The Northern Territory Government is seeking to build upon consultative arrangements for fisheries management in the Northern Territory, and is inviting stakeholders and interested members of the public to participate in the process.

Primary Industry and Fisheries Minister, Dr Chris Burns, today announced the start of a three-month public consultation period on possible changes to consultative arrangements, and urged Territorians to get involved and have their say.

Speaking at a launch of a discussion paper which outlines legislative issues and lists possible options for future consultative arrangements for the Northern Territory Fisheries Group, Dr Burns said that broad consultation was the key to finding a good balance in the Territory’s fishing management framework.

"Consultation with stakeholders is one of the main mechanisms for effective decision making and management, and broad community input is integral to achieving positive outcomes.

"During the three-month public consultation period, public meetings will be held in major regional centres in the Top End to discuss fisheries management issues," Dr Burns said.

"Community participation, particularly in our regional areas, is needed to determine the best methods for managing our fish and aquatic resources.

"The Martin Labor Government is committed to improving the way in which the community and major interest groups are included in the management and conservation of fish and aquatic life in the Territory.

"I would encourage everyone with an interest in fishing to get your hands on a copy of the paper, get your good ideas together, and help determine the future of fisheries management in the Northern Territory," said Dr Burns.

The discussion paper can be obtained from the Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development’s website at www.dbird.nt.gov.au or by phoning the department on (08) 8999 2159.