

OREAP meeting
Los Alamitos, CA
April 30, 2019

Note: As requested at the last OREHP Advisory Panel meeting, this meeting is being recorded

Change to agenda: "Budget Process" has been moved ahead of "Funding Plan"

Attendees

Advisory Panel Members:

Mike McCorkle (Commercial Fishermen)
Kirsten Ramey (CDFW)
John Riordan [Coastal Conservation Association of California (CCA)]
Rob Ross (Commercial Fish Business)
Bill Shedd [American Fishing Tackle Company (AFTCO)]
Tony Vaught [California Aquaculture Association (CAA)]

Advisory Panel Alternates:

Dallas Weaver (CAA)
Gary Burke (Commercial Fisherman)

CDFW: Adam Frimodig, Kathryn Johnson, Randy Lovell, Jim Moore, Craig Shuman, Valerie Taylor

HSWRI: Mark Drawbridge, Ruairi MacNamara, Mike Shane

Members of the public: Steve Croke (SAC), Wayne Kotow (CCA), Alayna Siddall (SAC)

OREHP Evaluation and Next Steps

Discussion of CDFW memo from the Director to the Advisory Panel members

- Next steps before any major changes to the program
 - Solicit additional stakeholder input
 - 270,000 recreational anglers and 1,100 commercial fishermen pay into this program, but only received 178 comments
 - Clearly defined goals and metrics for success
 - Different interpretations, need agreement on what we're trying to achieve with this program
 - Improve OREHP and OREAP organizational structure
 - Not operating in accordance with the law
 - Of the eight groups outlined in statute, four of those no longer exist
 - Alternate members are not in statute
 - Need to update the language in the statute

- Operating procedures, by-laws, Conflict of Interest (Form 700)
 - Department can't advise the Panel, but that is something the broader advisory body should consider
- Professional, neutral facilitator for meetings
- Scientific advisory committee to provide independent scientific review

Discussion about the memo continues: scientific advisory committee and the ineffectiveness of the joint panel; impacts on securing additional funding and/or progress of the program; use of public funds without adequate representation on the Advisory Panel or public stakeholder input; whether the goal of the program is enhancement or research.

Budget Process (11:09 am)

One handout from the department and one from the department of finance

Discussion about requesting additional funds and approaching end of fiscal year deadline (June 15)

HSWRI Funding Proposal (11:13 am)

Discussion about HSWRI revised funding proposal and the evaluation recommendations that were included (research and hatchery operation recommendations only), genetics, importance of Santa Catalina Island.

Questions the Advisory Panel hopes to answer over the next five years are:

- 1) If growing larger fish affects tag returns
- 2) Are fish losing their tags?
- 3) Are hatchery fish going further north with warming temperatures?

Discussion of why the Advisory Panel wants to add another species right now instead of focusing on a single species.

Break for lunch (11:56 am)

Meeting Resumes (12:18 pm)

Funding Plan

CCA-Cal handout

Bill Shedd summarizes three-prong approach to secure additional funding:

- 1) Additional \$3 million from OREHP Stamp fund
- 2) Prevent further reduction in SFRA monies
- 3) Request additional \$1.9 million from the (California) Legislature

Bill requests a motion be put forward to show legislators that the panel has agreed that additional funding is required to keep the program functioning.

Discussion about including the points from the Department memo in the motion and working on them concurrently with securing additional funding for the program.

Discussion about panel making decisions and passing motions as it currently stands

Discussion about limitations of funding sources. Under the contract, infrastructure cannot be funded; however, the Stamp Fund may have less restrictions. The Department will look into what these funds can and cannot be used for.

Break to type up motion (1:11 pm)

Bill Shedd makes the following motion:

The Ocean Resources Enhancement and Hatchery Program (OREHP) Advisory Panel (AP) agrees with the California Sea Grant Scientific Evaluation of the OREHP that, among other things, more funding is needed for the OREHP. The OREHP chief contractor has provided a 5-year plan to answer many of the questions in the Evaluation, including benchmarks and accountabilities to be monitored and or changed by the AP over time. In addition, the CDFW has made valid recommendations to improve the OREHP. We support efforts to significantly increase OREHP funding so that the plans can be executed. We consider these needs to secure more funding highly urgent. We ask the California legislature to support the sportfishing community, commercial fishing community, seafood industry, and aquaculture in this funding plan.

Rob Ross seconds the motion.

Department must abstain from the vote as it is directed to the Legislature and concerns the State budget.

Call for vote: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention

The motion passes.

Review of Stamp Fund Revenue Estimate and Operating Budget

- Estimated stamp fund revenue was \$1.794 million but is more likely to be in line with recent revenue of \$1.2 million.
- Unfortunately, there is a delay on the fund condition update due to the new state budgeting system
- The operating budget for 2019-2020 is \$1.08 million (with overhead taken out)
- Should be able to provide updated numbers by July 1

Legislative Changes Subpanel Update

- Looking into potentially expanding range of those that pay into the stamp as more fishermen are participating in the fishery above Pt. Arguello.
- John Riordan contacted Valerie to get catch numbers from the central coast

Department **action item**: look into vehicle for the advisory panel to make legislative changes

Advisory Panel **action item**: what are those changes?

Other Business

- Per diem process - no new information at this time

Next Meeting will be in August or September