BE CROCWISE on the Water

The opportunity to hook a Barramundi, navigate dramatic tidal rivers and view a diverse range of tropical wildlife makes it easy to see why recreational fishing and boating in the Top End is so popular.

When it comes to crocodiles, the Northern Territory Government, the Amateur Fishermen’s Association of the NT and Parks Australia (Kakadu) takes your safety seriously. We share our waters with crocodiles and ultimately how you behave around crocodile habitats is your responsibility.

- Don’t become complacent - crocodile and human interactions can be risky when fishing and boating.
- BE CROCWISE - crocodiles can be found in any Top End waters (fresh or salt).
- Only swim in areas signposted as managed for swimming.

Want to know more about ‘Living with Crocodiles’ in the Northern Territory?
www.nt.gov.au/becrocwise

BE CROCWISE FACTS

- Crocodiles are common in Top End waters - you are in ‘Croc Country’.
- Crocodiles are dangerous and attacks can be fatal.
- Crocodiles move around throughout the year.
- Crocodiles can move with great stealth and camouflage - you won’t always see them.
- Crocodiles can attack and take people from boats.
- They can and will lunge at and may follow fish into your boat.
- The smaller your boat the greater the risk!
- Populations of humans and crocs are higher than ever - leading to more frequent encounters.

Report problem crocodiles to the Crocodile Management Team (24 hr), please call:
8999 4691 or 0419 822 859 (Darwin)
8973 8888 or 0407 958 405 (Katherine)
ADVICE FROM LOCAL FISHERS!

DON’T

Swim in the water, EVER - when fishing or boating!
EVER stand in waters near a crocodile warning sign or in areas crocodiles are known to inhabit. Assume crocodiles are present in all waterways!
EVER provoke or harass crocodiles - it's extremely dangerous and against the law.
EVER feed crocodiles - this includes cleaning fish boatside!
Squat or sit on your heels near the water’s edge - a crocodile would rather a good mouthful, something the size of a small pig. Standing tall presents a large profile and may discourage a possible attack. Children are therefore at much greater risk than adults.
Paddle, clean fish, prepare food or wash at the water’s edge - avoid repetitive activities.
Stand too close to the water’s edge when fishing - or have obstacles behind you preventing ease of escape.
Stand on logs overhanging water while fishing or attempting to retrieve lures.
Use or sleep in boats with low sides.
EVER lean over the edge of a boat or enter the water to retrieve snagged lures.
EVER dangle arms, legs or any part of your body over the side of the boat.
Illuminate the inside of your boat while night fishing - effectively limiting your night vision and attracting crocs - they can see you but you can’t see them.
Take dogs with you while fishing - they are a favourite prey of crocodiles and their presence may attract them.

DO

 ALWAYS heed all crocodile warning signage.
 ALWAYS assume ALL water bodies contain dangerous crocodiles.
 Fish with an obstacle such as rock in front of you if you can when fishing from a bank.
 ALWAYS report problem / aggressive crocodiles.
 Use wire crab traps instead of mesh - making it more difficult for crocodiles to access your crab bait and catch - don’t allow crocs to associate crab traps and fishermen with a food source.
 ALWAYS remain vigilant and aware of your surroundings - especially when fishing alone or at night, or where a croc can approach you from behind. You may not see them at all!
 Illuminate the outside of your boat while night fishing - then you can see what is around you.
 Wear polarized sunglasses to help spot crocodiles near the surface of the water.
 When fishing from the bank - fish where there is an area of clear shallow water in front of you and at least 5 metres from the water’s edge.
 If you suspect a crocodile is observing you or if it approaches you, retreat.
 ALWAYS use landing nets when landing fish.
 Avoid areas of activity - look for slide marks, drag marks, flattened vegetation, and other signs that a crocodile may regularly use a particular area, because there’s a good chance that the croc is not far away and you may not spot it!

For more information see our website: www.parksandwildlife.nt.gov.au

Feeding time at Shady Camp Barrage - would you risk it?