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Barramundi Licence Buy Back On Track

Fisheries Minister Kon Vatskalis today announced that the NT Government has bought back its fourth commercial barramundi licence as part of its election commitment to purchase fishing licences.

The Government also announced today the closure of Bynoe Harbour and the Finniss River to commercial barramundi fishing.

“Recreational fishing is an important part of the Territory lifestyle and I’m pleased to announce that the Territory Government has successfully negotiated the purchase of the fourth commercial barramundi licence through a voluntary Buy-Back Scheme,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“The Territory Government recognises the importance of recreational fishing which is why we called for public comments on the possibility of closing Bynoe Harbour and the Finniss River to commercial barramundi fishing.

“Over 200 submissions were received during this process which indicates the level of interest in our fisheries.

“After considering the public comments and feedback from stakeholders, the Territory Government has taken the decision to close Bynoe Harbour and the Finniss River to commercial barramundi fishing.”

The areas affected include all of Bynoe Harbour and the outer islands, as well as the Finniss River.

“In making these changes we have also taken the opportunity to re-align the closure lines for Darwin Harbour and Shoal Bay, with the closure line now travelling directly from Charles Point to Gunn Point,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“The closures will effectively reallocate the barramundi resource in these areas to recreational fishermen, fishing tour operators and the Indigenous sectors and will enhance the fishing experience in the area.”

These changes take effect on the opening of the commercial barramundi season on February 1st, 2010.

Contact: Maria Billias 0401 119 746