

Billy Taylor

BARRAWATCH

BRIEFS

Congratulations everyone, the Billy Taylor BarraWatch project has officially recorded over 1000 barramundi! The statistics, specifically relating to the ratio of kept and released, are great, and you should all feel proud of the contribution you have made.

Things have been as busy as ever, and a brief summary of what has been happening this end is: On the 16th of August Warren Truss, Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, kindly took time out of his busy schedule to present AFANT with a certificate for the BarraWatch project.

We have also been very busy organising mementos in appreciation for people participating in the project. To be eligible for prizes, participants need to have:

- Released 25 Barra to receive a lure
- Released 50 Barra to receive a lure
- Released 75 Barra to receive a lure
- Released 100 Barra to receive a cap
- Released 150 Barra to receive a Colombia fishing shirt.

For those people who are groaning and despite their best efforts, can't imagine catching that amount of fish, let alone releasing them—Don't worry, we'll also be assessing the amount of effort people go to. So, if you're fishing, but not landing any (because you're too busy untangling the kids lines...), you'll still be eligible.

We now have BarraWatch fish tags, which are a recognizable hot pink. For those who have completed a training course in tagging, they will be sent to Katherine as soon as the tag cards arrive from the printers. Remember, if you're tagging fish, you must fill out the appropriate details and return the tag card. If you catch a tagged fish, you need to re-

cord details and send the information to the contact details on the tag, if you are keeping the fish, please send the tag back as well.

AFANT is assessing the feasibility (using the BarraWatch project as a blue print) in getting a similar project up and running on the McArthur River.

Damian White, the Fisheries Action Programme Coordinator from DPIF, recently attended a national conference to discuss performance and future direction of state projects. The BarraWatch project was presented as a case study and particularly well received. According to Damian, there was "a lot of interest and some jealousy amongst the recreational fishers on the committee. The catch rates and size of the fish caught had others salivating, not to mention their surprise when shown the measuring stickers" (refer to our web page for the whole report)

It's great to hear this project was viewed as a success—we have something to be proud of, and have the opportunity to show case what we're capable of to the rest of Australia.

We're in the process of ironing out problems some participants are having in filling in the forms. This occurs more so with Fishing Tour Operators, and those who have a few people in their boat. It is important to us that the data collected is accurate, at the same time doesn't detract from fishing experience.

I look forward to any suggestions or comments to make this system run smoothly. Until then may your rods be permanently bent.

Do you no longer wish to participate in the Billy Taylor BarraWatch Project? Do you have a record book that you are no longer using? Please return it to AFANT at reply paid PO Box 40694, Casuarina NT 0811



Natural Heritage Trust

Helping Communities
Helping Australia

A Commonwealth Government Initiative

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Seen our WebPage?

Log onto: www.afant.com.au

Statistics to Date

Total caught	1004
Total released	769
Total kept	235
Total fishing hours	1589 hrs 52 min

Victoria River V1

Total caught	4
Total released	3
Total kept	1
Total fishing hours	9hrs 32min
Average size	60.75cm

V2

Total caught	341
Total released	240
Total kept	101
Total fishing hours	773hrs 30min
Average size	61.8cm

Roper River R1

Total caught	77
Total released	46
Total kept	31
Total fishing hours	96hrs 5min
Average size	59.35

R2

Total caught	582
Total released	480
Total kept	102
Total fishing hours	710 hrs 45min
Average size	65cm



Josh and Michael Vaughan

Know someone who didn't get a newsletter?

Get them to contact me with their full postal address

Do you have photos of you participating in BarraWatch? *Why not email or send them to us for recording purposes*

For those not involved with collecting data, a description of where these areas are:

V1 is upstream from the rocks at Policemen's Point

V2 is downstream from Policemen's Point

R1 is upstream from Roper Bar Crossing

R2 is downstream from Roper Bar Crossing

There is a trend for people to fish downstream, with approximately 93% of the time spent in either V2 or R2. The largest fish caught is still the 130cm caught by I.Pope

Who's Catching What
The largest fish caught in

R1	Aaron Emmett	97cm
R2	Ian Pope	130cm
V1	Kevin Alderidge	76cm
V2	Kerry Johnstone	107cm

Congratulations!
the first recipients of the Billy Taylor BarraWatch Lure for recording and releasing 25 Barramundi

Warren de With	Ian Pope
Chris Murdock	Cam Armstrong
Peter McDougall	Andrew Emslie
Colin Larke	Greg Hanckle
Neil Croft	

