



Dear Member,

The tournament season is now well and truly underway this month with the Palmerston Game Fishing Club Barra Nationals in progress as I write, the Katherine Game Fishing Club Big Horse Creek Barra Classic the coming May Day long weekend and shortly after the Darwin Game Fishing Club Barra Classic. The success of these fishing tournaments as well as the economic and cultural benefits they bring to local communities is prime example of the popularity of recreational fishing in the Northern Territory which must be protected, nurtured and enhanced for future generations.

The government tender has now officially closed for the construction of both the Dundee Beach and Shady Camp boat ramps. AFANT will be closely monitoring which companies are successfully in winning this tender process and keeping an eye on the construction process.

I would like to formally welcome our newest AFANT committee member Evan Dixon. Evan joined the AFANT general committee taking over Scott Mitchell's vacant position. Evan is an extremely keen young recreational fisherman who regularly fishes in the Top End Barra Series. On another note AFANT members and affiliated club members are welcome to attend any AFANT general committee meetings. These are held on the first Thursday of each month at the AFANT office in Malak Shopping Centre at 5pm.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tristan Sloan'.

Tristan Sloan
Executive Officer

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

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Esplanade Boardwalk Stage 1 - Update

The Esplanade boardwalk should provide numerous opportunities for land based recreational fishing close to the centre of Darwin. Stage 1 of the project is to construct 400 metres of the Esplanade Boardwalk, starting from behind the Deckchair Cinema site and ending at Lameroo Beach. AFANT understands geotechnical investigations were completed in April with initial construction to commence this coming month.



Barramundi Gillnets Blocking Entrance to Creeks

AFANT has recently received correspondence from multiple fishermen regarding commercial gillnets blocking entrances to creeks in Fog Bay. A barramundi licensee must not set a gillnet across more than half of the width of the river or creek where the gillnet is set. If you suspect a fisheries offence has occurred please take video or photo of the alleged offence including gps coordinates, date and time of day and any ID markings on the floats. Please then report these details to the Water Police on (08) 8936 4819 or 0408791183.

Do not touch or interfere with the net as it is an offence to do so.



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 [Be CrocWise fact sheet](#).

Wildwatch

The NT is lucky to have healthy marine environments where marine megafauna (dolphins, turtles, dugong and whales) all occur. These animals are commonly sighted along our coastline.

Wildwatch which is run through the Marine Ecosystems, Flora and Fauna Division of the Department of Land Resource Management encourages recreational fishermen to submit sightings of marine megafauna at

<http://www.wildwatch.nt.gov.au>



For immediate assistance such as in the case of marine mammal stranding's, please contact the WildWatch Hotline 1800 453 941

FISHERIES TIP #2



Want to help protect our coastal reef fish stocks?

Keep the reef fish you catch and utilise them (within possession limits) as released fish are unlikely to survive.

Due to the fatal effects of barotrauma, reef fish shouldn't be targeted for catch and release in water deeper than 10 metres.

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

Kenbi Land Claim Settled

Last month the Kenbi land claim covering Cox Peninsula and Bynoe Harbour, one of Australia's longest-running land claims was resolved.

AFANT is pleased to report that these negotiations resulted in no detriment or loss of access for recreational fishing. Provisions were made in settlement for access to intertidal areas, camping on several of the Bynoe Harbour Islands, road access for land-based fishing locations and planning for future boat ramps.

A full scale map showing sacred sites and any access restrictions can be found by clicking [here](#).