Big Fish Set To Bite At 2008 Barra Classic

Competitors from three continents are set to descend upon the Daly River this weekend for one of the world’s premier fishing tournaments - the 27th annual Barra Classic.

Fisheries Minister Chris Natt today said this iconic fishing competition has attracted local and interstate competitors as well as individuals from Germany and the USA.

“Fishing really is the lure of the Territory and I congratulate tournament organisers – the Darwin Game Fishing Club – for continually attracting competitors from around the world,” Mr Natt said.

“I recently fished the Daly and I know there are a lot of big barra to be caught.

“More than 1000 fish are set to be caught and released during the tournament – which will see 135 anglers from 45 teams battling it out to be crowned the 2008 Barra Classic champions.

“This year there are 15 local teams, 10 all-interstate teams and 20 teams of locals and interstate – with three of these teams being all-female.

“And not only is the Barra Classic one of the world’s most enjoyable fishing tournaments - it has achieved a five-star rating from NEATfish (National Environmental Assessment of Tournament Fishing) which is the highest rating available.”

Orientation and a junior Barra Classic fun day and clinic will be held this weekend before the five day tournament begins on 12 May.

“Fishing is part of the great Territory lifestyle and that is why this Government continues to work hard to make recreational fishing even better in the Territory,” Mr Natt said.

“The Territory Government has increased its annual fishing infrastructure budget from $500,000 to $1 million – on top of the $5.26 million it has allocated towards the construction of a new fishing facility at East Arm, a new floating pontoon at Dinah Beach boat ramp and a new boat ramp at Channel Point near the mouth of the Daly River.

“The Territory Government continues to work with and listen to recreational fishermen to make fishing in the Territory even better.”

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