

FINAL OUTCOMES

Our Ref: OUT21/17869

MEETING	Charter Fishing NSW Working Group – CFNSW
DATE / TIME.	7 December 2021 010:00 – 12:10 hours
LOCATION	Virtual Meeting
ATTENDEES	John Paton (Chair), Vic Levett (RFNSW) Kyle Cush (Region 1), John Lee (Region 4 North) Roland Persson (Region 4 South) Ann Garard (Region 5), Peter Dugan (Region 6)
APOLOGIES	Andrew Trappel (Region 2), Scott Thorrington (Region 3), Bill Deveril (Region 7)

1. Introduction by the Chair

The Chair welcomed members to the third CFNSW meeting in 2021 and provided an acknowledgement of Country. The meeting opened at 10:05 am.

The Chair congratulated returning members and welcomed the new members to the Working Group. The Chair introduced himself and provided members with the function, purpose and importance of the CFNSW Working Group. The Working Group noted that the Sydney Region (Region 4) will now be represented by two positions being North and South. Each member provided a brief introduction of their background for the benefit of the Group.

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).

Action item: Members to return register of interest form via email at charter.fishing@dpi.nsw.gov.au

3. Agreement on the outcomes from the previous meeting

The outcomes from the previous meeting held on 15 September 2021 were tabled (provided in Appendix B to the agenda). The outcomes were unanimously supported by present returning members as being a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. DPI Corporate and Fisheries Units Organisation Overview

DPI gave an overview of the Fisheries NSW organisational structure for the benefit of the Working Group.

5. Correspondence sent and received

The Correspondence list was noted by the Working Group.

6. 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 and Region 4 (North) members expressed concern regarding the safety of unlit rowers on Sydney Harbour pre-dawn and low light conditions. The RFNSW member advised he will follow this matter up further with Transport for NSW (now incorporating NSW Maritime).

Region 4 (North) member raised concerns about illegal charter operations in his region. DPI advised any suspected illegal fishing activity should be reported through the Fishers Watch phonenumber (1800 043 536), online reporting form or to the Charter Management team, which can then be forwarded on.

Action Item: DPI to advise industry about the Working group membership in the next edition of Charter Chatter following the completion of the expression of interest process.

7. Industry COVID update

The Chair provided an industry perspective update on COVID and the further easing of restrictions later this month.

Action item: DPI to provide online weblinks to NSW Health to the Working Group and industry in the next Charter Chatter.

8. Updates

a) Management update

DPI provided a management update to the Working Group, which included an overview of the Charter fishery and statistics from recent industry promotion projects.

Action Item: Members to forward any charter images and promotional ideas to DPI.

DPI provided an update on catch reporting and its importance for the ongoing sustainable management of the resource and how it feeds into the scientific stock assessment process. It was noted that following recent management and compliance actions, catch reporting rates have significantly improved to approximately 95%. The Working Group was advised that further compliance action may be necessary to increase compliance with catch record requirements.

DPI provided an update on fisheries compliance statistics for the fishery in the periods 2020 and 2021. The Working Group noted that the compliance rate for this combined period was around 90%.

b) Research

DPI provided an update on the Recreational Fisheries Monitoring Program to the Working Group. It was noted that the charter fishing logbook data is an essential data source for species stock assessments and economic indicators. The data is also a vital contributor in the 'Performance, Development and Insights' report by DPI, which is an annual publication highlighting the socio-economic output of each primary industry sector.

DPI 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) have been released and was sent to members in September 2021. The Recreational Monitoring Program for 2019/20 and current period continues with an estimated 200 observer trips planned in 2022.

Action item: DPI to provide new members the weblinks to the 2017/18 Statewide Recreational Fishing Survey and Charter Fishing Monitoring Reports, as well as the DPI Performance, Data and Insights webpage link.

c) CFNSW members updates

Industry members provided an update for their respective regions, indicating some impact on charter fishing activity in 2021 due to COVID. However clientele bookings and participation rates are looking positive for the upcoming holiday period.

The RFNSW member advised the Working Group about differences in fishing rules for commercial and recreational fishers in the Fish Rock Grey Nurse Shark critical habitat zone. The member advised he will raise this matter further with RFNSW.

9. Other business

The chair proposed that there be two virtual meetings and one face to face meeting in 2022.

Action Item: All members to complete and return onboarding forms to DPI.

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

The Chairperson provided a summary of the meeting and thanked the members for their efforts on the Working Group and wished everyone a safe and merry festive season.

The next meeting was proposed to be scheduled in March 2022.

Meeting Closed at 12:10pm