

Media Release:

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Crocodiles Removed in 2008

A total of 190 crocodiles have been removed from the Darwin Harbour and surrounding region throughout 2008 as part of the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport crocodile management program.

NRETAS' Parks and Wildlife Service senior ranger Tom Nichols said they have also removed an additional 30 crocodiles from outside the Darwin management zone area.

"We remove crocodiles from the harbour to reduce the risk of crocodile incidents," Mr Nichols said.

"The largest crocodile we removed was 4.4m and was found in Coroborree, although there were a number of crocodiles in the harbour around 3.6m in length. On average we remove around three crocodiles every week."

Throughout the year Tom Nichols and his partner Robert Risk have removed crocodiles from swimming pools, backyards, man made dams, tourist spots, popular beaches and marinas.

"While we do have traps throughout the harbour and focus our energies on removing as many crocodiles as possible the public need to be aware that there are, and will continue to be crocodiles in Darwin Harbour," Mr Nichols said.

NRETAS' Wildlife Management senior manager Dr Anne Walters said four crocodiles had been captured in the Katherine region this year.

"The largest crocodile we removed was a 2.7m male near Manbullo Station, and the remaining three crocodiles were all 2.2m females.

"Two of the females removed were from near Ballongilly Farm and the other one was in Flora River Nature Park.

"Crocodile traps throughout the Katherine River are removed each year just prior to the onset of the wet season to prevent them being washed away or damaged when the river floods, so people need to be particularly vigilant and report any crocodile sightings."

Saltwater crocodiles removed from the Darwin or Katherine regions are taken to nearby Crocodile Farms.

People who come across crocodiles in the Top End should call Parks and Wildlife on 0419 822 859, or 0419 828 487 for the Katherine region.

Ends

Image – Parks and Wildlife Officer Robert Risk with Crocodile in Trap.

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