

Media Release:

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Crocodile Traps Removed From Katherine River for Wet Season

The Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport (NRETAS) advises that crocodile traps have been removed from the Katherine River for the wet season.

Parks and Wildlife Service Senior Wildlife Ranger John Burke says rangers undertake an estuarine (saltwater) crocodile trapping program to help reduce the risk of saltwater crocodiles in public areas and lower the chance of crocodiles entering Katherine Gorge.

“At this time of year, it is common practice for us to remove the traps in Katherine River, as rising water levels make it difficult for us to bait and check the traps,” said Mr Burke.

“By removing them now, we can also protect the traps from being swept away or damaged during wet season storms, as well as get an opportunity to undertake repairs and maintenance so the traps are ready to be placed back in the Katherine River at the end of the wet season.”

Mr Burke said 12 estuarine crocodiles have been captured this year in the Katherine River saltwater crocodile management zone, and the public is advised to be extremely cautious about any waterways in this region and throughout the Top End.

“We recommend that people don’t swim or enter the water at any location unless there is a sign that clearly states that swimming is permitted,” said Mr Burke.

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/becrocwise.

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

Ends

Media Note – for more information, contact John Burke on 0419 828 487.

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