Darwin Aquaculture Centre celebrates 10th anniversary

Recognised as one of Australia’s leading aquaculture research and development facilities, the Darwin Aquaculture Centre (DAC) has marked 10 years of service to the Northern Territory aquaculture industry.

The Minister for Fisheries, Kon Vatskalis, today presented staff at Darwin Aquaculture Centre (DAC) at Channel Island with a commemorative plaque to mark the milestone.

“The Darwin Aquaculture Centre (DAC) and its staff have been integral to the establishment and growth of a number of aquaculture industries in the NT including, barramundi, sea cucumber and pearl production,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“Aquaculture is worth around $25 million to the Territory economy every year and without the work carried out at DAC many of the techniques that are used in this industry today would not exist.”

Some of the achievements of Darwin Aquaculture Centre (DAC) include –
- more than 10 million barramundi fingerlings produced;
- more than 100,000 mud crabs produced;
- 500 giant clams produced;
- assisted industry to produce more than 100,000 sea cucumbers;
- hosted students/trainee workers from every state in Australia as well as many overseas countries including Vietnam, France, Mexico and Brunei;

“DAC has also been instrumental in the development of a farmed barramundi industry in the NT,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“As well as providing technical assistance to the farms, the centre has continually developed and refined barramundi hatchery techniques.”

Mr Vatskalis said the excellent reputation of Darwin Aquaculture Centre (DAC) has led to requests for advice and assistance from aquaculture farms right across the Northern Territory, interstate and overseas.

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