



Northern Territory Government

Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts

MEDIA RELEASE

Alleged Crocodile Sighting At Nitmiluk National Park

Swimming and canoeing has been suspended at Nitmiluk National Park after an alleged sighting of a 2.7m saltwater crocodile.

Senior Wildlife Officer Pat Carmody said a spotlight survey would be conducted tonight to locate the crocodile.

Mr Carmody said if tonight's survey failed to locate the crocodile a helicopter survey would be undertaken tomorrow to confirm the sighting.

"We have reason to believe there could be a crocodile within the first gorge at Nitmiluk National Park so we will be doing our best to find it," Mr Carmody said.

"It is that time of year when crocodiles are on the move and the last crocodile we removed from the gorge was 3.5m in 1999 so they are certainly known to make their way in there.

"If and when we do find the crocodile we will catch it and take it to a crocodile farm, which will most likely be the Coolabah Crocodile Farm 200km west of where we are."

Mr Carmody said seven crocodiles had so far been removed from the Katherine River this year, which equates to the annual average.

The crocodile was first spotted by a canoeist last Sunday although rangers were not told about it until today, which prompted an immediate suspension of swimming and canoeing in the area.

Regular crocodile surveys are undertaken and a permanent trap is located within the first gorge as part of the Katherine River Crocodile Management Strategy.

Media note – For more information contact Pat Carmody 8973 8877

Ends

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