



NORTHERN TERRITORY: *A River A Day!*

It wouldn't be a real F&B if we didn't have Kim Bain stirring up the couch potatoes every now and again, from some far-flung angling Mecca. At least this one's in Australia, and like the family girl that she is, Kim invited *her Mum* along as a birthday present. Bugger.

Mum and I had set ourselves an interesting challenge.

For me it was my third trip to the Northern Territory (and Arnhem Land). I'd previously fished such notable NT hotspots as Gove/Nhulunbuy, Coburg Peninsula/Cape Don & Maningrida Arnhem Land but for Mum it was her first trip to the Territory.

Our plan was to fish the run-off at the end of the wet season and to hit as many rivers in the region as possible. "Which river when" was going to be at the advice of the locals and Mum had set herself the aim of catching a barra in every one of the three or four rivers

that we planned to fish. I guess it was her way of racking up a few "been there done that" achievements on her first trip to the Top End. Along the way we'd also try for a few other species and venture offshore for a spot of reef fishing. We caught barras galore, black jew, golden snapper, northern saratoga, tarpon, pikey bream, dined on mud crabs that we caught on the rising tide, even shot a wild boar each. That's life in the Territory!

Preparation

Prior to embarking on our journey we scoured magazine articles and

websites for information. Northern Territory Tourist Commission and Tourism Top End have a number of very helpful publications and web links for anglers, as do NT Fisheries.

Phil Hall from NT Fisheries was interested in our challenge and we hooked up with him as our local 'guide'. Certainly his local knowledge was extremely beneficial to us. However any tourist party could replicate the scenario by selecting professional guides and utilising their services on their preferred river systems. *(Many thanks to Phil for his assistance).*

Right: Launching at the Daly River

Main shot: Kim with a barra from the South Alligator

Left: Spectacular 'Territory big barra fishing boatside on the Daly.

