



Dear Member,

I would like to invite all AFANT members and non-members to the 2016 AGM to be held at Tracy Village this coming Sunday the 6th of March.

The Chief Minister, Adam Giles and Fisheries Minister, Gary Higgins have both been invited to the AGM to discuss the CLP Government's efforts to improve recreational fishing in the Northern Territory including progress updates on the Dundee Beach and Shady Camp boat ramps. The NT Department of Fisheries will also provide an update on the monitoring program to gauge the recovery and success of the 2015 regulation changes for at risk reef fish. In addition chief fisheries scientist Dr Thor Saunders will conduct a presentation on the Barramundi tagging program, stock levels and recapture rates across the Northern Territory.

Hydraulic Fracturing (Fracking) is an issue of interest to the recreational fishing community of the NT due to the risks the industry poses to the environment, aquifers and aquatic habitats of the Top End. Mr Ron Kelly from the Department of Mines and Energy will provide a presentation on the government's policy and environmental regulations. Additionally Mr Bob Richards will provide a presentation on the growth of the enormously successful Humpty Doo Barramundi Farm and what the future of Aquaculture looks like for Northern Australia.

In addition to these presentations and thanks to our generous corporate sponsors there will also be a fishing gear prize raffle, five fishing reels to be drawn for members who sign up or renew on the day and our annual members draw presentation of a tackle box full of Reidy's lures worth approximately \$900.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

Regards

Tristan Sloan
Executive Officer

Representing recreational fishing in the NT and ensuring the quality of our sport

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FISHERIES TIP #3

Want to ensure that all fish released have the best chance of survival?

Use best practice for handling and releasing fish.

Just because you didn't catch the fish you wanted, you shouldn't treat them differently to more desirable species.

For more information visit the Fisheries website at www.dpif.nt.gov.au/Fisheries or use the NT Fishing Mate App.

Good fishing!



Project Update – Shady Camp Boat Ramp

Late last month the NT Government released the tender document for the construction of the Shady Camp Boat Ramp. Works at Shady Camp will involve a 50-metre extension to the boat ramp with a slip resistant concrete surface. The parking area will be sealed and improved with 60 marked car and trailer bays. Construction is expected to be completed at Shady Camp by August this year.



New Bag Limits for Kakadu

The Kakadu Board of Management has just released a new 10 year management plan for the period 2016-2026.

Under the plan, there are no changes to areas currently available for recreational fishing and boating however possession limits in the park for barramundi have been changed to make them consistent with possession limits in the Mary and Daly River Fish Management zones.

This changes the possession limit from five barramundi per person to three per person, with a minimum overall length of 55 cm applying. There is also now a maximum size limit of 90 cm for barramundi and king threadfin.

The new plan of management can be accessed by clicking [here](#).



CROC BYTE # 3

Don't be lured into a false sense of security on the water – Be Crocwise.

Keep away from the water's edge and do not reach into the water to bring up a fish, use a landing net instead.

For more Croc Bytes download the [information sheet](#).

Acoustic Barramundi Tagging in the Roper River

Scientists from the Department of Land Resource Management, Charles Darwin University and NT Fisheries, with the assistance of the Yugul Mangi Rangers at Ngukurr have installed an array of 'listening-stations' along the river to map the movements of fish tagged with acoustic transmitters.

These transmitters emit a coded acoustic signal which is detected and logged whenever a tagged fish swims within range of a 'listening-station'. Transmitters are surgically implanted in the body cavity of fish, and can transmit for almost 4 years. The data will build a picture of how fish move throughout the river, and how they respond to different types of flow. This information will help provide an ecological basis for water policy planning in the Roper.

If you find a transmitter when cleaning a fish, please keep it, make a note of when and where the fish was caught, and contact the researchers (Peter Dostine: peter.dostine@nt.gov.au or David Crook: david.crook@cdu.edu.au).

Fish for Cancer

Northern Territory boat owners will be able to put their boats in an online auction and have people bid for the chance to go fishing with them, all to raise money and awareness for the Cancer Council NT on the May Day long weekend. From the 20th of March until the 27th boat owners all over the NT can upload a picture of their boat to the Fish For Cancer [Facebook](#) page as well a description of where they are prepared to fish, creeks, rivers, harbour, blue water etc. and the number of available places in an attempt to lure bidders to go fishing with them. Bidding commences from the 1st April until the 15th. If you have any questions or would like further comment please contact Sean Ellis on 0459440478



Permit Update- Stingray Head, Finniss River Station

Finniss River Station owners have advised that fences and signs are to be erected after the wet season to prevent access to the property. AFANT will then undertake designing a permit access system for AFANT members and affiliated clubs. The owners have requested that anybody looking to access the property in the meantime contact AFANT on 8945 6455 or at research@afant.com.au.

Barramundi Fingerlings for Manton Dam

Late last month Manton Dam received a stocking of 8,000 Barramundi fingerlings. These fish were grown out for the stocking of the Durack Lakes in Palmerston to be completed in April. These smaller fingerlings were graded, removed and stocked to prevent cannibalism from larger fingerlings at the Channel Island aquaculture centre. It is anticipated that the stocking of these fingerlings will considerably increase future populations of Barramundi at Manton Dam for recreational fishing.



Clean Up Australia Day at Stingray Head

AFANT applauds the actions of concerned local fisherwoman Sonya Maczkowiack, who with a group of eight friends, recently participated in Clean Up Australia Day at Stingray Head at the mouth of the Finniss River. Recognising the problem of littering for recreational fishermen at Stingray Head and the concerns of the owners at the Finniss River Station, Sonya and her friends collected over forty garbage bags full of rubbish in six hours including numerous broken bottles, chairs, foam containers and rusty crab pots. This is a great example of recreational fishermen looking after the environment and was greatly appreciated by the owners of the Finniss River Station.

