Barramundi Season Begins

The Northern Territory’s 2009 barramundi season officially opens tomorrow.

The Minister for Fisheries, Kon Vatskalis, said the commercial barramundi fishery operates from 1 February to 30 September each year hooking an average of 1000 tonnes of barramundi and threadfin salmon, valued at around $5 million.

“Barramundi is the iconic fish species of the Northern Territory and is highly valued by Territorians as an important resource for food, lifestyle and culture,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“The commercial sector supplies our restaurants and seafood retailers with the great tasting barramundi that both locals and tourists enjoy.”

The commercial fishery is closed between October and February each year to help protect breeding stocks.

“Barramundi gather at the mouths of the Territory’s rivers for spawning before each wet season making them easy targets. The closure months ensure the fish are given the greatest chance to breed successfully,” he said.

The opening of the commercial season also coincides with the opening of sections of the Mary and Daly Rivers to recreational anglers.

“Recreational fishing for a prized barra is a highly valued part of our great Territory lifestyle and also attracts thousands of visitors to the Top End each year,” said Mr Vatskalis.

Anglers are reminded that recreational fishing controls, including a possession limit of 5 barramundi (2 in the Mary River Fish Management Zone) and a minimum size limit of 55cm are in place to protect barramundi stocks and ensure a high quality fishery.

Information on Northern Territory fishing rules can be found [http://www.nt.gov.au/d/Fisheries](http://www.nt.gov.au/d/Fisheries)

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