

More Resources for Recreational Fishing

With some of the best fishing spots in the world, recreational fishing is a key part of our great Territory lifestyle.

Fishing is also an important part of the NT economy, attracting tourists to the region and providing a boost to local business.

The Government wants to ensure that recreational fishers have the resources and infrastructure they need to access our pristine waterways.

Opening up our waterways for recreational fishing

Budget 2004 includes funding for further upgrades of recreational fishing infrastructure and facilities as part of a \$1.5 million boost over three years, including:

- \$500 000 for improvements for Palmerston anglers and better access points for recreational fishing at Mule Creek and Rocky Creek (near Borroloola).
- This builds on \$1 million worth of improvements to the Buffalo Creek and Dinah Beach boat ramps to be completed in 2003-04.
- \$150 000 for the Fishing Access Working Group to continue work to increase access to recreational fishing spots.
- continued support for the Aquatic Resource Users Group forum to manage resource reallocation issues including the closure of Adelaide River to commercial barramundi fishing.

Work is also continuing on opening up access to Channel Point and Point Stuart for recreational fishers.

Supporting angler groups

The Territory Government is committed to working closely with recreational fishing groups to ensure better management of fishing issues and to provide them with essential resources.

In 2004-05, AFANT will receive \$160 000 to support them in representing recreational fishers, while \$10 000 in small grants will be provided to various fishing associations.

The Riverwatch program which has established information centres on the Daly, Mary and McArthur river systems, will be extended to include the Roper and Victoria River systems.

The Territory Government is also undertaking a \$100 000 review of the *Fisheries Act* to canvas environmental, Indigenous, commercial, recreational and community requirements for fishing into the future. The consultation phase of the review will be completed by mid 2005.

