

OREHP Advisory Panel Meeting
Los Alamitos
February 26, 2019

Attendees:

Advisory Panel Members:

Ken Franke [Sportfish Association of California (SAC)]
Mike McCorkle [commercial fishing industry (fisherman)]
Kirsten Ramey (CDFW)
John Riordan [Coastal Conservation Association of California (CCA-CAL)]
Rob Ross (California Fisheries and Seafood Institute)
Greg Stotesbury [proxy for Bill Shedd, American Sportfishing Association (ASA)]
Tony Vaught [California Aquaculture Association (CAA)]

Advisory Panel Alternates:

Jock Albright (CCA-CAL)
Gary Burke [commercial fishing industry (fisherman)]
Dallas Weaver (CCA)

CDFW: Kathryn Johnson, Randy Lovell, Jim Moore, and Valerie Taylor

HSWRI: Mark Drawbridge, Ruairi Macnamara, and Mike Shane

Members of the Public:

John Ballotti (CCA-CAL)
Don Henson (SAC)
Greg Jenson (Dana Pt. growout pen)
Wayne Kotow (CCA-CAL)

Discussion about the meeting agenda

Continuation of OREHP

Discussion about the priority or goal of the OREHP

- Science or enhancement?

Discussion about whether the OREHP should continue

- Needs more clearly defined goals and objectives
- Include other species? Include White Seabass? Both?
- Need to more clearly communicate to the public
 - Measures of success – what does the public get for the OREHP fees?

Discussion about making a motion to continue the OREHP

- Expanding to include other species – halibut, sand bass, other?
- Expanding the requirements to purchase the Ocean Enhancement Stamp further north past Pt. Arguello

Greg Stotesbury (proxy for Bill Shedd) makes the following **motion**:

The OREHP should continue with White Seabass with improvements suggested by the evaluation and prioritized by the HSWRI 5-year plan. In addition, California Halibut and other species should be included.

The motion is seconded by Dallas Weaver.

Question (Kirsten Ramey): Why does the OREHP want to continue to focus on White Seabass?

- Sportfishing community doesn't believe the results of the evaluation are justified; believe that tag loss is a factor; genetic markers aren't currently used so there is no way to determine if fish are progeny of hatchery fish; believe that Catalina data should have been used

Clarification about the Ocean Enhancement Stamp fees

- Those buying one and two-day licenses are exempt from buying an OREHP Stamp.
- Commercial-Passenger Fishing Vessels and staff must purchase an OREHP Stamp

Call for a vote for the motion on the table: 6 in favor, 1 abstain. Motion carries.

OREHP Advisory Panel (OREAP) Leadership

Discussion about how to run the OREAP

- Should there be a chairperson? Co-chair? Subcommittees?
- Clarify the authority/role of the panel
- There are currently no by-laws written down
- History of the Advisory Panel/Joint Panel
 - Bob Fletcher was Chair at one time
 - Joint Panel was more of a technical science panel and the OREAP focused more on the direction of the OREHP and how to spend funds
- Meetings must be accessible to the public
- Keep structure and goals/objective simple

A **motion** is made by John Riordan:

To vote Bill Shedd as Chairperson of the OREAP.

Tony Vaught seconds the motion. There is a call for a vote. The vote is unanimous and the motion passes.

A **motion** is made by John Riordan:

To vote Tony Vaught as Vice Chair.

Greg Steinberg seconds the motion. There is a call for a vote. The vote is unanimous and the motion carries.

OREAP Structure

Discussion about the structure of the OREAP

- Section 6594 of the California Fish and Game Code describes the membership of the OREAP
 - Change the membership (name changes, disbanded organizations, etc.), the legislation must be amended
 - Add members to OREAP
- Should the OREAP consider other changes to the legislation?
 - Extending the program further north?
 - Sub-committee to discuss expansion of the OREHP area
 - Valerie Taylor, Bill Shedd, John Riordan, Tony Vaught and Rob Ross
- Per diem
 - Money would come from the OREHP Stamp Fund (already in code)
 - Valerie Taylor will define the per diem process further at next meeting

Funding and Budget

Discussion of historical funding sources and allocations to OREHP

- Mitigation funds
- Sportfish Restoration Act (SFRA) funds
- OREHP Stamp funds

Discussion of Department contract process

- Contracts usually go out to bid, but because HSWRI is the only vendor that can provide these services, it becomes a non-competitive bid process
 - Justification is approved by the Department of General Services (DGS)
 - Department of Finance tells the Department how much the spending authority will be for each contract period
 - This amount already has administrative costs deducted
 - The amount can change – additional funding may be released later in the fiscal year, but contracts are typically due prior to this time
 - How can the amount get changed?
 - Budget Change Proposal (BCP) submitted to the Legislature

- The BCP must get approved by the Legislative Committee and make it into the Governor's Budget
 - OREAP needs to decide very specifically where to allocate the funds and will need to justify where the additional funds are going towards
 - Proposal will need to get to Craig Shuman in early summer for the 2020/2021 fiscal year
 - The contract can be amended, but DGS must approve it again
 - Capital outlay is not allowed on State contracts
- SFRA funds
 - Based on the number of licenses sold and the acreage of land
 - United States Fish and Wildlife Service gives the Department a pot of money and it is distributed amongst each region/program within the Department (by the Director)
 - OREHP matches 25% of the funds with Stamp money
 - Very specific rules as to what SFRA funds can be used for
 - Cannot be used for anything other than the hatchery within the OREHP (cannot be used for gill net surveys, pathology, etc.)

A **motion** is made by Tony Vaught:

To review the OREHP budget and start the process of submitting changes to the budget based on the evaluation and the proposal by the contractor.

Mike McCorkle seconds the motion. The motion is put to a vote and passes unanimously.

Tony Vaught requests the process and timeline of a BCP and how to bring it to the Director to be written out and sent to the sub-committee

➡ Valerie to provide flow chart describing the BCP process for next meeting

HSWRI Proposal (Mark Drawbridge)

- Based on idea that most of the stakeholders wanted to continue the OREHP with White Seabass and add another species
- OREHP is limited by funding – the proposal was written without considering where the source of the additional funding
- The proposal focused on the recommendations from the evaluation, prioritizing them by importance to HSWRI (research-based recommendations rather than policy recommendations).
- Includes:
 - Adding more staff support
 - Growing larger fish
 - Broodstock collection
 - Gill net surveys in north

- Acoustic tracking
- Put more emphasis on Catalina Island monitoring/tracking
- Contest for CPFV heads
- Modeling
- Genetics – genetic markers for hatchery fish; parentage of spawns will help guide the broodstock management plan
- Domestication of hatchery raised fish
- Education and outreach
- Additional species

Discussion

- ➡ Request for HSWRI to come up with a tiered multi-year timeline for what can realistically be accomplished in the next 5 years

Discussion about putting together an independent science committee of experts to review the science and make recommendations

- Previously, the Joint Panel filled this role but wasn't very effective and didn't meet often
- The committee would have to be paid for by an outside contract and paid for by Stamp funds
 - Kai Lorenz has expressed interest in helping

Discussion about deformities and Department pathologist

- Need to agree on what is considered malformation and deformity, what is natural variation and what the Program is okay with releasing and not releasing
- Releases have not been restricted based on deformities

Structure of OREAP meetings

Discussion about what types of information the OREAP would like presented at the meetings

- The HSWRI annual report will be sent to the OREAP in the fall and members can ask questions at the next meeting rather than spending meeting time on a presentation of this information

Discussion about meeting notes

- Valerie will look into recording notes and posting the audio file
- Notes will be kept in minute format

Next meeting will be held April 30, from 10-2 pm at the Department's Los Alamitos office