

MEETING OUTCOMES

Our Ref: OUT25/4267

MEETING	Charter Fishing NSW Working Group (CFNSW)
DATE / TIME	2 April 2025 15:00 – 17:00hours
LOCATION	Virtual Meeting via MS Teams
ATTENDEES	John Paton (Chair) Crystal Browning (Region 1) Andrew Trappel (Region 2) Scott Thorrington (Region 3) Stuart Reid (Region 4 North) Christian Worth (Region 4 South) Ann Garard (Region 5) Josh Badenoch (Region 6) Christine Cattanach (Region 7) Peter Dugan (RFNSW)
APOLOGIES	Nil

1. Introduction by the Chair

The Chair welcomed members to the first CFNSW meeting in 2025 and provided an acknowledgement of Country. Meeting opened 3:00pm.

2. Register of Interests

The Chair requested that members declare any conflicts of interest on the register of interest form (Appendix A to the agenda).

3. Agreement on the outcomes from the previous meeting

The outcomes from the previous meeting held on 27th November 2024 were tabled (provided in Appendix B to the agenda). It was noted that no comments were received from members and the outcomes were unanimously supported by members as being a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. Correspondence sent and received

The correspondence list was noted by the Working Group. It was noted that a letter from the CFNSW Chair regarding fishing arrangements at Fish Rock (South West Rocks) was sent to RFNSW as an action item from the previous meeting.

Action Item: DPIRD to provide a copy of the letter sent to RFNSW to respective regional representatives.

5. Action List

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

6. Research Update

DPIRD provided a brief overview of the Charter Fishing Monitoring Report for 2022/2023 for the benefit of new members. It was noted that the results for the current reporting period should be available for members at the next meeting.

7. Compliance update

DPIRD compliance provided an update on recent compliance actions including a breakdown of compliance rates and actions for industry over the recent summer period. It was noted that vessel marking infringements were still being detected and followed up on.

8. Management options for key fish stocks

DPIRD provided an update on potential management changes for some key fish species harvested in NSW, with potential changes aligned with stock status and harvest levels across fishing sectors.

Industry members provided feedback with regards to any changes impacting charter fishing operations, including businesses operating with larger vessels. DPIRD advised that further consultation with the Working Group and Fishing Advisory Councils will occur before any proposals are finalised and prior to any broader stakeholder consultation.

9. Harvest Strategy update

It was noted that due to time constraints, this agenda item was postponed until the next meeting.

Action item: DPIRD to provide a Harvest Strategy update at the next meeting.

10. Management Update

a) Industry promotion update

Statistics from recent social media posts were presented to the Working Group. It was shown that recent promotional video posts had been well received, reaffirmed by the significant number of page visits to the Go Charter NSW interactive map.

b) Industry licence sales and movements

A breakdown of the number of charter fishing businesses operating by region was presented to members after anecdotal evidence suggested that some regions may be experiencing an increase in effort resulting from new operators entering the fishery. It was noted that minimal variations by region had occurred overtime.

Action Item: DPIRD to present current industry statistic breakdowns at next meeting when the 2024/25 industry data is finalised.

11. Shore-based Fishing Guides

DPIRD provided an update on shore-based fishing guides, including recent figures on business activity. The supplied information paper outlining the existing management arrangements for the shore-based fishing guide sector was noted by the Working Group.

12. Members updates

It was noted by many members that the recent weather event (cyclone and east coast low) resulted in limited fishing opportunities and cancellation of trips. Some members noted exceptional clientele numbers and charter fishing trips over the summer period.

13. Other business

The opportunity for holding future CFNSW meetings in person was discussed with the DPIRD to further investigate this option for the next meeting.

14. Chairperson summary and proposed meeting date for the next CFNSW meeting

The Chairperson provided a summary of the meeting. He thanked the members for their time and contributions to the Working Group.

The next meeting was proposed to be scheduled in July 2025.

Meeting closed 5:05pm