Fishermen seeking information on the best way to release black jewfish can now do so by visiting fishing retail outlets and charter operators, Primary Industry and Fisheries Minister Chris Natt said today.

“Fishing is the lure of the Territory and a key part of our unique lifestyle,” Mr Natt said.

“More people go fishing in the Territory than anywhere else in Australia with more than 100,000 tourists who visit the Territory saying they go fishing during their stay here.

“Jewfish are highly sought after, particularly among fishing charter operators.

“With more than 10,000 jewies being released each year in the Territory by anglers, it’s vital we learn methods to improve their survival when returned to the water.

“Jewies have the greatest chance of survival when released.”

NT Fisheries within the Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines (DPIFM) conducted post-mortem examinations on more than 100 black jewfish caught at various depths.

“Almost half the fish landed from between 10 and 15 metres had life-threatening injuries and were unlikely to survive, with this injury rate increasing to 100 per cent for fish taken from depths greater than 15 metres,” Mr Natt said.

“If anglers have reached the possession limit for black jewfish (currently five fish per person) and are fishing waters deeper than 10 metres they are urged to target other species.”

The Amateur Fishermen’s Association of the Northern Territory (AFANT) support the research.

“The research results mean that we can no longer consider the jewie as a catch-and-release target unless we fish for them in relatively shallow water and handle them very carefully,” AFANT President, Warren De With said.

People can go to www.nt.gov.au/dpifm/fisheries to learn more about releasing black
jewfish.

* Attached photos are of Ronald Voukolos and Mr Natt today at Fishing & Outdoor World

Media contact: Edwin Edlund 0401 119 563

Related files:

Ronald Voukolos and Minister Natt 1.JPG (387.05 kb)  Ronald Voukolos and Minister Natt 3.JPG (452.52 kb)