

Marine Environmental Quality Monitoring Program

Financial year 2024-25 annual report card

Port of Port Hedland

What is the Marine Environmental Quality Monitoring Program?

The Marine Environmental Quality Monitoring Program reports on long-term trends in marine water and sediment quality within the Port of Port Hedland.

Why is the program important?

Marine monitoring is an important part of environmental stewardship. It is the essential first step towards mitigating environmental risk, preserving ecosystem integrity, and protecting recreational and cultural values.

How do we monitor?

Our ongoing marine monitoring involves regular sampling of marine water and sediment quality. Data is then assessed to determine if environmental values (EVs) are being protected.

What are levels of ecological protection?

The region is categorised into three levels of ecological protection. Areas of conservation significance may be assigned the maximum level, while others with societal uses may be assigned a lower level. The levels influence how we set up our program, position sample sites and assess results.

How do we use the data?

The data will be used to help protect the EVs of the Port of Port Hedland and to better inform future environmental management.

More about the program

Our monitoring program follows leading practice marine science methodology. Building on a three-year baseline period, our ongoing surveillance monitoring reports against targeted environmental quality criteria. The criteria are designed to determine whether environmental quality objectives have been met or whether management measures are required. This process ensures a comprehensive understanding of the marine environment and enables a scientific approach to assessing environmental impact.

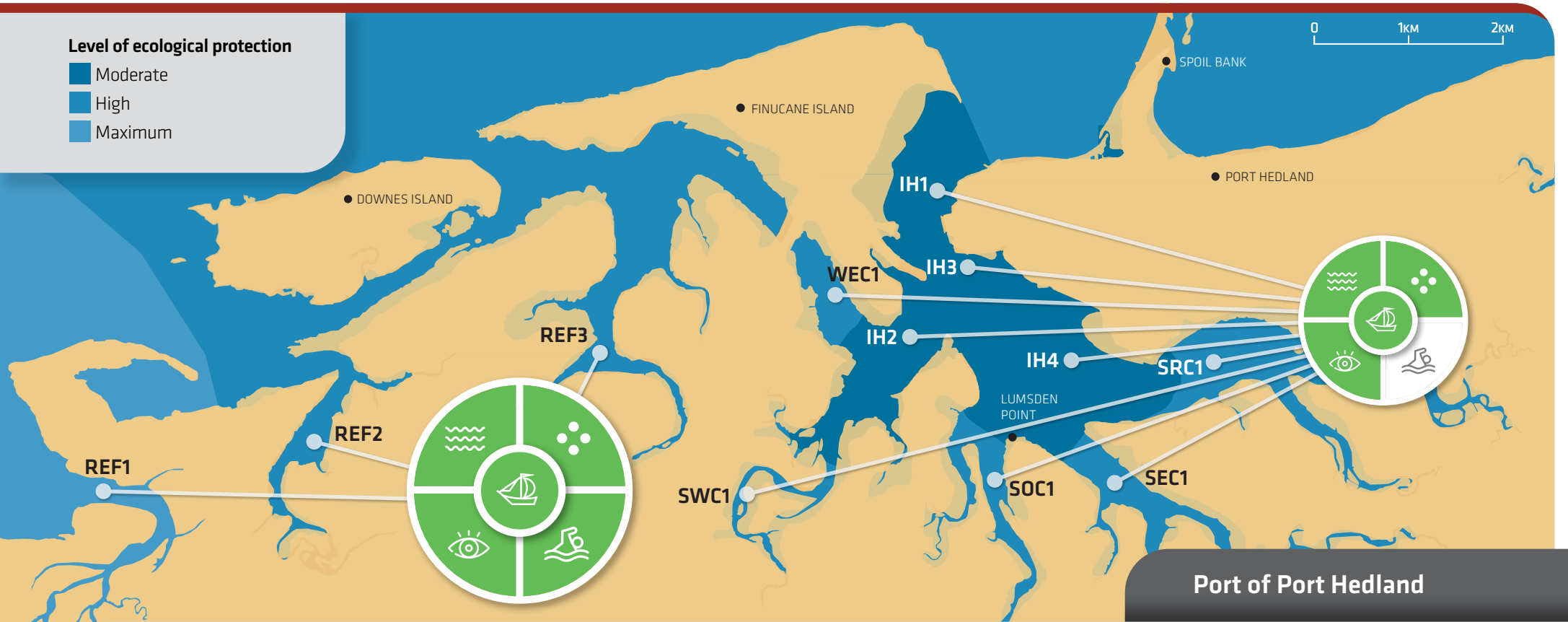
FY2024-25 highlights

- ✓ The financial year represents the second annual period of sampling and analysis after the three-year baseline monitoring period was completed in FY2022-23. This is referred to as Phase 2, or 'ongoing surveillance', within our marine monitoring program.
- ✓ Results for the second year of ongoing surveillance were positive (see map overleaf). Marine water and sediment quality results were generally within an acceptable range and the relevant environmental quality objectives were achieved.
- ✓ As one of the world's largest bulk export ports, the Port of Port Hedland achieved an annual throughput of 577.7 million tonnes, while 3,363 vessels safely navigated through the port. Our results reflect our strong environmental management practices, which enable us to maintain a healthy marine environment and meet the diverse environmental quality objectives identified overleaf.
- ✓ We continue to expand our program to measure, monitor and protect the marine environment at the ports of Ashburton, Dampier and Port Hedland. This involves working collaboratively with our industry partners at the Port of Port Hedland to ensure our activities align with environmental best practice.

The Marine Environmental Quality Monitoring Program (MEQMP) is an initiative of Pilbara Ports in partnership with Port Hedland Industry Council, which engaged Western Australian marine science consultancy O2 Marine to develop the program in 2019. O2 Marine continues to implement the program, including undertaking monitoring throughout the year on behalf of the initiative, analysing and reporting results. Find out more or provide feedback: P 1300 100 772 | E feedback@pilbaraports.com.au

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Environmental quality objectives (EQOs)

- Water quality** Water quality is suitable to maintain a healthy ecosystem.
- Sediment** Sediment quality is suitable to maintain a healthy ecosystem.
- Recreation** The area is safe for swimming and diving.

- Secondary contact** The area is safe for boating and fishing.
- Aesthetics** The aesthetic appeal of the environment is protected.

Our annual report card summarises the outcomes of monitoring completed during FY2024-25 (1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025). Where an indicator is not assessed, for example Recreation at IH1, it is typically due to the activity not being supported at that location (i.e. swimming within the inner harbour).

Status of objective



- EQO achieved**
- EQO at risk** (further investigation may be required)
- EQO not achieved**
- EQO not assessed**