

Croc escapes death sentence

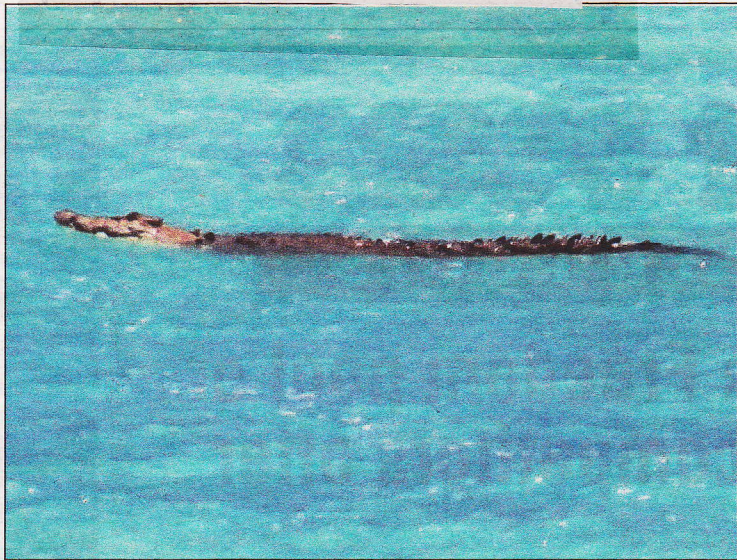
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A THREE-METRE crocodile sighted lurking in knee-deep water off Broome's Cable Beach for most of last week disappeared last Thursday and has not been spotted since.

The beach, which was closed for most of last week, reopened on Saturday after the crocodile, which some locals say had been sleeping on the beach during its unwelcome stay, could not be found.

According to Department of Environment and Conservation officials the 3m croc escaped a death sentence last Thursday after a "last resort" option to shoot the animal failed due to rough seas.

DEC officer Sharon Ferguson said the shooting option only came after DEC officials failed to force the animal out to sea last week. Broome chief lifesaver Tim Trew said the crocodile had been cruising up and down the



This 3m crocodile forced the closure of Cable Beach last week.

beach all week and seemed to like the spot.

"But I think he might have got a bit of a fright after things were flying through the water at him

on Thursday and decided to move on," Mr Trew said.

He said Cable Beach reopened on Saturday morning after a search was completed.