



## DALY RIVER REVIEW 2024

### INFORMATION RATING



Key species: Barramundi  
 Fish timeframe: 2015-2024  
 Fisher timeframe: 2019-2024

Recaptures of tagged fish over the past 5 years have provided useful trends in fishing activity, travel and demographics of fishers. As recaptures are a random event this provides a useful view of fishing activity in the river.

Recaptures were made by NT resident fishers and visitors from other states on close to a 50-50 basis. Fishing activity peaks in Apr-May after the wet season and then tapers off over the dry season. Visiting fishers who recaptured fish have come from all states with fishers from NSW, Vic and Qld accounting for 74% of the visiting fishers.

Fishing activity occurs on all days of the week fairly evenly. As visiting fishers tend to stay for extended periods of time, they have the opportunity to fish during weekdays as well as during the weekend. For NT fishers there is a slightly higher level of activity on Sat and Mon.

Of interest is that 19% of recaptures were made by female fishers, a rate more frequent than recaptures in Queensland. The high rate of female participation in fishing in the NT (30+) and visiting fishers travelling as a group with fishing a prime objective when visiting the river are likely contribute to this. NT resident fishers also tend to keep recaptured legal fish at a higher rate than visitors.

The Barra Classic has been held on the Daly River since the early 1980's and is run by the Darwin Game Fishing Club and this dashboard examines the last decade from 2015-2024. The competition is normally held over 5 days in May however was cancelled in 2020 due to Covid and held in late April in 2021.

The number of fish tagged in the competition is highly variable and dependant on tides, late wet season river flows and the strength of recruitment in previous years. For the Barra Classic the trend in the overall catch rate and catch rate of legal fish has varied for the same reasons that the number of fish tagged has varied. The event provides a unique view of the trend in the catch rate over a long period of time. While the catch rate has fluctuated each year the long-term trend for legal fish over the past 25 years from 2000-2024 has shown a slight decline.

The recapture rates from the Classic (5%) and Fisheries (7%) are within the expected range of 5-10% recorded in similar waterways. However, the recapture rate of Million Dollar Fish competition fish (19%) has been influenced by the intense targeting of these fish due to the cash reward.

Product of Infofish Australia

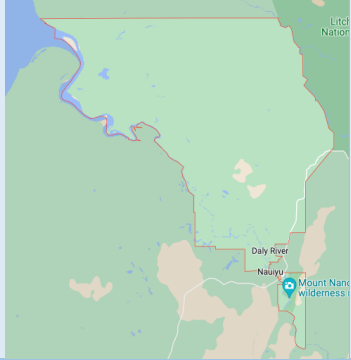

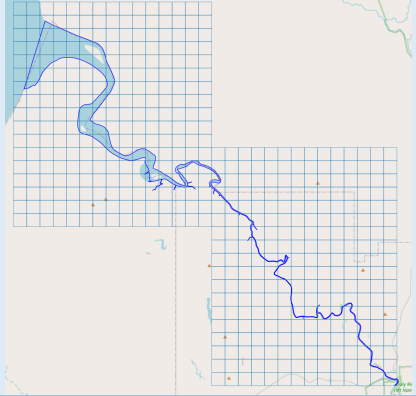
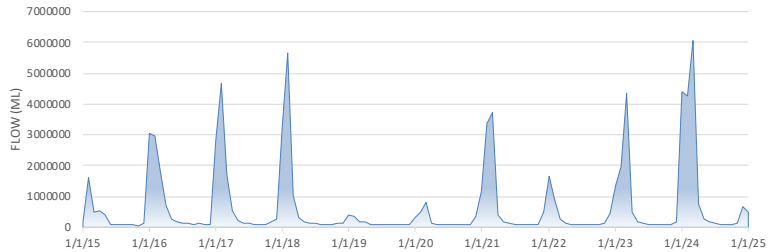



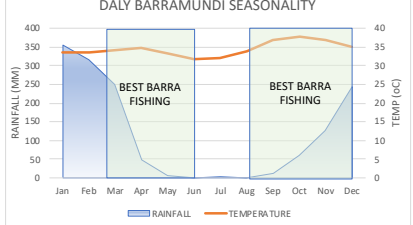
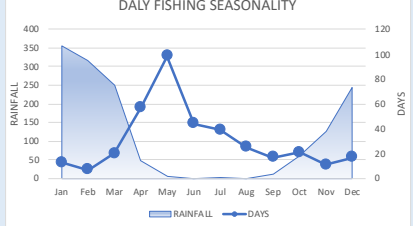
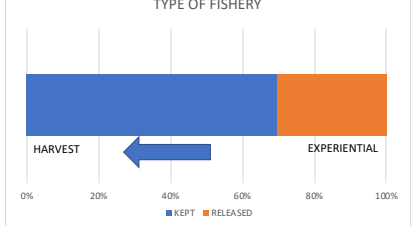
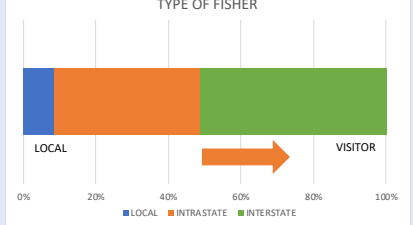
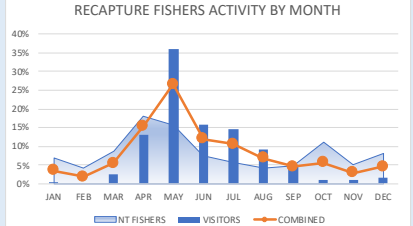
Supported by AFANT

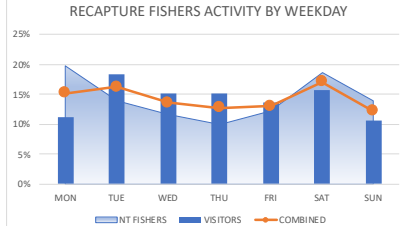
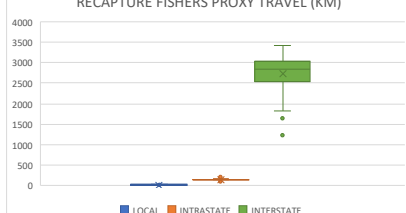
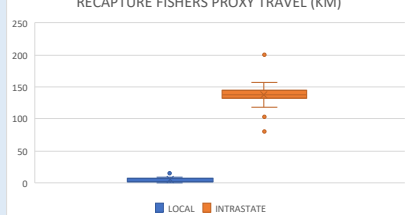
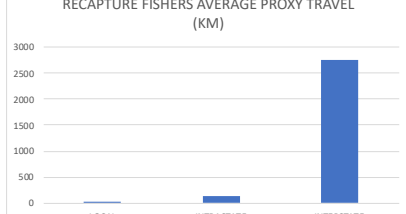
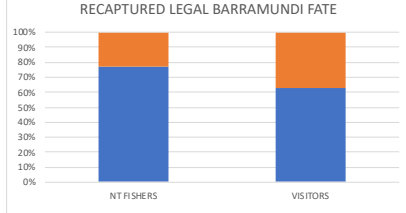
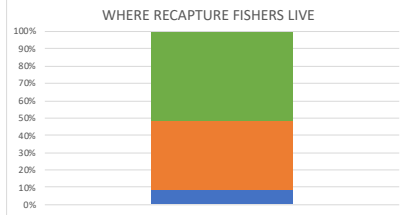


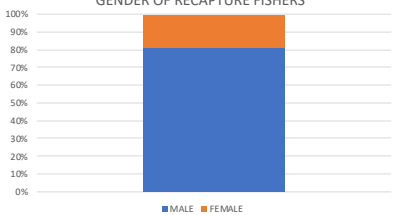
Supported by Darwin Game Fishing Club

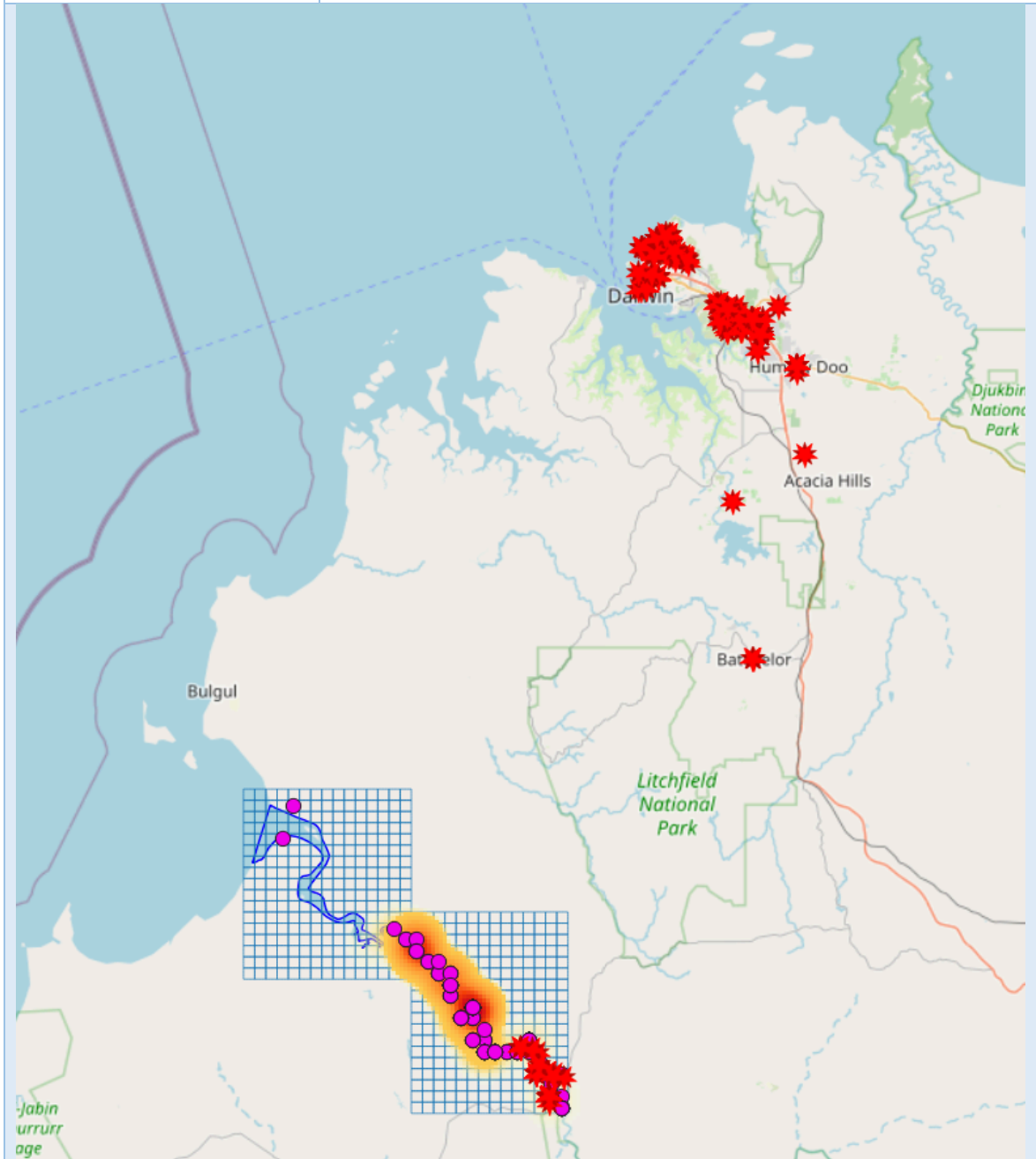


DALY RIVER		LOCATION																						
																								
DALY RIVER	ACTUAL	GRAPH or MAP																						
<p><b>Grid map</b>  <b>Daly River NTD</b></p>	<p>Daly River boat ramp  13.68°S  130.64°E</p>																							
ENVIRONMENTAL																								
<p><b>Daly River</b>  <b>Monthly flow (ML)</b>  <b>2015-2024</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DALY RIVER FLOW</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Approximate Monthly Flow Data (ML)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Peak Flow (ML)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2015</td><td>~150,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2016</td><td>~300,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2017</td><td>~450,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2018</td><td>~550,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2019</td><td>~50,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2020</td><td>~100,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2021</td><td>~350,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2022</td><td>~150,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2023</td><td>~400,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2024</td><td>~600,000</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Year	Peak Flow (ML)	2015	~150,000	2016	~300,000	2017	~450,000	2018	~550,000	2019	~50,000	2020	~100,000	2021	~350,000	2022	~150,000	2023	~400,000	2024	~600,000
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<b>Sample size (days fished)</b> <b>Recaptures (blue arrow)</b> <b>Confidence %</b> <b>Error %</b> <b>2019-2024</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Reliability level</th> <th>LOW</th> <th>MODERATE</th> <th>MODERATE</th> <th>HIGH</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Samples</td> <td>10</td> <td>41</td> <td>68</td> <td>271</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Confidence</td> <td>80%</td> <td>80%</td> <td>90%</td> <td>90%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Error</td> <td>20%</td> <td>10%</td> <td>10%</td> <td>5%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Reliability level	LOW	MODERATE	MODERATE	HIGH	Samples	10	41	68	271	Confidence	80%	80%	90%	90%	Error	20%	10%	10%	5%	
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<b>Seasonality</b> <b>Best fishing conditions</b> <b>Mean monthly rainfall (mm)</b> <b>Mean monthly day temperature (oC)</b>	<b>Best months</b> Mar-Jun <b>Sep-Dec</b>																						
<b>Months fished</b> <b>Rainfall</b> <b>Days fished</b> <b>Recapture fishers</b> <b>2019-2024</b>	<b>Most days fished</b> May Apr																						
<b>Harvest or experiential fishery</b> <b>Release rate of recaptured legal Barramundi</b> <b>2019-2024</b>	<b>Legal Barramundi fate</b> Legal fish 289 Kept 201 (70%) Released 88 (30%)																						
<b>Local or visitor fishery</b> <b>Where recapture fishers live</b> <b>2019-2024</b>	<b>Recapture fishers</b> 323 Local 28 (9%) Visitor 295 (91%)																						
<b>ACTIVITY</b>																							
<b>Monthly activity by recapture fishers</b> <b>NT fishers</b> <b>Visitors</b> <b>2019-2024</b>	<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>NT fishers</td> <td>Month</td> <td>%</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Apr</td> <td>18%</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>May</td> <td>16%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Visitors</td> <td>May</td> <td>36%</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Jun</td> <td>16%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	NT fishers	Month	%		Apr	18%		May	16%	Visitors	May	36%		Jun	16%							
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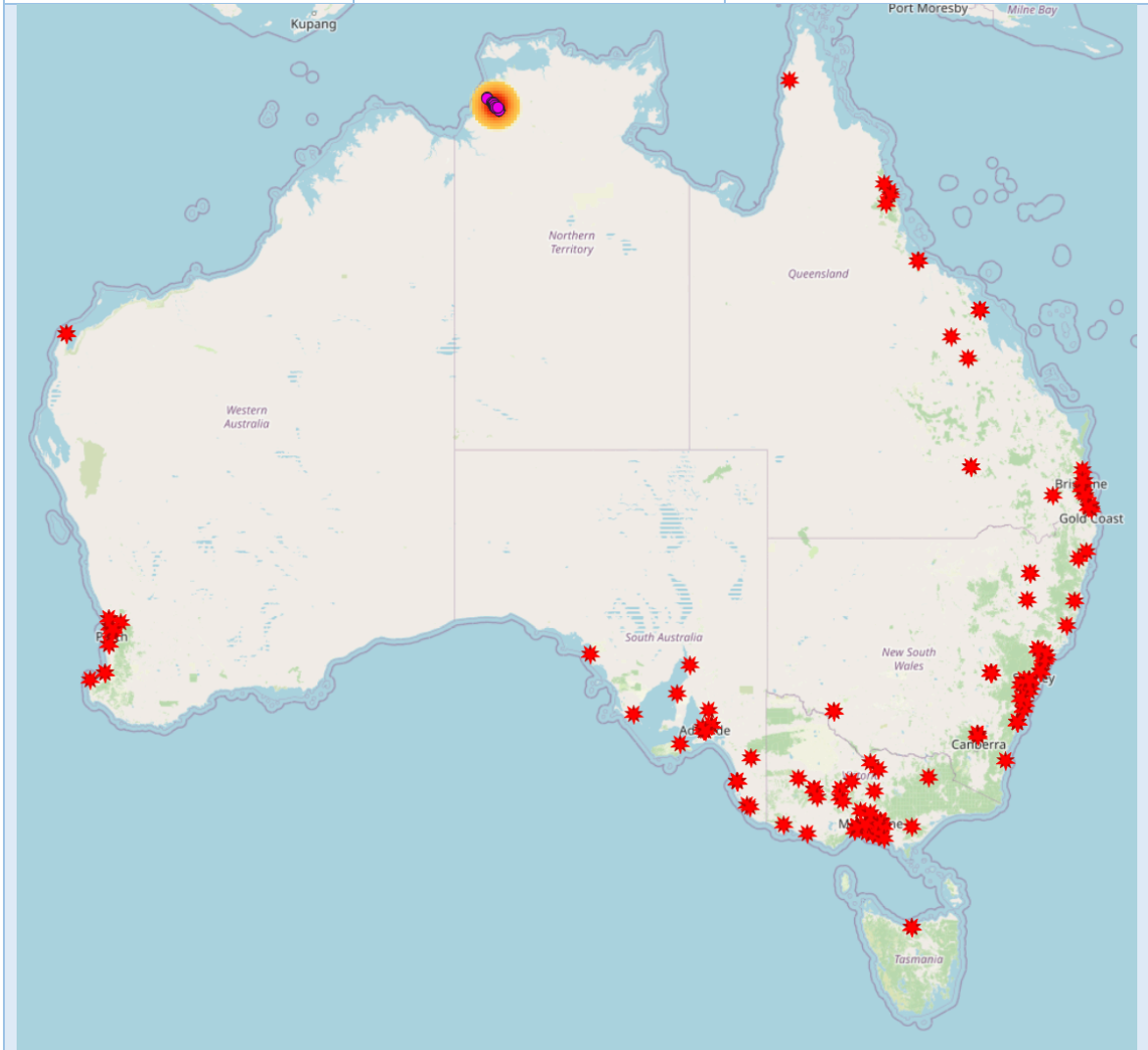
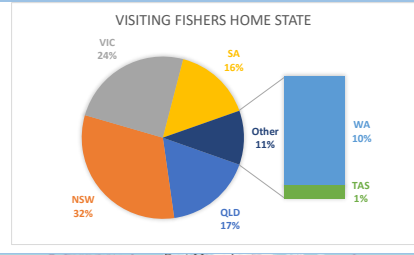
<b>Weekday activity by recapture fishers</b> <b>NT fishers</b> <b>Visitors</b> <b>2019-2024</b>	NT fishers Weekend 33% Weekdays 67% Visitors Weekend 26% Weekdays 74%	 <p>RECAPTURE FISHERS ACTIVITY BY WEEKDAY</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Day</th> <th>NT Fishers (%)</th> <th>Visitors (%)</th> <th>Combined (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>MON</td><td>10</td><td>15</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>TUE</td><td>15</td><td>18</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>WED</td><td>10</td><td>15</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>THU</td><td>10</td><td>15</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>FRI</td><td>10</td><td>15</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>SAT</td><td>15</td><td>18</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>SUN</td><td>10</td><td>15</td><td>15</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Day	NT Fishers (%)	Visitors (%)	Combined (%)	MON	10	15	15	TUE	15	18	18	WED	10	15	15	THU	10	15	15	FRI	10	15	15	SAT	15	18	18	SUN	10	15	15
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<b>Fate of recaptured legal Barramundi</b> <b>2019-2024</b>	NT Fishers 137 Kept 106 (77%) Released 31 (23%) Visitors 152 Kept 95 (62%) Released 57 (38%)	 <p>RECAPTURED LEGAL BARRAMUNDI FATE</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Kept (%)</th> <th>Released (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>NT FISHERS</td><td>77</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>VISITORS</td><td>62</td><td>38</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	Kept (%)	Released (%)	NT FISHERS	77	23	VISITORS	62	38																							
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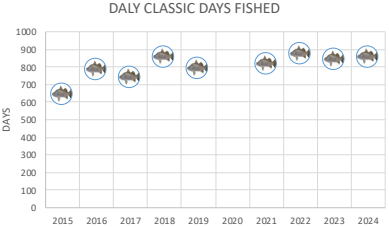
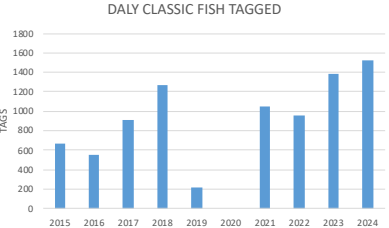
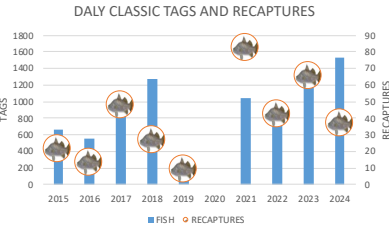
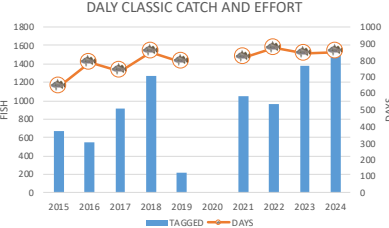
<b>Gender of recapture fishers 2019-2024</b>	Fishers Male 292 (81%) Female 67 (19%)	<b>GENDER OF RECAPTURE FISHERS</b> 
<b>Where NT fishers live (red stars) that recaptured fish Recaptures (pink dots) 2019-2024</b>	NT fishers 158	



**Where visiting fishers live (red stars) that recaptured fish 2019-2024**

QLD	29 (17%)
NSW	53 (32%)
VIC	41 (25%)
TAS	2 (1%)
SA	26 (16%)
WA	16 (10%)
Total	167



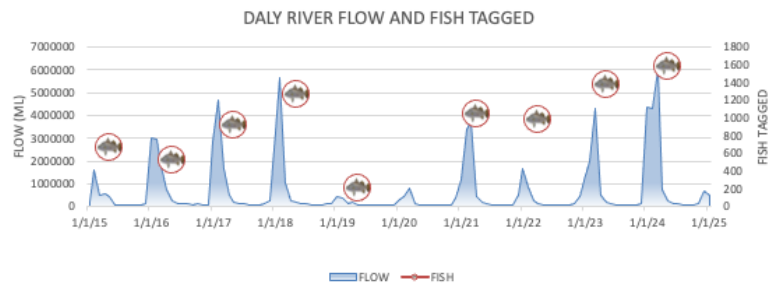
BARRA CLASSIC	ACTUAL	GRAPH or MAP																								
<b>Target species</b> <b>Barramundi</b>																										
<b>CLASSIC DAYS</b>																										
<b>Classic days fished</b> <b>2014-2023</b> <b>Days fished each year</b> <b>5</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>High</th> <th>Low</th> <th>Now</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Days</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022</td> <td>2015</td> <td>2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>875</td> <td>640*</td> <td>850</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">*records for 1 day missing</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	High	Low	Now	Days			2022	2015	2024	875	640*	850	*records for 1 day missing												
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<b>Classic fish recaptured from year tagged</b> <b>2015-2024</b> Recaptures will continue to increase from last few years tagging	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Highest Recaptured</th> <th>Lowest Recaptured</th> <th>Now</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2021</td> <td>2019</td> <td>2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>82</td> <td>9</td> <td>37</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7.8%</td> <td>4.2%</td> <td>2.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Recapture rate overall 4.0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Highest Recaptured	Lowest Recaptured	Now	2021	2019	2024	82	9	37	7.8%	4.2%	2.4%	Recapture rate overall 4.0%												
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<b>Classic catch and effort</b> <b>Fish tagged</b> <b>Days fished</b> <b>2015-2024</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>High</th> <th>Low</th> <th>Now</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Tagged</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018</td> <td>2019</td> <td>2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1272</td> <td>215</td> <td>1528</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Days</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022</td> <td>2015</td> <td>2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>875</td> <td>640</td> <td>850</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	High	Low	Now	Tagged			2018	2019	2024	1272	215	1528	Days			2022	2015	2024	875	640	850				
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<b>Long term change in tag rate of legal fish 2000-2024 (25 years)</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Tag rate</th> <th>fish/day</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2000</td> <td>0.65</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td>0.27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019</td> <td>0.08</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2024</td> <td>1.80</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Tag rate	fish/day	2000	0.65	2010	0.27	2019	0.08	2024	1.80	<p>BARRA CLASSIC CATCH RATES LEGAL FISH 2000-2024</p>											
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<b>Classic percentage sizes undersize &lt;550mm legal-trophy 550-999mm trophy 1000mm+ 2015-2024</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Highest</th> <th>Lowest</th> <th>Now</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Legal-trophy</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017</td> <td>2019</td> <td>2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>67%</td> <td>28%</td> <td>57%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trophy</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015</td> <td>21-23</td> <td>2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1.5%</td> <td>0%</td> <td>0.1%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Highest	Lowest	Now	Legal-trophy			2017	2019	2024	67%	28%	57%	Trophy			2015	21-23	2024	1.5%	0%	0.1%	<p>BARRA CLASSIC LENGTHS</p>
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<b>Comparison of recapture rates Classic Fisheries Million Dollar Fish 2019-2024</b>	<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Classic</td> <td>5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fisheries</td> <td>7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Classic MDF</td> <td>19%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Classic	5%	Fisheries	7%	Classic MDF	19%	<p>COMPARISON OF DALY RECAPTURE RATES</p>															
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## RIVER FLOWS AND FISH TAGGED

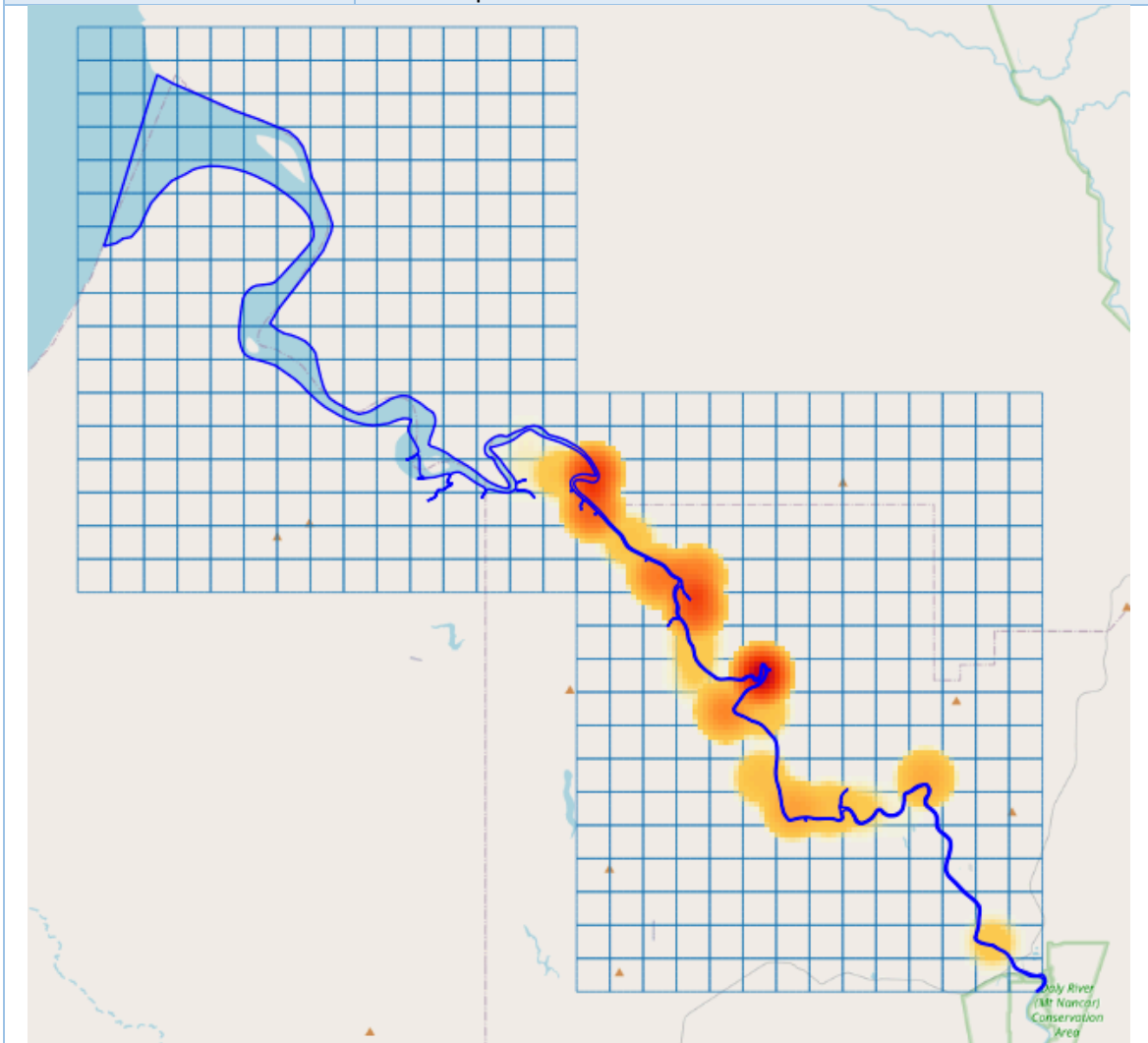
River flows and Classic Barramundi tagged 2015-2024



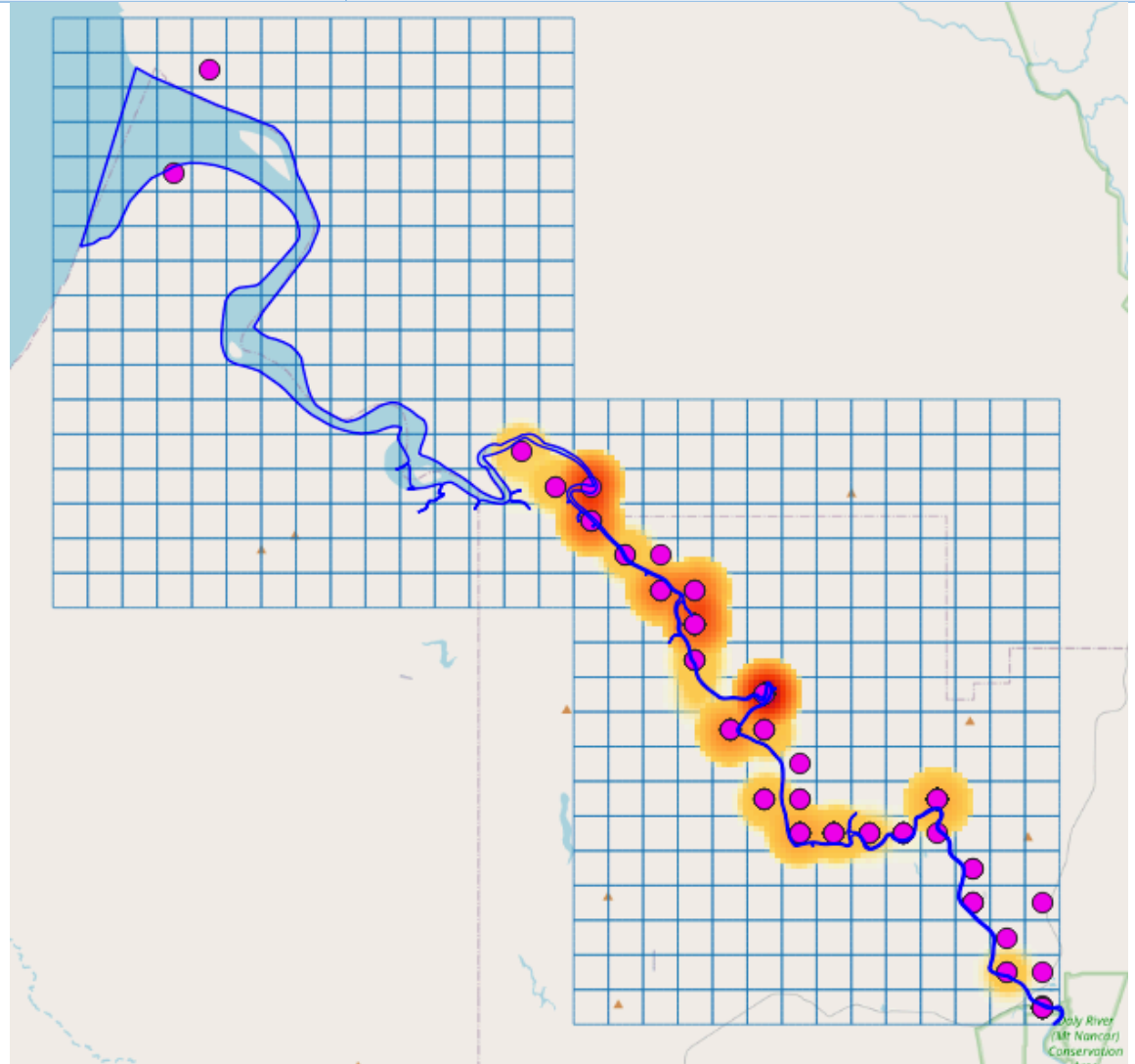
## LOCATIONS

Classic tag locations (red-orange heatmap) 2015-2024

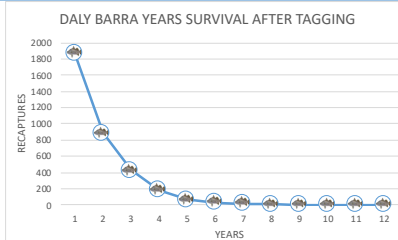
2015-2023	
Fish tagged	7009
Fish with locations	1861 (27%)
2024	
Fish tagged	1575
Fish with locations	497 (32%)
Hottest spot	S bends

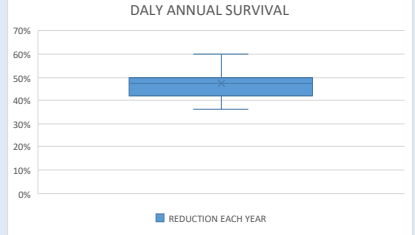
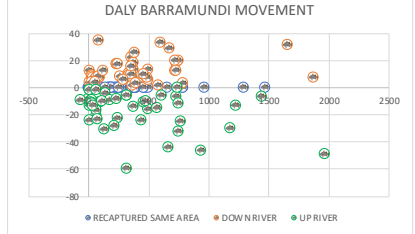
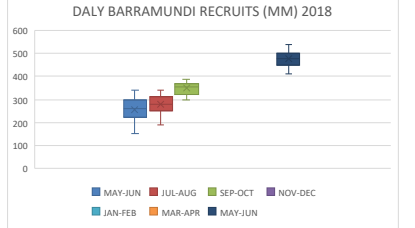


Classic recapture locations  
 Tags (red-orange heatmap)  
 Recaptures (pink dots)  
 2015-2024



SURVIVAL		
<b>Years fish survive after tagging</b> <b>Tagged and recaptured 1990-2024</b>	Recaptures in	
	Year 1	1868
	Year 2	886
	Year 5	65
	Year 10	2
	Longest years out	11.9



<b>Annual survival rate after tagging 1990-2024</b>	Average annual survival rate 50%																							
<b>GROWTH</b>																								
<b>Growth Barramundi tagged and recaptured 2015-2024</b>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>Growth (mm)</b></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 1</td> <td style="text-align: right;">111</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 2</td> <td style="text-align: right;">197</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 3</td> <td style="text-align: right;">283</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 4</td> <td style="text-align: right;">369</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 5</td> <td style="text-align: right;">455</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>N=274</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			<b>Growth (mm)</b>		Year 1	111		Year 2	197		Year 3	283		Year 4	369		Year 5	455		N=274			
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<b>Annual growth (mm/year) for size range of fish when tagged 2015-2024</b>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>Size range</b></td> <td><b>Growth/year</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>400-499</td> <td style="text-align: right;">106</td> </tr> <tr> <td>500-599</td> <td style="text-align: right;">109</td> </tr> <tr> <td>600-699</td> <td style="text-align: right;">84</td> </tr> <tr> <td>700-799</td> <td style="text-align: right;">83</td> </tr> </table>		<b>Size range</b>	<b>Growth/year</b>	400-499	106	500-599	109	600-699	84	700-799	83												
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## DATA SOURCES

Data used in the Daly Barramundi Crystal Bowl are:

- Tag records from Barra Classic competition provided by AFANT and available from <http://crystalbowl.infofishaustralia.com.au/>.
- Tag records provided from monitoring by electrofishing by Northern Territory Fisheries and available from <http://crystalbowl.infofishaustralia.com.au/>.
- Recapture records of tagged fish collected by AFANT and available from <http://crystalbowl.infofishaustralia.com.au/>.
- Locations based on Infofish grid maps Daly River (NTD), Daly River Nancar (DRN), Daly River Oolloo (DRO), Daly River Claravale (DRC) and Channel Point (CPD) where location specified
- River flow records for Daly River at the Mount Nancar station G8140040 from <https://nt.gov.au/environment/water/water-data-portal>.

## BASIS FOR ANALYSIS

- Tag data were available for all years from the Barra Classic however there are no tag records for the last day of the Classic in 2015 – 17/5/2015.
- Recruitment has been assessed using Fisheries monitoring data for fish from 0-400mm from May-Sep as year 1 recruits and Classic fish from 400-550mm as year 2 recruits and the data have not been adjusted for effort so that reduces the reliability of the recruitment data.
- Locations have been plotted at the grid scale (2km<sup>2</sup>) where there were sufficient data to identify the location in map NTD and a heat map produced showing tagging however only 27% of locations had sufficient data to identify a grid from 2015-23 while it was 32% in 2024, so the map may not reflect the overall effort.
- Survival was based on the survival rate since 1990 of tags in each year until exhausted which resulted in a 50% survival/attrition rate per year.
- For recapture fishers where they live was obtained for the fisher's address, town or suburb, or postcode which ever was available.
- Distance from recapture fisher's home to recapture location calculated as the straight line distance using Google Earth.