

Media Release:

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Crocodile Removed from Donkey Camp

A 4.64 metre male estuarine (saltwater) crocodile was removed from a crocodile trap located in the Katherine River at Donkey Camp yesterday, Tuesday 3 May 2011.

Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service Wildlife Ranger Joey Buckerfield said it was the first crocodile pulled out of the region this year.

“The traps are removed from Katherine River at the beginning of the wet season as they become difficult to bait and check with rising river levels and may be swept away or damaged by heavy rain,” Mr Buckerfield said.

“The traps have recently been placed back in the Katherine River for the duration of the dry season.

“We received a report from a member of the public that there may have been a large crocodile in the area on Friday. The crocodile was discovered in the trap yesterday.

“There was also a 3.4 metre male estuarine (saltwater) crocodile removed from a permanent trap located in Wangi Creek, which is 1km downstream from Wangi Falls and upstream from the causeway.”

Wangi Falls is seasonally closed due to the high water levels and increased risk of estuarine (saltwater) crocodiles entering the plunge pool through the wet season.

The plunge pool has been closed since 22 November 2010, however the kiosk and picnic area remain open for visitors.

This is another reminder to people to be extremely cautious about any waterways in the Top End, because estuarine crocodiles can and do move around throughout the year.

“Only swim in designated swimming areas,” Mr Buckerfield said.

This now brings the number of crocodiles caught in the NT this year to 116.

The Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport (NRETAS) urges the public to **BE CROCWISE** and remember that croc danger is real, so don't risk your life. For more information go to www.nt.gov.au/becrowise

For more information concerning parks access in the Northern Territory go to www.nt.gov.au/nreta/parks/access

To report estuarine (saltwater) crocodile sightings in the Darwin region phone 0419 822 859 or in the Katherine region phone 0407 958 405.

**Media Note – for further information contact Joey Buckerfield 0419 822 859
Image: Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service Wildlife Rangers Joey Buckerfield and Rachel Pearce**

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