Adam Giles
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

Feds told fish harvesters not welcome in NT

24 January 2016

Chief Minister Adam Giles has written to the Federal Government to make it clear that a ‘super trawler’ operation in waters off the Northern Territory would not be welcome.

“I’ve expressed to the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Barnaby Joyce, that the Northern Territory Government has serious concerns around the possibility of a ‘super trawler’ pillaging our waters,” Mr Giles said.

“We are world renowned for our fishing destinations and our local fish produce is second to none; it’s important we protect those things for future generations.

“Fishing is an iconic recreational pursuit for Territorians and visitors alike and customary fishing is practiced across the Territory. Our waters are also home to a number of valuable commercial fisheries with scope for appropriately scaled sustainable growth.

“We don’t want to see a situation where our local operators are pushed out of the market because of a large ‘super trawlers’ taking large quantities of fish stocks.

“It is important the Australian Government recognises our northern fisheries are smaller in scale than any that would sustainably accommodate extremely large vessels or ‘super trawlers’.

“The potential environmental, social and economic risks of an operation of this scale is an important issue for all Territorians.

“The Country Liberals Government is committed to protecting and enhancing the Territory’s unique and enviable lifestyle,” Mr Giles said.

The Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries will outline the Northern Territory Government’s position in a submission to the Senate Inquiry into the potential economic, social and environmental impacts of such ‘super trawlers’.