



FINAL MEETING OUTCOMES

Our Ref: OUT22/19893

MEETING	Charter Fishing NSW Working Group – CFNSW
DATE / TIME	9 November 2022 010:00 – 12:00 hours
LOCATION	Virtual Meeting via MS Teams
ATTENDEES	John Paton (Chair) Kyle Cush (Region 1), Andrew Trappel (Region 2) Roland Persson (Region 4 South) Peter Dugan (Region 6) Vic Levett (RFNSW)
APOLOGIES	Scott Thorrington (Region 3) John Lee (Region 4 North) Ann Garard (Region 5) Bill Deveril (Region 7)

1. Introduction by the Chair

The Chair welcomed members to the third CFNSW meeting in 2022 and provided an acknowledgement of Country. The meeting opened at 10:05 am.

2. Register of Interests

The Chair requested that members declare any conflicts of interests on the register of interest's form (Appendix A to the agenda). No new interests since the last meeting were declared.

Action item: Members to respond to email request from DPI and return register of interest form sent via email to charter.fishing@dpi.nsw.gov.au

3. Agreement on the outcomes from the previous meeting

The outcomes from the previous meeting held on 3 August 2022 were tabled (provided in Appendix B to the agenda). The outcomes were unanimously supported as being a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. Correspondence sent and received

The correspondence list was noted by the Working Group.

5. Action List

Items in the action list were discussed. It was noted that the completed items will be removed from the Action list.

6. Charter Fishing Trust fund project budget application

A Charter Fishing Trust funding application submitted by DPI was considered tabled at the meeting with DPI providing further information in regard to the funding application and the process of approval. The RFNSW member moved a motion supporting the charter

fishing budget application for 2023-2026. The Region 6 member seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously supported by the Working Group members. This advice will now be passed on to the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council for consideration.

7. Use of FADs by Commercial fishers in selected regional locations

The Region 2 and RFNSW members advised the Working Group that commercial fishers have been utilising the South West Rocks FAD, generally in early morning. The Working Group was advised that DPI has undertaken measures to address the interaction issue by contacting known commercial fishers that are utilising the FAD.

Action item: DPI to advise local fishing clubs of the primary purpose of FADs and to report any future interaction issues to the Department.

Action item: Charter operators to notify DPI of any further interaction issues around FADs.

8. Management update

DPI provided a management update to the Working Group, which included an update on the following items:

Industry promotion – an update was given on the current industry promotion strategy, including statistics on the response to social media posts. The value of promoting the industry through social media outlets was noted and supported by the working group. It was noted that the NSW Government ‘Parents NSW’ \$50 voucher for accommodation and entertainment ceased on 9 October 2022. It was also noted that the ‘Go Charter Fishing in NSW’ promotional pamphlet has been produced and distributed to select visitor information centres and to charter boat operators on request. The Working Group noted that the Department will shortly pursue engagement of media company for short promotional videos; including opportunities to utilise existing high-quality footage from the ‘Fish for Life’ initiative.

Action Item: DPI to investigate engaging a media company to develop and use short duration industry promotional videos, including any value adding that may be achievable through the ‘Fish for Life’ initiative. Members to forward images of charter activity suitable for use in social media promotions.

Catch Reporting - DPI provided an update on catch records reporting rates which was trending in the 95-percentile range following previous management and compliance action but has subsequently declined. Targeted client support and overdue records reminder notice letters has arrested the declining catch reporting rates. An overdue records report application has also been developed. This report will allow more regular monitoring of industry wide catch reporting rates and will afford the Department more flexibility in response to overdue records. Monthly text message reminders will now be sent to operators with a registered mobile phone. CFNSW Working group were also advised that in September, all operators not registered for FisherDirect were sent a written invitation and application forms to register for FisherDirect. It was noted by the Working Group that catch reporting is an integral component to the stock assessment process and harvest strategies for many key species.

Action item: DPI to ensure SMS (text message) reminder regarding records are sent to operators as appropriate.

FADs, Artificial reefs and Fish Stocking programs – DPI provided an update on the FADs, Artificial Reef deployment and Fish Stocking programs.

Legislative amendments update – DPI provided an update on progress on the charter fishing legislation amendments, noting that significant progress has been made with the DPI Legal and Policy divisions.

9. Compliance update

Fisheries Compliance provided an update on recent actions on illegal charter operations and regulatory infringement. It was reiterated that current regulatory amendments would help to strengthen fisheries compliance activities regarding illegal operators advertising. The legal requirement that Charters operators remove the right-side pectoral fin of certain key species was discussed and its continued importance was acknowledged by DPI and the working group.

Action item: Members to contact Fisheries compliance regarding any compliance related issues including illegal charters and black marketing of catch.

Action item: DPI to include information in the next Charter Chatter newsletter regarding fin-clipping requirements.

10. Industry member updates

Industry members provided an update for their respective regions.

It was generally noted by members that the recent continuing poor weather has impacted charter operations, with businesses being forced to cancel some trips. Recent good weather was encouraging with good catches of fish reported in periods of good weather. Members remain optimistic about the future of the industry and thanked DPI for their ongoing efforts in support of the industry.

11. Other business

Gemfish: DPI provided an update on a CFNSW proposal to increase the boat trip limit for gemfish for charter operators. It was noted that Gemfish are classified as 'Depleted' and are subject to a Commonwealth rebuilding strategy. The current strategy provides for the incidental catch of Gemfish. Given this, the Working Group acknowledged to postpone its consideration of an increase in Gemfish boat limit until such time the stock has shown sufficient recovery.

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

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

The next meeting was proposed to be scheduled in early 2023.

Meeting Closed at 12:00pm