

An O-fish-ial barra release

After a lengthy consideration and approvals process , Kimberley TAFE and Recfishwest are thrilled to announce the release of 500 juvenile barramundi into Broome's own fishing hub, Dampier Creek on Saturday, 1st of May 2010.

Jeff Cooper, Regional Coordinator of Kimberley TAFE Broome campus, says the achievement is monumental and thanks Recfishwest for their extraordinary effort and support.

"We have caught a number of adult barramundi from Dampier Creek over the past few years to contribute to our aquaculture production and training program."

As a result, thousands of fingerlings have been born with the majority being distributed to a large barramundi farm called Marine Produce Australia (MPA) in Cone Bay, north of Derby.

"The 500 juveniles we are about to release are from the same stock that supplied MPA and other barramundi producers but are now a year old. They are surplus to our requirements here at the TAFE, so we wanted to give them back to Dampier Creek from where their parents came."

Jeff likens the release to a reforestation program. "We took some barra from the creek and now we have the opportunity to enhance that environment by giving some back in return."

"At the end of the day, it is great for the community. It gives all the locals and tourists more chance to enjoy the thrill of catching one of these amazing and iconic Australian fish."

Frank Prokop, Executive Director of Recfishwest commends the Kimberley TAFE for their role in the Dampier Creek release. "Kimberley TAFE is returning these fish in recognition of the Broome community. All locals and tourists should praise such a wonderful initiative which will greatly enhance the stocks in Dampier Creek and the community ownership of the highly prized barramundi."

The historic release is set to take place at 12:30pm on Saturday, 1st May on Dampier Creek by Member for Mining and Pastoral Region, Hon. Ken Baston, MLC.

Jeff says this project is just the start of sustainable new aquaculture initiatives to come from Kimberley TAFE. "Now that we have approval for this release, we are hoping to be involved in another stock enhancement activity in Kununurra very soon, so watch this space."



Photo Caption:

Juvenile Barramundi set for release: Frank Prokop, Executive Director Recfishwest with Jeff Cooper Regional Coordinator Kimberley TAFE.