TERRITORY ANGLERS TO REAP REWARDS OF HISTORIC FISHING AGREEMENT

The expertise of the Northern Territory in managing recreational fishing has been recognised with the Federal Government passing all responsibility for non-commercial fisheries – including longtail tuna and sailfish – back to the Northern Territory Government.

Fisheries Minister, Kon Vatskalis, said the Martin Government has been lobbying the Commonwealth for the past four years to takeover the management of all recreational fisheries.

While the Territory has responsibility for most fisheries - including barramundi, mud crab and jewfish - some of our offshore fisheries that are of particular interest to sports fishermen and the fishing charter industry have until now been managed from Canberra.

“We have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Federal Government which effectively gives the Northern Territory Government and thousands of recreational anglers complete responsibility for recreational fishing throughout the Territory, in areas that were formerly under the control of the Commonwealth under the Offshore Constitutional Settlements (OCS) declared in the early 1990’s,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“Fishing is the lure of the Territory and an important part of our great lifestyle. The Northern Territory Government has worked long and hard to achieve this tremendous outcome for Top End anglers.”

Mr Vatskalis said this historic agreement also means that our important fishing charter industry is managed by the Northern Territory Government.

“This means charter fishing operators are no longer recognised as commercial fishermen by the Commonwealth, but rather their catch is controlled within the ambits of recreational rules,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“This of course is to the benefit of the 120 charter fishing operators as it means they will only have to deal with one entity if they wish to target our offshore sports fish.

“Anglers spinning for tuna in the Harbour or chasing a sailfish off the coast can now rest assured the Territory is in control of the future of these fisheries.”

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