

FINAL OUTCOMES

Our Ref: OUT21/3886

MEETING	Charter Fishing NSW Working Group – CFNSW
MEETING NO.	23 March 2021 09:00 – 15:00 hours
LOCATION	Stamford Plaza – Sydney Airport
ATTENDEES	John Paton (Chair), Ann Garard (Region 5), Bill Deveril (Region 7), Vic Levett
APOLOGIES	Kyle Cush (Region 1), Scott Thorrington (Region 3), Roland Persson (Region 4)

1. Introduction by the Chair

The Chair welcomed members to the first CFNSW meeting in 2021 and acknowledged Country. Meeting opened at 9:20 am.

In his opening remarks, the Chair was pleased to meet in person and reiterated the importance of maintaining good communication between this Working Group and DPI. The Chair expressed his sympathies in relation to the passing of Geoff Barrett in late 2020 and acknowledged his commitment and dedication to the NSW Charter fishing industry and wished to pass on the Group' condolences to family and loved ones.

Apologies were received from Kyle Cush (flood impacted), Scott Thorrington (flood impacted) and Roland Persson (illness).

2. Register of Interests

The Chair requested that members declare any changes of interests on the register of interests 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 the 26 August 2020 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.

5. Commercial Vessel update from AMSA and NSW Maritime

Simon Walter and Steve Nichols from AMSA and Transport for NSW respectively, provided a detailed update on commercial vessel related matters, including the clarification on the float free EPIRBs, Domestic Commercial Vessel (DCV) definitions and master responsibilities.

Action Item: DPI to send the AMSA email and phone number of the 'marine safety' hotline to members.

Action Item: Victor Levett to consult directly with NSW Maritime with regards to the raised safety concerns of rowers and SUPs around the early morning hours in Sydney Harbour.

Action Item: DPI to send the AMSA Safety Management System changes on Passenger Count requirements for DCVs to members.

6. Action List

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

7. Charter Fishing legislation amendments update

DPI provided a status update on the current community consultation process on proposed amendments to fisheries and aquaculture regulations, which includes some amendments relating to charter fishing. CFNSW unanimously supported the proposals outlined in the Charter fishing sector paper.

The Working Group discussed the potential for the opportunity of seat and endorsement transferability. DPI advised that these type of transferability arrangements are not proposed in the current proposed set of amendments.

Action Item: CFNSW to submit a formal submission on proposed amendments to fisheries and aquaculture regulations.

8. Code of Practice (CoP)

The CFNSW supported the finalisation of the draft CoP, with a minor amendment to the 'Sustainability' section.

Action Item: DPI to make the suggested CFNSW amendment to the CoP and facilitate publication on the DPI website and dissemination to industry.

9. Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFSTEC)

The CFNSW supported that the Charter fishing industry be specifically represented on RFSTEC.

Action Item: Chair of CFNSW to write to DPI to consider the addition of a Charter fishing industry position on RFSTEC.

10. Updates

a) Management update

Industry promotion: DPI advised of the numerous industry promotion campaigns conducted recently on Facebook and in key fishing magazines, including details on post 'reach'.

Action Item: DPI to continue to promote the charter industry through social media. Industry representatives to provide DPI with potential campaigns and new images.

Catch Reporting update: DPI noted that catch reporting rates have declined since the COVID-19 pandemic. It was reiterated that submitting accurate and timely Charter catch and effort records is important for the management of the fishery. This data feeds into annual species stock assessments and the DPI 'Performance, development and Insights', an annual publication highlighting fishery and socio-economic output of each primary industry sector.

Action Item: DPI to investigate options to increase catch reporting rates.

Release weights: DPI noted that release weights had been received and were being provided to industry. It was noted there were some delivery delays on the hand reels, which were holding up industry-wide dissemination. The CFNSW recommended that release weights be made available to industry without the hand reels.

Action Item: DPI to inform industry that release weights are available to interested operators.

b) Fisheries enhancements

DPI provided an update on the recent fisheries enhancement initiatives, including FADs deployed, new artificial reef locations/areas (Batemans Bay and Jervis Bay), and recent dusky flathead stocking locations and numbers.

c) Compliance Update

A compliance update was provided to the Working Group. DPI acknowledges the ongoing industry intelligence provided regarding illegal operators. It was highlighted that reliable, quality intelligence provides the basis for targeted operations.

Action Item: DPI compliance to communicate with AMSA on identified illegal fishing charters and to incorporate AMSA Domestic Commercial Vessel rules and penalties into fisheries compliance letters.

d) Research

An update on the Recreational Fisheries Monitoring Program from Dr Julian Hughes was provided to the Working Group.

Action Item: DPI to forward an electronic copy of the 2017/18 Recreational Fisheries Monitoring Program report to the Working Group once publicly available.

e) CFNSW members updates

Industry members provided an update for their respective regions.

Action Item: Mr Bill Deveril to draft up a letter regarding the CFNSW support to resolve the Merimbula bar siltation issue.

11. Other business

DPI advised that the terms of appointment of all positions on the CFNSW will expire on the 20th November 2021. To ensure continuity of the working group, DPI advised that the expressions of interest (EOI) process will commence prior to the expiry of the current positions.

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

12. 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 these ongoing uncertain times particularly in relation to the severe weather flooding event being experienced, which prevented some members from attending.

The next meeting be scheduled in late August 2021, with potentially a regional location to be determined.

Meeting Closed at 15:00