



Gladstone  
Healthy Harbour  
Partnership

# ENVIRONMENT



## FIVE FAST FACTS

1. The Environmental component is composed of three indicator groups: water & sediment quality, habitats and fish & crabs.
2. **NINE** indicators are used to inform on the three indicator groups.
3. The Environmental grade was **SATISFACTORY** in 2019.
4. Although the Environmental score (0.60) was identical in 2018 and 2019, there were a number of score differences within the various indicators.
5. The addition of the fish health indicator completes the community vision of the report card.

## ENVIRONMENTAL GRADES

2018	2019	Grading system
		<b>A</b> Very good (0.85 - 1.00)
		<b>B</b> Good (0.65 - 0.84)
		<b>C</b> Satisfactory (0.50 - 0.64)
		<b>D</b> Poor (0.25 - 0.49)
		<b>E</b> Very poor (0.00 - 0.24)

## WHAT DO THE GRADES MEAN?

Although the grade remained the same for two indicator groups (water & sediment and habitats), the scores differed between 2018 and 2019. The **SCORES** for:

1. **Water and sediment quality** — **SLIGHTLY IMPROVED** although the grade remained the same (A). This resulted from an increase in the water quality score, which was largely due to improved nutrient scores when compared to 2018.
2. **Habitats** — **IMPROVED** although the grade remained the same (D). This resulted from an improvement in the seagrass grade from a D in 2018 to a C in 2019. The grades for mangroves (C) and corals (E) remained the same as in 2018.
3. **Fish & crabs** — **DECLINED** due to a poor fish recruitment grade (D), which had the lowest score in four years of monitoring. The large score decline for fish & crabs resulted in a grade shift from a C in 2018 to a D in 2019. Fish health was included for the first time and received a good grade (B). The mud crabs grade has not changed since 2018 and remains poor (D).

## CLIMATE

Between July 2018 and June 2019, environmental conditions were characterized by lower-than-average rainfall and minimal discharge from the Boyne and Calliope rivers.

The dry and relatively mild weather may have influenced changes in scores for nutrients in water, seagrass and fish.

## INDICATOR GRADES

2018	2019	
		<b>WATER &amp; SEDIMENT</b>
		<b>HABITATS</b>
		<b>FISH &amp; CRABS</b>