MEDIA RELEASE

GREEN GROUPS WANT TO END RECREATIONAL FISHING

October 18th, 2011

“The Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS), and its international financial backers the Pew Trust, revealed their true agenda today with their call for no-go no-take zones to be established in some of the Territory’s most significant recreational fishing areas,” said Shadow Fisheries Minister, Kezia Purick.

“Following discussions with AFANT, it is clear the greenies want to close Fog Bay, the area on the other side of the Bathurst Trench, more areas around the Wessell Islands and the Gove Peninsula, waters around Groote Eylandt, the Limmen Bight and a number of other areas off the Territory coast.

“The Territory’s fisheries are sustainable, well managed and well respected by both recreational and commercial fishers.

“For the AMCS to now want to step outside the recently released North Bioregional Plan, which identified only one area off the Territory coast to the north of Nhulunbuy which required protection, is outrageous.

“This group is well known for its anti everything stance and the Henderson Government should immediately reject this latest move which is flawed and would do a great disservice to the Territory and the many people who depend on the recreational fishing industry – including many Aboriginal people in remote and coastal areas.

“What next?”

Further comment: Kezia Purick 0407 035 976