

FINAL OUTCOMES

Our Ref: OUT21/13806

MEETING	Charter Fishing NSW Working Group – CFNSW
DATE / TIME.	15 September 2021 010:00 – 12:00 hours
LOCATION	Virtual Meeting via Zoom
ATTENDEES	John Paton (Chair), Vic Levett (RFNSW) Kyle Cush (Region 1), Scott Thorrington (Region 3), Roland Persson (Region 4) Ann Garard (Region 5), Bill Deverill (Region 7),

1. Introduction by the Chair

The Chair welcomed members to the second CFNSW meeting in 2021 and an acknowledgement of Country was given. Meeting opened at 10:05 am.

In his opening remarks, the Chair reiterated the importance of maintaining good communication between this Working Group and DPI.

2. Register of Interests

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

3. Agreement on the outcomes from the previous meeting

The outcomes from the previous meeting held on 23 March 2021 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 members.

The members discussed the response from the Deputy Director General DPI Fisheries to the Chair's request for a CFNSW Working Group representative on Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFSTEC). DPI advised CFNSW would be advised of future expressions of interest for membership on RFSTEC and members were encouraged to apply when vacancies next become available.

5. Action List

It was noted that the completed items will be removed from the Action list.

Working Group members advised that there was still not widespread industry knowledge of the \$1,500 NSW Small Business Fees and Charges Rebate currently available through Service NSW.

Action Item: DPI to include in the next edition of the Charter Chatter newsletter information regarding the Small Business Fees and Charges Rebate.

6. CFNSW Working group Expression of Interest (EOI) application process update

DPI gave an update on the CFNSW Working Group EOI application process. The terms of appointment for all positions on the CFNSW Working Group expire on 20 November 2021. It was noted that an EOI process is currently underway seeking appointment for these expiring positions with the closing date to submit an application being the 20 September 2021.

Action item: DPI to follow up with stakeholders in regions where representation is required.

7. Charter Fishing legislation amendments update

DPI provided an update on the community consultation received regarding the proposed amendments to fisheries and aquaculture regulations, which included significant amendments relating to charter fishing. It was noted that respondents were generally supportive of the proposed changes.

Action item: DPI to continue with the progression of the proposed legislation amendments.

8. Updates

a) Management update

Catch Reporting update:

DPI noted that catch reporting rates have increased after sending letters to operators with overdue records requesting these records be submitted. It was noted that some operators have had some issues adjusting to the FishOnline system from the manual logbook process. It was acknowledged that the assistance from FishOnline Helpdesk is available.

Action Item: DPI Fisheries Compliance to assist with contacting charter fishing businesses with outstanding catch records.

b) Research

An update on the Recreational Fisheries Monitoring Program from Dr Julian Hughes was provided to the Working Group. It was noted that logbook data provides an essential data source to DPI species stock assessments and is also published on the DPI 'Performance, Development and Insights' report, an annual publication highlighting fishery and socio-economic output of each primary industry sector.

Further, DPI is in the process of developing harvest strategies for key species and the data from charter logbooks and onboard Monitoring Program are proving to be very useful data sets for this process, including developing recreational fishing performance indicators.

Dr Hughes advised that both the completed 2017/18 Recreational Fisheries Monitoring Program report (Statewide Survey of Recreational Fishing in NSW), and the charter specific report (The NSW Recreational Fisheries Monitoring Program – Charter Fishery monitoring) will be released soon.

Action Item: CFNSW Chair to write a letter to the Deputy Director General DPI Fisheries supporting the publication of the Statewide Survey of Recreational Fishing in NSW report. DPI to forward a copy of the reports when published.

Action Item: DPI to forward a weblink to the 'DPI Performance, Development and Insights Report'.

c) CFNSW members updates

Industry members provided an update for their respective regions.

Generally members raised concerns regarding some of the COVID rules and flow-on impacts on operation. It was noted that the Water Police are responsible for enforcement of the Public Health Order. Charter fishing industry operators are able to contact their local Marine Area Command (Water Police) to obtain clarity on local COVID rules and restrictions in their local area,

It was noted that the Service NSW concierge service has provided quality service for operators seeking financial assistance information and support. It was also noted that Charter fishing operators may list their business under the 'Dine and Discover voucher' program.

Action Item: DPI to include details about 'Dine and Discover' Service NSW promotion in the next Charter Chatter.

The Chair provided an update from a recent meeting with the Domestic Commercial Vessels Association. The Association is forward planning with regards to the progression of the sector through the COVID pandemic.

9. Other business

DPI thanked the members for serving on the CFNSW WG over the last 3 years.

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

The Chairperson provided a summary of the meeting and thanked the members for dedicating their time during the last three years.

The next meeting will be scheduled following the appointments of the CFNSW EOI process.

Meeting Closed at 11:50am