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FISHING IS STILL THE LURE OF THE TERRITORY!

The NT Government is committed to ensuring the Territory remains Australia’s premier recreational fishing destination for both locals and visitors said Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries Kon Vatskalis.

Minister Vatskalis has delivered his Ministerial Statement on Fishing to the Territory Parliament.

He said the significant contribution of fishing, aquaculture and the local seafood industries to the Territory’s unique lifestyle should not be underestimated.

“These sectors contribute around 27% of the total production value for rural industries. The benefits are also seen in the employment opportunities generated for people living in regional centres,” said Mr Vatskalis.

In a first for the NT and Western Australian Governments, the Minister announced a draft Memorandum of Understanding has been developed that will see the two jurisdictions work together to manage the pearling industry.

“This is a perfect example of what can be achieved when Government’s work together cooperatively. Both the NT and WA sectors farm pearl shell from the same source, but compete in the international wholesale markets.

“I look forward to discussing future arrangements for this dynamic industry with my WA counterparts,” he said.

Minister Vatskalis also highlighted the success of the Junior Fishing Workshop program and the Indigenous Marine Ranger program run by the Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines.

The concern over illegal incursions by foreign fishing vessels is something the Government is committed to making a priority.

“I cannot stress enough the need for greater resources from the Commonwealth to assist Federal Authorities protect our northern waters and I will continue to raise these concerns with my federal colleagues,” said Mr Vatskalis.

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