By CHRIS ERTITY

THIS weekend will see the start of the Palmerston Game Fishing Club Barra Nationals on the Daly River with 60 teams competing.

After a reasonable wet season this year, competitors are hopeful of a much better year after struggling in 2013 on the Daly. Recent reports suggest the fishing should be much better with many metre-plus barra landed over the Easter break on the spring tide phase.

This week the tides are building again and already there have been some good fish landed.

The Barra Nationals will start on the back end of these springs so hopefully the big barra should have moved up the river and will be holding there ready to feed.

As the tides neap out the water clarity should improve and trolling the snags and rock bars will be the way to go. My team, The Scurry Dogs, will be hoping to do better than the seventh we achieved in 2013.

To do this we will definitely need to land some of the big barra that the Daly is famous for. The competition will start on Monday and continue for five days.

Orientation day is tomorrow when competitors have the chance to run down the river, look around and develop a game plan for the following days.

I received an email from my mate Trevor Robb (Darwin Sportfishing Safari) mentioning a great barramundi landed in the S-bends at the Daly River last week by one of his clients, Daniel Woods.

Trev said they were trolling guns and using 120 classics in the S-bends on the incoming tide when this monstrous fish struck. At 110cm and with an immense girth, Trev said the fish weighed well over 50lb before it was released.

I have had a sensational custom built rod built by Larry Lockwood of LJ Custom Rods just in time to use during the Barra Nationals.

It has its own unique decals to match the wrap of my boat and I am hoping that I land a few good fish on it during the Nationals.

If you are interested in purchasing one of these quality custom built rods then contact Larry on (0400) 253 207 or email info@ljcustomrods.com

If you are fishing the Nationals, do not hesitate to catch up with me and have a look at the rod.