

FINAL MEETING OUTCOMES

Our Ref: OUT24/4735

MEETING	Charter Fishing NSW Working Group (CFNSW)
DATE / TIME	3 April 2024 15:00 – 17:00hours
LOCATION	Virtual Meeting via MS Teams
ATTENDEES	John Paton (Chair) Andrew Trappel (Region 2) Scott Thorrington (Region 3) Jong (John) Lee (Region 4 North) Christian Worth (Region 4 South) Ann Garard (Region 5) Christine Cattnach (Region 7)
APOLOGIES	Kyle Cush (Region 1) Peter Dugan (Region 6)

1. Introduction by the Chair

The Chair welcomed members to the first CFNSW meeting in 2024 and provided an acknowledgement of Country. The meeting opened at 3:08 pm.

2. CFNSW Working Group administration update

The Working Group was informed that the expression of interest process for membership for Region 4 South and Region 7 has been completed with successful applicants accepting their positions. DPI is currently working to have the new members onboarded.

DPI also noted that the terms of appointment for members (excluding recently successful applicants) expires in November 2024. An expression of interest process for the expiring positions will commence later in the year.

Action item: DPI to commence EOI process for expiring CFNSW positions.

3. Register of Interests

The Chair requested that members declare any conflicts of interest on the register of interest form (Appendix A to the agenda).

4. Agreement on the outcomes from the previous meeting

The outcomes from the previous meeting held on 6 December 2023 were tabled (provided in Appendix B to the agenda). It was noted that no comments were received by members and the outcomes were unanimously supported by present members as being a true and accurate record of the meeting (Moved: Scott Thorrington, seconded Ann Garard).

5. Correspondence sent and received

The correspondence list was noted by the CFNSW.

6. Action List

Items in the action list were discussed. Reference was made to many of the completed items.

7. Management Update

a) **Eastern Blue Groper management update** – DPI provided the Working Group with an overview of the recent changes in the management of Blue Groper, including a 12-month trial during which Blue Groper will be a 'no take' species in NSW, which commenced on 1 March 2024. As part of the 12-month trial, DPI is consulting with stakeholders and the broader community. The Working Group was advised that public submissions can be made via a web portal on the DPI website until 30 April.

Action item: DPI to remind all operators via Charter Chatter of the public consultation process, which closes 30 April.

Action item: CFNSW Chair to write to the Deputy Director General DPI Fisheries regarding current management of Blue Groper, including options on the longer term changes to Blue Groper fishing rules.

b) **Industry promotion update** – Statistics on recent social media posts were discussed. It was noted the recent posts had been very popular and received good engagement with viewers. An update on the industry promotional video was provided to members. It was noted that filming had recently started, with footage for the game fishing portion of the video recently occurring. All members were interested to see the final version of the video.

8. Compliance update

Action item: Provide a reminder to the industry that new vessel markings are now mandatory in the next edition of Charter Chatter.

9. Research update

DPI research provided a presentation on the Charter Fishery Monitoring Report and results of the 2021/22 State-wide survey. The importance of accurate catch reporting data from monthly Charter fishing logbooks was noted. This data is an essential component of the NSW Charter Fishing Monitoring program and individual species stock assessment processes.

Action item: DPI to provide a copy of the research presentation to CFNSW members.

10. Members updates

It was noted by many members that recent trips had provided good fishing opportunities for clientele. A mix of reef and pelagic fish had been seen by all members with good catches consistent across all regions. The recent good weather assisted members receiving good clientele participation rates.

The Region 2 representative reported that the use of the South West Rocks FAD by local commercial fishers had not been an issue in recent months. DPI will continue to monitor this issue during this FAD season.

The Region 4 (North) representative highlighted the LARGE number of vessels currently utilising the network of Sydney FADs. Reports of over 20 boats per FAD had been observed.

Action item: DPI to provide details of charter fishers operating by zone over time at the next meeting.

11. Other business

Concerns about social media images used by certain operators was raised after emails had been received from the public voicing concerns. These images showed large catches spread out across the deck of the boat. Although the catches were within bag limits, they were thought to be detrimental to the social licence of charter fishing as they appeared to be excessive. It was suggested that operators be mindful of this when promoting their business.

12. Chairperson summary and proposed meeting date for the next CFNSW meeting

The Chairperson provided a summary of the meeting. He thanked the members for their time and contributions to the Working Group.

The next meeting was proposed to be scheduled in August 2024.

Meeting closed 5:25pm