Three Point Plan to Protect Recreational Fishing

The Territory Government has unveiled a three point plan to protect fishing in Bynoe Harbour, Finniss River and Fog Bay.

Fisheries Minister, Kon Vatskalis, said the strategy will provide clear direction and certainty for the industry.

3 Point Plan

- A 28 day public consultation about the proposed closures of Bynoe Harbour and Finniss River taking in part of Fog Bay to commercial barramundi fishing;
- On consideration of public submissions a decision will be made on the permanent closure lines to commercial barramundi fishing;
- Barramundi Fishery Advisory Group to report back in 12 months on permanent commercial fishing closures, including the rest of Fog Bay.

“This Government is working hard to deliver real results and make fishing in the Territory even better,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“The buy-back of commercial fishing licences for the benefit of recreational anglers is an important election commitment.

“Last December, I confirmed that Government would seek the closure of Bynoe Harbour and Finniss River to commercial barramundi fishing.

“We have acquired three commercial barramundi fishing licences and are currently negotiating to buy back even more.”

The Minister said the 90 day emergency closure put in place over Fog Bay in April as a direct result of the sawfish kill ends next week.

“While the area will re-open to commercial fishing, we will be keeping a close eye on operators to make sure everyone is doing the right thing,” he said.

“If a similar incident should reoccur anywhere in the Territory, I will have no hesitation putting another emergency closure in place.”

Government has commenced consultation with industry about permanent arrangements to deal with sawfish interaction throughout the Territory, which will include legislating the industry’s voluntary code of conduct.

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