

## FINAL OUTCOMES

Our Ref: OUT19/12063

MEETING	<b>Charter Fishing NSW Working Group – CFNSW</b>	
MEETING NO.	2	29 August 2019
LOCATION	Kingsford Room, Quality Hotel, Woolli Creek	0900 – 1545 hours
ATTENDEES	John Paton (Chair), Kyle Cush (Region 1), Mark Flanagan (Region 2), Scott Thorrington (Region 3), Roland Persson (Region 4), Ann Garard (Region 5), Bill Deverill (Region 7), Vic Levett	

### 1. Introduction by the Chair

The Chair welcomed members to the second CFNSW meeting for 2019 and acknowledged Country. In his welcoming remarks, the Chair thanked the members for dedicating their time to the management of the Charter fishing industry.

### 2. Register of Interests

The Chair advised that a register of interests will be maintained for CFNSW and requested that members declare any interests on the new register. The register was completed by working group members at the meeting.

### 3. Agreement on the agenda

CFNSW members unanimously agreed on the agenda for the meeting.

### 4. Agreement on the outcomes from the previous meeting

The outcomes from the previous meeting held on the 21 February 2019 were unanimously accepted as being a true and accurate record of the meeting.

### 5. Action list (9:20)

The Chair tabled the ongoing action list. The completed items will be removed from the action list.

### 6. Charter Fishing Trust

The CFNSW Working Group discussed the two program applications titled: 1) Logbook monitoring program and 2) Charter fishing consultation and management program. The Group recommended funding be provided from the Charter Fishing Trust for the above two programs. These recommendations will be forwarded to the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council for approval (see Table1 for summary).

## 7. Fish online / Fisher mobile presentation (10:15 – 12:00)

DPI gave a presentation on the FisherMobile app, currently being utilised by NSW Commercial Fisheries. The pre-fish, pre-land and post-land catch and effort reporting options were presented and discussed. CFNSW supported the current catch and effort reporting options (paper based logbook and FishOnline) and recommended that the Fisher Mobile application not be introduced, as it will be onerous for Charter fishing operators.

DPI to continue to review FishOnline, to improve the system user friendliness. **ACTION ITEM.**

## 8. Management Update

### a) Expired licences update

The CFNSW Working Group members were advised of the current process of recovering outstanding licence fees. The Working Group recommended that DPI prioritise this matter so industry can move forward with new proposed administrative arrangements to reduce red tape. **ACTION ITEM.**

### b) Southern Fish Trawl Update

The CFNSW Working Group noted the current status of the proposal to transition the NSW managed Southern Fish Trawl Fishery into the Commonwealth Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery, with a decision from both the State and Commonwealth Ministers yet to be reached. The CFNSW working group wish to be informed of any future progress on this matter.

### c) Catch Reporting Update

Industry were advised of and noted the importance of submitting accurate catch and effort records. The collected data is an integral component of the Recreational Fisheries Monitoring Program, which aims at collecting robust high quality information on the NSW recreational fishing sector to monitor fish stocks. It also feeds into the Total Allowable Catch setting process to ensure the resource is equitably shared between user groups, and is utilised in the resource assessment for the status of fish stocks.

Mr Vic Levett advised some charter operators with overdue catch returns are concerned of compliance action arising from submitting outstanding returns. A motion was moved by Vic Levett, and seconded by Scott Thorington, recommending that DPI Fisheries do not pursue compliance action on outstanding Charter catch and effort records prior to June 2019. The motion was supported unanimously. The Group also supported DPI commencing future compliance action for overdue (post June 2019) catch records. **ACTION ITEM.**

### d) Exemption certificates

The CFNSW working group supported a single date of renewal for exemption certificates issued to charter operators, recommending the annual renewal take place in February or March. **ACTION ITEM.** The Working group tentatively supported (pending wider industry consultation) that exemption certificates be incorporated into the Charter licence, enabling complete coverage of the industry. There is potential for the exemption certificate fee to be considered for inclusion in the annual licence fee.

## 9. 'Go Charter Fishing in NSW' and industry promotion

The Working group strongly supported the 'Go Charter Fishing in NSW' webpage proposal and recommended that this webpage be linked with 'Visit NSW'.

## 10. Section 37 permit application to use a lift net

The section 37 permit application request from a Charter fishing operator to utilise a lift net to collect bait was discussed in depth by Working Group members.

The permit application proposal was voted on by the Working Group. **In favour:** Bill Deverill (Region 7), and Mark Flanagan (Region 2). **Opposed:** John Paton (Chair), Kyle Cush (Region 1), Scott Thorrington (Region 3), Roland Persson (Region 4), Ann Garard (Region 5), Vic Levett (RFNSW). The motion was not passed. The CFNSW working group did not support the permit application on the grounds of:

1. Working group members consider it to be a backward step for recreational fishing by utilising a net to catch fish
2. It will set a precedence for permit application for other currently illegal fishing methods (Cast nets was one example given)
3. That collecting bait by line is a component of recreational fishing, and
4. It would encourage other charter operators and recreational fishers to also apply for a permit to use a lift net for bait collection, which may lead to an increase in fishing effort and potential sustainability issues.

The members noted that Charter fishing licence operators are exempt from the bag limit for bait species to provide flexibility for bait collection.

## 11. AMSA Regulations relating to Non- powered vessels

The Working group acknowledged the advice provided by AMSA regarding commercial vessel operations on non-powered vessels and recommended DPI pursue legislation amendments to allow such Charter fishing operations. **ACTION ITEM.**

## 12. a) Compliance update

DPI gave a presentation to the Working Group regarding recent compliance statistics relating to the Charter fishing sector.

## 12. b) Research update

An update and presentation was provided to the working group regarding the Recreational Fisheries Monitoring program. Working group members requested an electronic copy of the presentation. **ACTION ITEM.** It was also recommended that the Monitoring Program be considered for expansion to the gamefishing endorsement.

## 12 (c) Freshwater charters presentation

Brett Richards, President of the Professional Fishing Instructors and Guides Association (PFIGA) gave a presentation summarising the current status of the inland guiding (both boat and land based) sector. It was noted that there are no current licencing or permit arrangements under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (the Act). The PFIGA is concerned with the sectors reputation being impacted by rogue operators and requested the DPI, through the CFNSW, to consider a potential permit or licencing arrangement.

A motion was moved by Roland Persson and seconded by Vic Levett, requesting for DPI to investigate a permit or licencing arrangement for freshwater and marine land based fishing guides. Motion was supported by the CFNSW Working Group. **ACTION ITEM.**

### **13. Other business**

Scott Thorrington - Region 3 representative, requested for the Fishing Business concept legislation be introduced to improve the viability of the industry. **ACTION ITEM.** DPI to consider waiving the boat transfer application fees for existing operators (operators not involved in the sale of a Charter fishing licence) until the legislation is enacted.

Vic Levett – RFNSW representative, suggested formally requesting an AMSA representative to attend the next meeting. **ACTION ITEM.**

### **14. Chairperson summary**

The Chairperson provided a summary of the meeting and thanked members for their time and contribution. The next meeting be scheduled in February/March 2020.