Big Wet Equals Big Expectations At The 2008 Barra Nationals

Fisheries Minister Chris Natt will officially open one of Australia’s leading barramundi fishing tournaments this weekend – the Northern Territory’s 2008 Barra Nationals.

“Fishing is the lure of the Territory and this year we have a full field of entrants – with 80 of the 171 entrants coming from interstate,” Mr Natt said.

“And not only will competitors be hoping to catch a large barramundi on the Daly River, they will also be able to capture their memories of the Barra Nationals on a new electronic-book.

“The new e-book is a brilliant idea whereby event organisers – the Palmerston Game Fishing Club – will compile a complete record of the tournament including vision, photographs and catch data of the event so competitors will be able to show friends and families – interstate and overseas – just how good catching a barra in the Territory can be.

“Fishing is a great part of the Territory lifestyle - and more than 100,000 tourists who come here say they wet a line during their stay.

“Recreational and fishing tourism is a significant contributor to our economy - evidenced by the value of cars, boats and other associated equipment used to take part in this event.

“I’d like to congratulate the Palmerston Game Fishing Club for hosting such a magnificent event, and to its coordinator of the past eight years, Paul Williams, who is retiring from the role.

“This is the 13th year the Barra Nationals have been held and the 10th year at the Banyan Farm - last year 1121 barramundi were caught and released, with six over the magic metre mark.

“The sustained wet season is expected to enhance barramundi recruitment, so last year’s catch could be exceeded.

“Anglers who have fished the Daly River recently say the barra are rather fat and healthy – so this year’s competitors are looking forward to some excellent fishing conditions.

“The Territory Government is committed to improving recreational fishing for all Territorians, and events such as the Barra Nationals really highlight what a valuable resource the Daly River is and how important it is to protect it.”

Mr Natt also said a tender to build a $450,000 floating pontoon at Dinah Beach would be advertised tomorrow. Construction is expected to begin in June and be complete by September.

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