

FINAL MEETING OUTCOMES

Our Ref: OUT23/8585

MEETING	Charter Fishing NSW Working Group – CFNSW
DATE / TIME	1 March 2023 010:00 – 12:00 hours
LOCATION	Virtual Meeting via MS Teams
ATTENDEES	John Paton (Chair) Kyle Cush (Region 1), Andrew Trappel (Region 2) Ann Garard (Region 5) Peter Dugan (Region 6) Vic Levett (RFNSW)
APOLOGIES	Scott Thorrington (Region 3) John Lee (Region 4 North) Roland Persson (Region 4 South) Bill Deveril (Region 7)

1. Introduction by the Chair

The Chair welcomed members to the first CFNSW meeting in 2023 and provided an acknowledgement of Country. The meeting opened at 10:01 am.

2. Register of Interests

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

3. Agreement on the outcomes from the previous meeting

The outcomes from the previous meeting held on 9 November 2022 were tabled (provided in Appendix B to the agenda). A motion was moved by Region 6 representative, seconded by Region 1 representative, that the previous outcomes were a true and accurate record of the meeting. This motion was unanimously supported by all members present.

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.

The RFNSW Representative noted that limited commercial fishing activity continues to occur around select regional FAD locations.

6. Management update

Charter fishing management provided an update to the Working Group, which included an update on the following items:

Legislative amendments update

Legislative amendments impacting the charter fishery commenced on 20 January 2023. It was noted that industry stakeholders have been advised of the changes, which included a DPI factsheet. The Working Group noted that industry feedback has been positive, with many operators and new business enquiries supporting the increased business flexibility.

The new boat marking arrangements were discussed. It was noted that vessels must now be marked with the Charter fishing business number after 'CFB'. This marking arrangement enables flexible business opportunities (boat not linked to a licence) and improves fisheries compliance identification. This marking requirement is in addition to any vessel marking requirements by AMSA and/or NSW Maritime.

Action item: DPI to remind operators of the new marking requirements in the next Charter Chatter newsletter.

The upcoming licence renewal process for the 2023/24 fishing period was also discussed.

Catch Reporting

An update on the compliance rate with catch reporting requirements was provided. It was noted that the rate has declined recently with further management action needed. The Working Group supported the current monthly catch reporting text reminder as well as targeted letters to operators with outstanding returns.

Action item: DPI to send targeted letter to operators with outstanding catch returns with possible follow-up compliance action.

Industry Promotion

It was noted by the Working Group that Government is shortly entering 'Caretaker' mode, meaning that (non essential) Media or Website edits are not permissible. Industry was provided with a table of recent industry promotion campaigns, which included promotion via the Instagram network.

Action item: DPI to provide (at next meeting) a graph depicting the correlation between media campaigns and website traffic.

DPI strongly encouraged industry members to provide further photos and ideas for future promotional campaigns.

7. Compliance update

Research

DPI Research provided a presentation on 'Factors affecting seabird interactions with the nearshore 'for hire' recreational charter fishery in New South Wales Australia'. This presentation was recently delivered at the World Recreational Fishing Conference and is

available to Working Group members upon request.

Compliance

DPI Fisheries Compliance provided an update to the Working Group. It was noted that the new legislation amendments with regards to 'hold out' will assist with prosecuting illegal charter fishing operations.

8. CFNSW member updates

Working group members provided an update for their respective areas. It was generally noted that Charter fishing business conditions have improved since the COVID period, with weather being the primary factor impacting business. It was noted that the Mid North and North Coast areas had an exceptional summer charter fishing season.

The Region 1 representative raised concerns with regard to general commercial vessel compliance associated with 'Pump out' requirements. It was recommended to notify the local Boating Safety Officer in the area, followed up by further communication with the NSW Maritime commercial vessels section within NSW Transport.

The Region 5 representative raised concerns regarding the Offshore Windfarm Projects proposed for installation off the Illawarra and Newcastle coastlines.

Action item: DPI to investigate further and arrange for an update at the next meeting.

The Region 5 Representative also raised concerns regarding adverts placed on the FishOnline Noticeboard. Adverts are automatically removed after 60 days as well as other restrictions on text.

Action item: DPI to investigate further on parameters associated with adverts placed on the FishOnline Noticeboard and provide an update to the Working Group.

9. Other business

An update on long term expired charter fishing licence sector was provided to the Working Group at the request of the Chair. It was noted that the recent legislation amendments provide the avenue for further action in this area.

Action item: DPI to recommence action on the long-term expired charter fishing licence holders.

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

The chairperson provided a meeting summary and recommended the next meeting be held in July/August.

Meeting Closed at 12:02pm