



MEDIA RELEASE

Public interfering with croc traps

Parks and Wildlife Service Rangers are asking the public not to interfere with crocodile traps placed in Darwin Harbour.

The request follows two reported incidents of members of the public releasing crocodiles from traps located in Woods Inlet.

Senior Wildlife Ranger, Tommy Nichols, said the recent acts were interfering with the crocodile management program for Darwin Harbour.

“These incidents of people freeing crocodiles caught in our traps are not only disrupting the crocodile management program, but they are taking an enormous risk with their own lives,” Mr Nichols said.

“We know of two confirmed incidents of people freeing the trapped crocodiles, the most recent being yesterday.

“A member of the public reported to the Parks and Wildlife Service a crocodile was in the trap at Woods Inlet yesterday, and when we ventured out there we discovered it had been released.”

Mr Nichols said both crocodiles freed from traps were three metre long saltwater reptiles.

Mr Nichols said the Parks and Wildlife Service had received reports of two males and a female in a red and white hulled dingy, releasing a crocodile from the Woods Inlet trap about three weeks ago.

“It is likely the same people were involved in the release of the crocodile yesterday at Woods Inlet, and at the same trap three weeks ago,” he said.

“These people are not only tampering with Government property, there are risking their own safety by performing this act.

“One false move by people performing this ludicrous act and they could end up in a very bad state courtesy of the crocodile.”

The crocodile management program for Darwin Harbour has resulted in 107 crocodiles being removed from the area this year.

A total of 243 crocodiles were caught in the same area last year.

Media note: for more information contact Tommy Nicholls on 0419 822 859

Ends.

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