

One of the issues impacting the health of Norfolk Island's coral reef ecosystem and environment, is catchment runoff. This has been compounded by recent stormwater events. Norfolk Island is currently experiencing its wettest year on record which has resulted in regular large pulses of stormwater entering the marine environment together with increased volume and frequency of surface-water runoff and groundwater discharge.

Reef health research

As noted in previous Norfolk Marine Park Updates, Parks Australia has contracted Sydney Institute of Marine Science in collaboration with the University of New South Wales, James Cook University, and the University of Newcastle to assess the health of Emily and Slaughter Bay lagoon including coral disease and algal growth, in recognition of longstanding water quality concerns.

The research team have found that algal blooms in the water column, increased algal growth and coral diseases are all problems caused directly by contaminated water entering the lagoon.

Findings from the September lagoon reef health surveys will be made available in a future Norfolk Marine Park Community Update, along with information about how the community can contribute to reef health monitoring.

The Norfolk Marine Park team can be contacted on Norfolk.Marine.Park@environment.gov.au

Marine Park Project Officer Hannah Taylor can be contacted on phone 22695 (Norfolk Island National Park Office) or mobile 51522 .



Doris, preparing for her daily treatment, 3 November 2022 (Photo: Hannah Taylor)

Dan Murphy, Fran Murray and Hannah Taylor - Norfolk Marine Park Team.