OREHP Advisory Panel Meeting

Los Alamitos

November 13, 2018

Attendees:

Gary Burke	Ken Leber	Brice Semmons
Ken Cain	Kai Lorenzen	Mike Shane
Rafael Cuevas	Randy Lovell	Bill Shedd
Mark Drawbridge	Mike McCorkle	Valerie Taylor
Adam Frimodig	Jim Moore	Theresa Talley
Lorenz Hauser	Kirsten Ramey	Tony Vaught
Kathryn Johnson	John Riordan	Nina Venuti
Mike Kucura	Craig Schuman	Dennis Weaver

Introductions and Announcements

Jim Salazar has recently retired. Jock Albright is the alternate for John Riordan.

Townhall Meeting Results and Discussion (Theresa Talley):

- Over half of the participants in the meetings were from the recreational fishery or industry
- Around one third of the participants represented education (mostly associated with Seabass in the Classroom)
- Around 7 percent of participants were commercial fishermen
- Preference for continuation of the program was common
    - Personal involvement in the program is very much linked to preference to continue OREHP
- Those opting to end the program wanted to continue to collect funds but use them to support fisheries in other ways
- Distrust of the science (data, methods, analyses) was also linked to preference and was included in 78 percent of all responses
- 93% of responding recreational fishers want to continue the program; 83% distrusted the science
- 70% of responding commercial fishers want to discontinue the program
- 100% of those respondents related to education want to continue the program
    - If discontinued, they want to continue collecting funds
    - No comments on the science of the evaluation from this group
- Public is asking for more communication from the Department to increase transparency

Discussion about comments and participation at townhall meetings

Question and Answer with Scientific Advisory Committee Members (Ken Caine, Lorenz Houser, Ken Leiber, Dallas Weaver)**:**

Discussion of fish health and genetics issues

- Conflict surrounding deformities and culling of fish
- Comparison to other programs around the country
- Deformities are caused by environmental or nutritional factor and are not heritable or caused by infectious disease agent
- Many advances have been made in the field of genetics since the program began
    - Use of genetic marker(s) to tag hatchery fish

Discussion of Modeling (Kai Lorenzen):

- Model predicts what recaptures we should see based on growth, dispersal, fishing mortality patterns, net selectivity
- Extremely rapid drop in numbers of fish recovered is indicative of the enormous amount of fish lost during the time period (up to 2 years post-release)

Discussion about how changes in conditions since the modelling work was done might affect the numbers

- Gillnet surveys in recent years are not consistent with sampling used during the modelling period (fewer sites and different locations); not enough data being collected in recent years
- Rates of recapture of tagged fish are similar to when the study was done

Discussion about what the study can tell us about the wild population

- The model only shows what hatchery fish do; there is no equivalent for wild fish
- The stock assessment reconstructs how many fish must have entered the fishery to support the level of catch in previous years
- With the numbers of fish released by the hatchery, tagged fish should account for about 1/3 of the population; however, these numbers aren't being caught in the commercial gillnets

Discussion about why the huge difference in recovery in juvenile gillnet surveys versus recovery in the commercial gillnets

- Domestication effects

Discussion of other species (success, cost effectiveness, external tags/marks)

Discussion of tag retention

- Longer term retention study results show 100 percent retention after one year

Discussion of Catalina data and why it wasn't used in the model

- Habitat doesn't allow them to spread out as much as they do along the coast
- Don't have the same capacity to disperse.
- Catalina might be a good place to do release experiments
- Acoustic tracking may be something to explore in Catalina

<u>OREHP Review of Operations</u> (Mark Drawbridge):

- 2018 production summary
    - 58,000 overwintered fish were released (greater than 9" in length)
- Temperature loggers are being deployed at growout facilities year round

Culture research

- Testing different color tank walls to reduce walling behavior
    - Full details will be available at next Advisory Panel meeting
- Gas bubble disease (GBD)
    - Assessing water temperature and depth as they relate to GBD
    - Installed vacuum degassers
        - Some refinements to be made, but system is now in place
    - Pilot study will compare vacuum degasser and stacked column degasser

Halibut research

- Some spawning has occurred, but eggs are not viable
- Funded by separate grant funding
- A plan for small scale releases has been provided to CDFW

Discussion of challenges of halibut to growout operators

<u>Field Studies</u> (Mike Shane):

No field studies update was given

<u>Pathology</u>:

No pathology report was given

<u>Discussion of evaluation process and timeline:</u>

- Guiding statute is outdated, but until it is changed or overturned, the program will continue
- Changes to the program need approval of the Director and over 50 percent of Advisory Panel members

Discussion of funding

Discussion of possibility of having a facilitated discussion about the OREHP led by a neutral party

Discussion of adaptive management

Discussion of the effectiveness of the Advisory Panel, its organization and lack of leadership/chair

Next meeting will be held in January or February 2019