

Media Release:

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Crocodile Removed from Katherine River

Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service recently captured a 2.7m saltwater crocodile in the Katherine River, downstream of the King River junction on Manbulloo Station.

Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport senior scientist Anne Walters said a trap was put in the area after a reported sighting by a tourist operator on Wednesday, 15 October and the crocodile was captured the following Monday, 20 October 2008.

“Traps are placed throughout the Katherine River and baited once or twice a week, with additional traps set up should there be any reports from the public of saltwater crocodiles in the area,” Dr Walters said.

“While saltwater crocodiles are not as common as they are in the Top End, with 237 crocodiles removed from Darwin Harbour in 2007, the Katherine Parks and Wildlife Service have removed a total of 15 saltwater crocodiles from the Katherine region over the past two years.

“The public should be aware that estuarine (saltwater) crocodiles can inhabit waters throughout the Darwin and Katherine regions of the Northern Territory, including freshwater rivers and billabongs.

“There are signs throughout all public sections of the Katherine River advising the public that both saltwater and freshwater crocodiles inhabit the area.”

Crocodile traps throughout the Katherine River are monitored by three Katherine based Parks and Wildlife Officers.

“This year traps have been rotated with additional traps placed in the river in response to sightings from the public,” Dr Walters said.

“We also have additional staff available to assist with harpooning procedures should traps prove to be ineffective in a particular area.”

Crocodile management is considered to be a very important component of the activities of staff in this region and remains a priority.

Members of the public are encouraged to report estuarine crocodile sightings to Parks and Wildlife on 8973 8888.

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Anne Walters on 8995 5007

Image: 2.7m saltwater crocodile captured in the crocodile trap

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