

# Ocean Resources Enhancement Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2019

Los Alamitos, CA

Change to Agenda: "Program Goals/Objectives" is moved to the beginning of the agenda ahead of "funding priorities".

## Attendees

### ***Ocean Resources Enhancement Advisory Panel (OREAP) Members***

Mike McCorkle (Commercial Fisherman)

Kirsten Ramey [California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)]

John Riordan [Coastal Conservation Association of California (CCA)]

Rob Ross (Commercial Fish Business)

Bill Shedd [American Fishing Tackle Company (AFTCO)]

Tony Vaught, by phone [California Aquaculture Association (CAA)]

### ***OREAP Alternates***

Gary Burke, by phone (Commercial Fisherman)

Dallas Weaver (CAA)

### ***CDFW***

Sara Briley, Adam Frimodig (by phone), Kathryn Johnson, Randy Lovell (by phone) Craig Shuman (by phone), Valerie Taylor

### ***Public***

Alayna Siddall, by phone [Sportfishing Association of California (SAC)]

Mark Drawbridge [Hubbs-SeaWorld Research institute (HSWRI)]

Mike Shane (HSWRI)

## Ocean Resources Enhancement and Hatchery Program (OREHP) Priorities for the Next Phase

### **Program Goals/Objectives (10:07 am)**

Discussion of the OREHP's goal of enhancement and scientific contribution.

Discussion about the evaluation report and concern over the less than 1% hatchery contribution to the wild population.

Discussion of questions to be answered to either support or disprove the effectiveness of the OREHP to enhance the wild population (Catalina contribution, tag loss, size of fish at release, and genetic research)

Discussion of the wording of current legislation. Goal of the program is to determine if hatchery released fish can be raised in sufficient numbers to enhance the population of wild fish.

Discussion on the development of performance metrics and how focusing on increasing post-release survival might help the OREHP get closer to the goal of enhancement through a larger hatchery contribution (bigger fish, training, acoustic tracking, etc.)

Action: motion made and seconded - the OREAP reiterates their support for the overall goal as defined in Fish and Game Code Section 6592 to answer the remaining research questions to evaluate if a saltwater hatchery program can enhance certain stocks.

Discussion of motion.

Call for vote: 6 in favor, 0 opposed. Motion passes.

### **Funding Priorities and Contracts (11:02 am)**

Discussion on HSWRI's request to amend their current contract with CDFW to increase the budget by approximately \$90,000 for FY 2019/20.

Call for vote on HSWRI's request to amend contract: 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

Discussion on how to increase the OREHP's spending authority through a Budget Change Proposal (BCP).

Discussion of the hatchery's priority operating needs and potential research projects that will require an increase in spending authority: redesigning the gill net study to see if releasing larger fish is beneficial; acoustic tagging; long-term tag retention research; tag-loss identification using genetics and isotopes; broodstock collection and management; honing in on fish quality (reduce malformations and gas supersaturation); research on reducing post-release mortality as a means to increase contributions to the White Seabass fishery; and population modelling.

Discussion of additional contracts that will require an increase in spending authority: development of a Science and Technical Committee that would develop metrics and help OREHP prioritize research; expanding the previous OREHP survey to include additional stakeholder feedback on the OREHP; and professional facilitation of OREAP meetings.

Discussion on how much to request for increase in spending authority.

Action: motion made and seconded - Because of the funding needs of the OREHP and the Department's recommendations [as outlined in the Department's April 22, 2019 memorandum], the OREAP recommends that \$550,000 per year for the next 5 years be added to the Department's spending authority for the OREHP through a Budget Change Proposal.

Discussion of motion.

Call for vote: 4 in favor, 1 abstain (one member was unavailable for discussion and vote). Motion passes.

Action: Department will draft a budget change proposal requesting that \$550,000 per year for the next 5 years be added to the Department's OREHP spending authority.

### **OREHP statute update/changes (12:31 pm)**

Discussion on updating and changing OREAP membership (removing references to certain membership groups, adding authority for alternates, adding/removing membership groups) within the OREHP statute, including term limits for OREAP members.

Action: Department will update OREHP legislation and provide draft to the OREAP Legislative subpanel.

## **Other Business**

### **Bagley-Keene Act Overview (1:08 pm.)**

Discussion of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act and how the OREAP meetings and members must adhere to the Act. A copy of the Act was provided to all OREAP members and alternates.

### **OREAP Bylaws (1:26 pm)**

Discussion on the need to develop bylaws for the OREAP.

Action: Department will draft bylaws for the OREAP to present at the next meeting.

Recommendation made and seconded - Recommendation to the Department that the OREAP has developed a list of needs for the OREHP as suggested by the evaluation, which includes those items listed on the agenda (OREAP facilitation, expanded OREHP survey, science and technical committee, and gill net survey) as well as six other issues developed by HSWRI (basic funding needs for the hatchery; post-release studies including growout of larger fish; new broodstock collection; general research; and tag-loss identification using genetics and isotopes).

Call for vote: 5 in favor, 1 abstain. Recommendation passes.

Meeting adjourned at 1:53 pm.

Next meeting will be in March or April 2020.