

MEETING OUTCOMES

Our Ref: OUT25/11043

MEETING	Charter Fishing NSW Working Group (CFNSW)
DATE / TIME	20 August 2025 14:00 – 17:00 hours
LOCATION	Virtual Meeting via MS Teams
ATTENDEES	John Paton (Chair) Andrew Trappel (Region 2) Scott Thorrington (Region 3) Stuart Reid (Region 4 North) Ann Garard (Region 5) Josh Badenoch (Region 6) Peter Dugan (RFNSW)
APOLOGIES	Crystal Browning (Region 1) Christian Worth (Region 4 South) Christine Cattanaach (Region 7)

1. Introduction by the Chair

The Chair welcomed members to the second CFNSW meeting in 2025 and provided an acknowledgement of Country.

2. Register of Interests

The Chair requested that members declare any relevant conflicts of interest for inclusion in the Working Group register of interests.

3. Agreement on the outcomes from the previous meeting

The outcomes from the previous meeting held on 2 April 2025 were tabled (provided with 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, including a recent letter from DPIRD outlining development of stock rebuilding programs for four species.

Action Item: DPIRD to provide a copy of:

- (1) the letter sent from the CFNSW chair to the RFNSW chair regarding Fish Rock grey nurse shark critical habitat site fishing arrangements.
- (2) the letter from the Executive Director Fisheries to the CFNSW chair regarding stock rebuilding programs.

5. Action List

Items in the action list were discussed.

6. Charter Fishing NSW Working Group Terms of Reference (ToR)

The members supported the minor update of the Terms of Reference for the CFNSW Working Group to take account of legacy licensing arrangements.

Action item: DPIRD to update the members handbook with the updated Terms Of reference.

7. Research Update

DPIRD provided an overview of the recent 2023/24 State-wide Recreational Fishing Survey, with the final report now available on the DPIRD website. It was noted that the results presented for angler participation and reported catch as part of the long-term monitoring of recreational fishing were similar to those recorded for the Charter Fishing sector based on logbook reporting.

8. Compliance update

DPIRD compliance provided an update on recent compliance actions, including a breakdown of compliance rates and actions for industry over the recent period. It was noted that generally industry compliance was good, however fin-clipping and vessel marking non-compliance detections were continuing to occur.

9. Management options for key fish stocks

DPIRD provided a presentation on proposed rebuilding management actions for three depleted species (grey morwong, pearl perch and redfish) and one recovering species (silver trevally). Options have been refined taking into account feedback from members at the previous meeting.

Industry members discussed the challenges associated with charter fishing boat limit proposals and how boat limits can impact operators with vessels with higher seat capacity. Feedback was also provided on size limit options for pearl perch.

10. Harvest Strategy update

DPIRD provided an update on the recent public consultation process on the draft Mulloway harvest strategy as well as an update on the ongoing development of the Line & Trap harvest strategy.

11. Management Update

The Working Group were notified of the current consultation process on the draft model for establishing a recreational fishing peak body in NSW. Working group members were encouraged to provide a submission. Public submissions close on 1 October 2025.

Action item: DPIRD to provide the recreational fishing peak body consultation details to members.

a) Industry promotion update

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

b) Industry licence sales and movements

The annual number of licence transfers was presented to the Working Group along with a regional breakdown of fishing effort (charter fishing days) and clientele by region over time.

12. Charter Fishing Trust Investment Plan

The Charter Fishing Trust Investment Plan 2025/26 - 2027/28 was presented to the Working Group for consideration. The Plan was supported by the Working Group for implementation.

Action Item: DPIRD to provide members with a breakdown of expenditure from the Charter Trust from the 2024/25 financial year.

13. Members updates

It was noted by many members that the recent poor weather resulted in limited fishing opportunities and the cancellation of trips. Fishing reports had remained strong when fishing outings were possible. Some members noted increased international clientele numbers over the previous period due to the value of the Australian dollar.

14. Other business

The Region 2 member queried the regulations associated with trawl fishing effort, after it was noted that commercial operators were remaining at sea for multiple days before landing their catch.

Action Item: DPIRD to provide information on the NSW Trawl fishery effort arrangements at the next meeting.

15. 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 December 2025.

Meeting closed 4:57pm.