2010 Darwin Boat Show Opens Today

Fisheries Minister Kon Vatskalis will today officially open the 2010 Darwin Boat Show at the Darwin Convention Centre.

Mr Vatskalis said the Territory Government is proud to invest $10,000 in supporting the annual boat show that attracts about 10,000 people each year.

“Territorians love being out on the water and wetting a line and the annual Darwin Boat Show is a great showcase of new boats and products out on the market,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“Fishing is the lure of the Territory – it’s more popular in the Territory than anywhere in the nation”

“One-third of all households in the Darwin and Palmerston region owns a boat - so this is clear indication of the vital role recreational boats and fishing play in our economy.

“That’s why the Territory Government continues to invest in vital fishing and boating infrastructure such as building new boat ramps and maintaining or upgrading existing facilities.

“This includes $4 million to build the new Palmerston Boat Ramp which will be complete by the end of this year. We are also investing around $1 million each year to make fishing in the Territory even easier, including upgrading the Adelaide River boat ramp to include wash down facilities, sealing the car parking areas and installing a toilet block .

“But the boat show is also a great opportunity to promote safety messages so that everyone out on the water comes back home safely with a good story to tell of their adventure.

“That’s why the Territory Government’s Marine Safety team will be out in force at the boat show this weekend providing show goers with our Safety Guide for Pleasure Craft booklet.

“The Marine Safety Team will also be promoting the following four key safety messages:

- The responsibility that the skipper has to look after their passengers;
- Knowing the basic rules when on the water – it means keeping to the right of the channel or river (the opposite of road rules);
- Making sure you check the weather and tides before heading out on a boat trip; and
- Carrying lifesaving safety equipment on board your boat.
The boat show is open tomorrow from 9.30am to 5pm and Sunday 9.30am to 4pm.

Contact: Maria Billias 0401 119 746