

FINAL OUTCOMES

Our Ref: OUT20/5472

MEETING	Charter Fishing NSW Working Group – CFNSW
MEETING NO.	3
DATE	6 May 2020; 10:00 – 12:20 hours
LOCATION	Video Conference
ATTENDEES	John Paton (Chair), Kyle Cush (Region 1), Scott Thorrington (Region 3), Roland Persson (Region 4), Ann Garard (Region 5), Bill Deverill (Region 7), Vic Levett
APOLOGIES	Mark Flanagan
DPI ATTENDEES	Bryan Van Der Walt, Nathan McNamara, Geoff Barrett, Amie Wilson and Julian Hughes

1. Introduction by the Chair (10:00)

The Chair welcomed members to the first CFNSW meeting in 2020. In his welcoming remarks, the Chair highlighted the current difficulties facing the Charter Fishing Industry as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the importance of continuing communication between this Working Group and DPI.

2. Register of Interests

The Chair advised that a register of interests will be maintained for CFNSW and requested that members declare any changes of interests on the register (Appendix A to the agenda).

3. Agreement on the outcomes from the previous meeting

The outcomes from the previous meeting held on the 29 August 2019 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. Action list

The ongoing action list was tabled in Appendix C to the agenda. The completed items will be removed from the action list.

5. Updates

a) Management

Catch Records

Management reiterated the importance of submitting catch and effort log sheets. Data derived from this source provides valuable information for stocks assessment processes and demonstrates the economic output of the Charter fishery. **Action Item:** DPI to continue to provide industry catch reporting reminders and implement associated compliance action.

Legislation Reforms

The CFNSW Working Group were updated on the status of the Charter fishing legislation reforms.

Go Charter Fishing Webpage

Management provided a visual update on the 'Go Charter Fishing' webpage to the CFNSW Working Group. CFNSW Working were pleased with the design and progress of the webpage.

b) Research

An update on the Recreational Fisheries Monitoring Program was provided to the Working Group. **Action Item:** DPI to forward an electronic copy of the Recreational Fisheries Monitoring Program presentation to the Working Group.

c) FADs and Reefs Update

An update on the FADs and Artificial Reefs programs were provided to the Working Group. The Working Group were pleased with the expanding programs, noting the potential for additional FADs locations next season.

d) CFNSW members updates

The Chair updated the CFNSW Working Group on the financial assistance measures made available to affected businesses during this COVID-19 pandemic. The Chair advised that he has written, on behalf of the Charter fishery, to the NSW Government requesting that Charter fishing be listed as a 'highly impacted industry' under Attachment A of the Grant guidelines. **Action item:** The Chair to update the CFNSW Working Group on the response.

6. Other Business

Vic Levett requested an update on the COVID-19 restrictions impacting Charter fishing businesses. DPI advised the CFNSW Working Group that the Water Police enforce the Public Health COVID-19 restrictions. Operators should contact their local Marine Area Command prior to undertaking a Charter fishing trip if they require clarification about the rules.

Ann Garard notified the CFNSW Working Group that AMSA paperwork has been delayed in some instances and recommended that all operators check their Survey certificates and Certificates of Competency. **Action item:** CFNSW Working Group members to forward ASMA related questions to DPI Charter Management. DPI to collate questions and formally request AMSA officer to attend the next suitable meeting.

Scott Thorrington recommended that DPI, in connection with industry, promote Charter fishing in NSW to aid industry recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic abates. **Action Item:** DPI to investigate industry promotion options and prepare a communications plan. DPI noted that the 'Go Charter Fishing in NSW' webpage will be a key tool to promote industry in the near future.

Bill Deverill commented on the status of the entrance to Merimbula Lake. Mr Deverill advised that the entrance has slowly been silting up over the past few years and is now impassable at low tide, impacting charter fishing operations. **Action Item:** Mr Deverill to consult with the local Estuary Management Committee.

7. 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 this difficult time facing the Charter fishing industry.

The next meeting be scheduled in July 2020.

Meeting Closed at 12:20