



Save the Nature of the Kimberley
environs
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Media Release

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Enthusiastic community response to Annual Cable Beach Crab Survey

The annual survey of two species of tiny burrowing crabs found on Cable Beach has been completed, thanks to assistance from an enthusiastic team of volunteers drawn from the local community, Kimberley College of TAFE and Broome Senior High School.

Coastal and Marine Natural Resource Management Officer Melissa Coates, assisted by Environs Kimberley's biodiversity specialist Louise Williams, conducted this year's survey.

The study is based on methodology devised by Newcastle University lecturer and scientist Stewart Evans and is in its fourth year. It involves counting and recording the numbers of Sand Bubbler Crab and Ghost Crab burrows present within defined areas of Cable Beach – one located north of the rocks and the other at Cable Beach south (Gantheaume Point end).

The surveys are designed to investigate and quantify the impact of vehicles on the crab populations found on Cable Beach. They involve a series of quadrats pegged on the shoreline over a 4.5 kilometre stretch of the beach and will be timed to ensure the crabs have emerged from their burrows after high tide.

"Thanks to enthusiastic volunteers the survey was completed in one afternoon," Ms Coates said. "Participants were very interested in learning more about the coastal and marine environment and how they could be involved in management of these valuable areas."

"Under the guidance and direction of Monique Ellis from Kimberley TAFE, Broome Senior High School students studying Cert II in Aquaculture and Fisheries Industries, surveyed the southern end of Cable Beach."

If you would like to be involved in crab surveys in the future, or are interested in finding out more about how you can be involved in coastal and marine management, please contact Melissa Coates on 91938600 or contact the Environs Kimberley office on 91921922.

For further information contact: Melissa Coates Ph: 0417 915972