31 January 2008

**Shady Camp And Harbour Fishing Gets Even Better**

Darwin Harbour and Shoal Bay will be closed to inshore commercial coastal net fishing from tomorrow – making recreational fishing even better.

Acting Fisheries Minister Marion Scrymgour said removing inshore coastal nets will ensure resources are protected into the future.

“Removing both current and potential commercial effort will ensure our fisheries remain healthy and everyone has a good chance of catching a barra.

“Fishing is the lure of the Territory and more people go fishing in Darwin Harbour and Shoal Bay than any other part of the Top End.

The Territory’s Barramundi Season also officially opens at midnight tonight for recreational anglers visiting Shady Camp and the lower Daly River.

“Between October and February recreational barramundi fishing is prohibited on the Mary River below the Shady Camp barrage and on the Daly River below Moon Billabong.

“The purpose of the closures is to protect spawning barramundi during the breeding season.

“These closures enhance the long term sustainability of fish stocks and reduce the potential for localised over fishing.

“Recreational fishing is a major contributor to the Territory economy and it is important that we have appropriate management arrangements in place.

“Anglers heading to the Mary River Fish Management Area need to be aware of a number of fishing regulations which specifically apply to this area.

These include:

-Only two barramundi allowed in possession (5 per person elsewhere)
-A minimum length of 55cm
-Single hook use only within 100m of Shady Camp barrage

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