

# Handling of barramundi

The effects of two types of landing nets on injuries to large fish were experimentally assessed at the aquarium facilities of the Territory Wildlife Park, Northern Territory. The two types of net, the knotted and knotless landing net, represented two commonly available nets in the NT.

Barramundi were caught and held in the landing nets for 60 seconds and then released into a glass aquarium where injuries to the body and fins were visually scored.

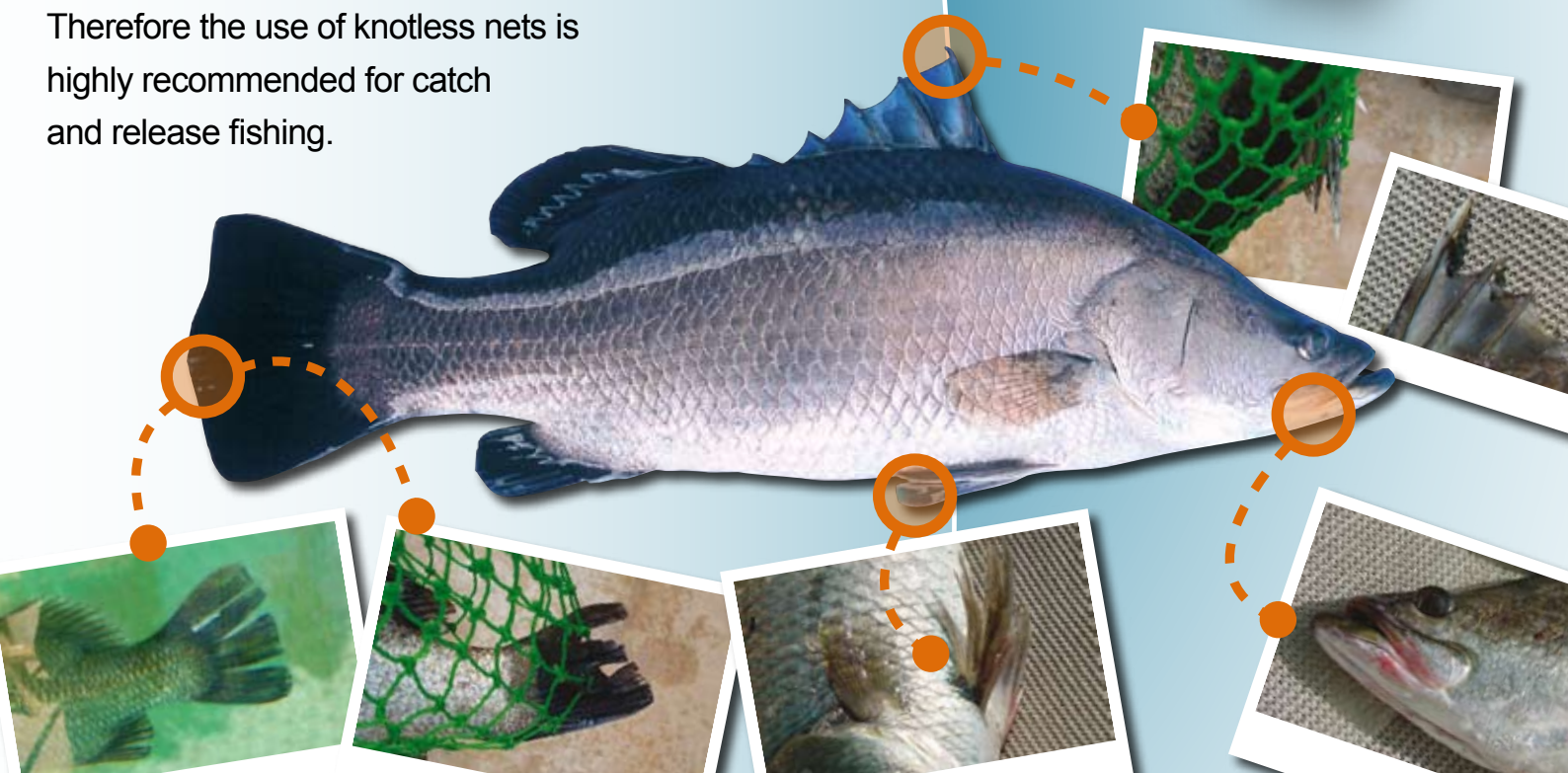
All of the barramundi examined showed some skin abrasions and fin damage after being held in the landing nets but the extent of damage was much greater for those fish held in the knotted net.

Therefore the use of knotless nets is highly recommended for catch and release fishing.

Knotted landing net



Knotless landing net



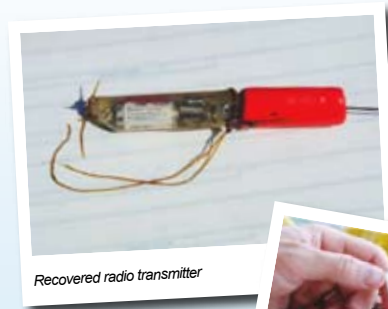
# What happens to the barramundi you release?

**A study was conducted by the Fisheries Group of the Northern Territory Government to investigate the post-release survival and stress response of barramundi caught and released by anglers.**

To assess the physiological stress and recovery times of angler caught barramundi, blood samples were taken from over 100 landed fish and analysed for changes in the blood chemistry.

To determine the post-release survival rate, angler caught barramundi were tagged with radio transmitters and tracked for up to 7 days.

The study found that the post-release survival rate of barramundi in a freshwater environment is about 90%. It also found that barramundi caught in the build-up were more stressed by the experience than those caught in the dry season, and consequently, the post-release survival rate in the wet season was lower.



Recovered radio transmitter



Drawing blood for analysis



One that didn't survive - a post-release mortality

