

# Why is biodiversity important to recreational anglers



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# Recreational fishing in the NT

- \* Over 30,000 NT residents (non-indigenous) fished between April 2009 and March 2010
- \* NT anglers spent \$51 million direct expenditure
- \* Visitors to the NT contributed 77,000 fisher days (about half total effort)
- \* Recreational fishing tourism showing significant growth
- \* \$22 million spent on guided fishing in the NT
- \* Estimated direct expenditure of \$100 million per year

# The NT Recreational fishing experience

- \* For most anglers its about more than just fish
- \* Landscape, scenery and environment
- \* Diverse and spectacular natural Systems
- \* The isolation or wilderness experience
- \* Most importantly NT has Great fishing

# Fishy systems

- \* **Healthy environment = healthy fishery's**
- \* **Understanding the drivers of fish populations**
- \* **Environment the big limiter of the productivity of NT fishery's**





# The Mary River case study

- \* Significant impact from salinity inundation
- \* Extensive loss of fresh water melaleuca wetlands and floodplain
- \* Changes to the productivity and diversity of the system
- \* New areas under threat and continued salinity spread
- \* Real risk in loosing areas like Corrobaree Billabong to salinity
- \* Government and land owner Intervention largely unsuccessful and has other significant impacts
- \* Impact is not limited to the Mary River system



# The Mary River floodplain





# Melaleuca stands on Marrakai station





# What is the effect of salinity

- \* Vastly changing ecosystem from Fresh water Melaleuca wetlands to Hyper saline mud flats
- \* Erosion and spreading salinity
- \* Loss of habitat
- \* Loss of productivity

























The salinity spread continues







Red Lily lagoon 2010



Just 2 Km of distance between the now salt affected Red Lily Lagoon and  
the bottom of the Corroboree Billabong system

Red Lily lagoon

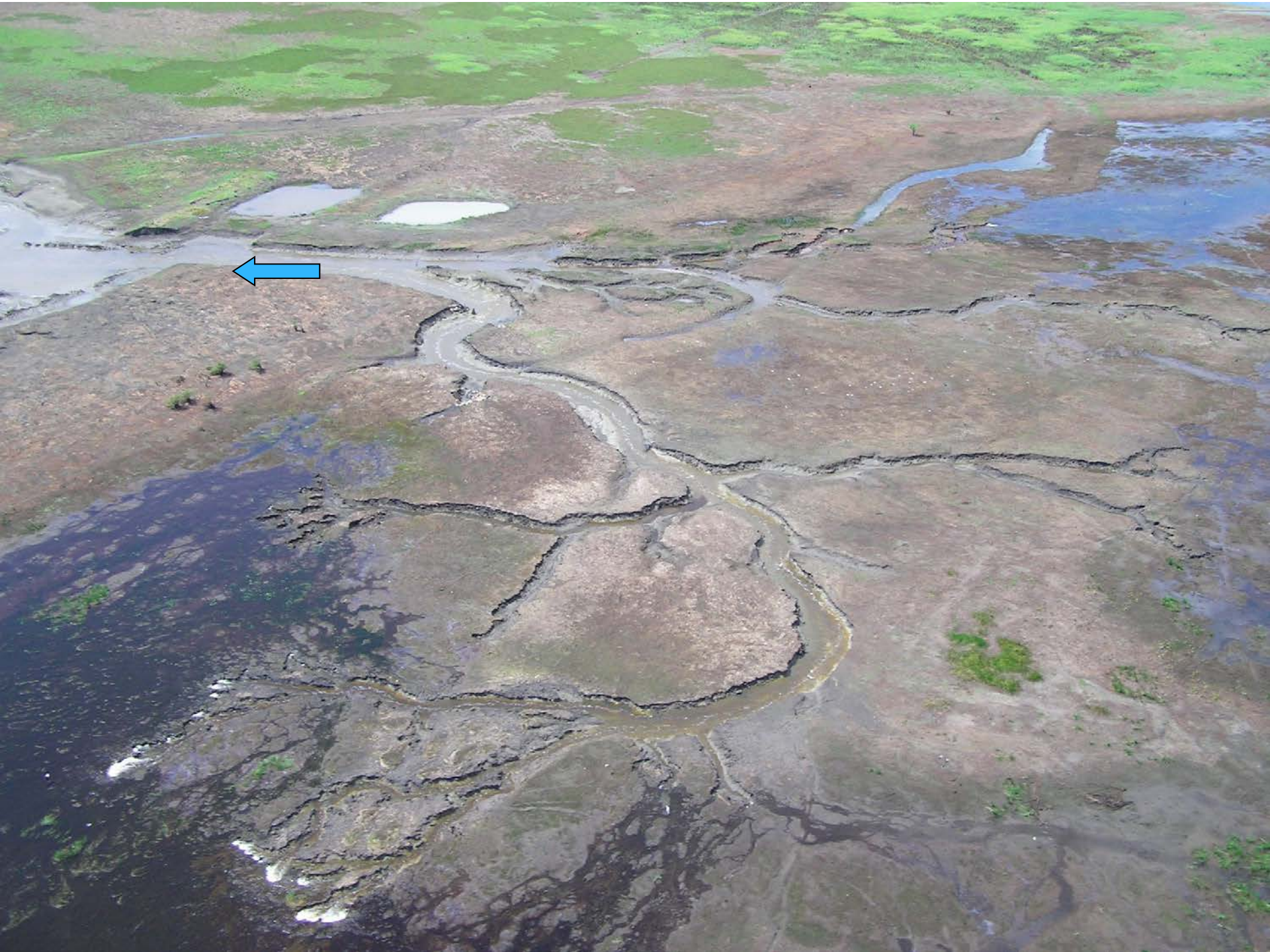
Bottom end of  
Corroboree

Point Stuart

Corroboree  
boat ramp

Marrakai









Red Lily lagoon 2012



# The great wall





# Conclusion

- \* Sea level rise and the impact of climate change is occurring across Northern Australia right now
- \* Important freshwater wetland systems are suffering serious and irreversible environmental damage across the top end
- \* There is a real threat to iconic Northern Territory wetlands like Corroboree billabong



Thank you

