Changes to the recreational fishing possession limits in the Northern Territory will come into effect from 1 January 2010.

The Minister for Fisheries, Kon Vatskalis, said the changes include a reduction in the personal possession limit for black jewfish and Spanish mackerel from five to two.

“Recreational fishing is extremely popular in the Territory and an important part of our great lifestyle,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“These changes will help protect our valuable fish stocks and ensure that locals and visitors continue to experience high quality fishing into the future.

“The new measures have been approved by Government following extensive public consultation earlier this year.

“The changes will come into effect from 1 January 2010 to allow time for recreational fishers to become aware of the new rules.”

The changes include:

- Personal possession limit of two for Black Jewfish and Spanish mackerel
- Personal possession limit of 30 cherabin and/or red claw
- Personal possession limit of 3 sharks of any species, including a prohibition on the taking of sawfish
- Requirement to use turtle excluder rings in freshwater pots
- Boat limit of 10 freshwater pots per vessel (when two or more people on board)
- A prohibition on the recreational taking of clams

Contact for media queries: Nikola Lekias 0438323660