 0401 119 563

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