

FINAL MEETING OUTCOMES

Our Ref: OUT23/19631

MEETING	Charter Fishing NSW Working Group (CFNSW)
DATE / TIME	6 December 2023 015:00 – 17:00 hours
LOCATION	Virtual Meeting via MS Teams
ATTENDEES	John Paton (Chair) Andrew Trappel (Region 2) Scott Thorrington (Region 3) Jong (John) Lee (Region 4 North) Ann Garard (Region 5) Peter Dugan (Region 6) Observer: Christian Worth (Region 4 South)
APOLOGIES	Kyle Cush (Region 1)

1. Introduction by the Chair

The Chair welcomed members to the third CFNSW meeting in 2023 and provided an acknowledgement of Country. The meeting opened at 3:00 pm.

2. CFNSW Working Group administration update

The Working Group was informed that the expression of interest process for membership for Region 4 South and Region 7 is pending. DPI is working to complete the process prior to the next meeting.

3. 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.

4. Agreement on the outcomes from the previous meeting

The outcomes from the previous meeting held on 16 August 2023 were tabled (provided in Appendix B to the agenda). The outcomes were unanimously supported by present members as being a true and accurate record of the meeting (Moved: Scott Thorrington, seconded Ann Garard).

5. Correspondence sent and received

The correspondence list was noted by the CFNSW.

6. Action List

Items in the action list were discussed. Reference was made to many of the completed items.

7. Management Update

a) Catch Reporting – An update on the current catch reporting rate was provided to the Working Group. After the recent campaign to increase compliance, it was noted that catch reporting had increased from 60% to above 80%, which is a positive result. However, some operators are still failing to submit catch records and therefore compliance action may be taken. It was noted by some members that recent catch reporting had been entered incorrectly as the species logged were not those caught by the charter owner.

Action item: DPI Fisheries Systems and Service Modernisation Project manager to provide an update at the next meeting.

b) Industry promotion update – Statistics on recent social media posts were discussed along with website traffic. It was noted that the Go Charter fishing webpage received significant boosts to traffic when social media posts were made. An update on the industry promotional video was provided to members. It was noted that a contractor had been selected to assist with the production and filming should start in the early new year. All members were supportive of the proposed format of the video.

c) Introduction of new policies affecting Charter Licence holders – An overview and explanation on the introduction of the two newly introduced policies (Administrative sanctions and Debt recovery) administered by Fisheries Services was given to members.

8. Harvest Strategy update

DPI provided an update on the Line and Trap Harvest Strategy. An outline of Harvest Strategy processes, explanation on their implementation and the role and responsibilities of the Line and Trap Harvest Strategy were also explained. The mechanisms of Harvest Strategies and goals of the Mulloway Harvest Strategy were also discussed with comments made on the recent boat limit changes and the apparent increased number of juvenile mulloway in many NSW estuaries.

9. Compliance update

DPI Fisheries Compliance provided an update on recent illegal charter operations and regulatory infringements. It was reiterated that recent regulatory amendments are helping to strengthen Fisheries compliance activities regarding illegal operators advertising. It was noted that there are multiple persons of interest being investigated and more information would be provided at future meetings.

Action item: Provide relevant contact details for Fisheries Compliance to members to enable real time reporting of suspected illegal charters.

10. CFNSW WG Members update

It was noted by many members that there had been an increase in bookings leading into the summer period. Members were optimistic that with warmer weather and the upcoming holiday period that it would provide increased business.

The Region 2 representative again raised concerns with the use of the South West Rocks FAD by local professional fishers. It was noted, however, that commercial fishers now

leave the area as Charter operators approach the FAD indicating that DPI action is working. DPI will continue to monitor this issue.

The Region 4 (North) representative raised some concern with the current perceived level of Kingfish stocks and ongoing sustainability of the stock. It was noted a harvest strategy for Snapper and Kingfish was being developed. Also, the issue of increased pressure on fishing locations and facilities in the Sydney region was raised with large numbers of recreational fishing boats at some fishing locations.

11. Other business

A proposal of having an open meeting for all Charter Licence holders to attend was discussed with all members supporting the idea.

Action item: Develop a proposal for an industry-wide working group meeting in 2024.

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

The Chairperson provided a summary of the meeting. He thanked the members for their contributions to the Working Group in 2023 and wished all a happy festive holiday season.

The next meeting was proposed to be scheduled in April 2024.

Meeting Closed at 17:00pm