

Ocean Resources Enhancement Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes

TELECONFERENCE ONLY

April 3, 2020

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Attendees

Ocean Resources Enhancement Advisory Panel (OREAP) Members

Rafael Cuevas-Urbe (California State University)

Mike McCorkle (Commercial Fisherman)

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

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

Bill Shedd (American Fishing Tackle Company)

Brice Semmons (University of California)

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

OREAP Alternates

Gary Burke (Commercial Fisherman)

Dallas Weaver (CAA)

CDFW

Adam Frimodig, Kathryn Johnson, Randy Lovell, Valerie Taylor

Public

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

Wayne Kotow (CCA)

Ruairi MacNamara (HSWRI)

Mike Shane (HSWRI)

Alayna Siddall [Sportfishing Association of California (SAC)]

1. Introductions, announcements, and agenda review

HSWRI provided an update on hatchery and growout operations since Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-33-20 for all Californians to stay home to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 went into effect – schools shut down their Seabass in the Classroom programs, essential personnel only caring for fish at hatchery (maintaining broodstock and juvenile fish a priority), all growout facilities with fish will release fish within the next three weeks (emergency releases authorized by CDFW).

2. Status of HSWRI Request to Amend Contract

HSWRI's request to amend their current contract with CDFW for an additional \$90,000 for FY 2019/20 was approved and executed on March 24, 2019. HSWRI can begin using these funds immediately.

3. Status of OREHP Budget Increase Request

CDFW submitted a request last fall to increase the OREHP budget by \$550,000 for the next three fiscal years. The request is currently going through the budget process.

Discussion on the State's budget change proposal process and OREHP's spending authority.

4. OREHP Current Budget and Research Needs

Discussion on HSWRI's 5-year research plan which was submitted to the OREAP at their February 26, 2019 meeting, and priorities and costs associated with the plan.

Discussion on the current OREHP budget and draft proposed budget for FY 2020/21 (with and without the \$550,000 budget increase).

Discussion on research contributing to the OREHP by those outside of HSWRI.

Discussion on creating a scientific review panel to review and prioritize OREHP research.

5. Assembly Bill 1949

Discussion on Assembly Bill 1949, which would update the OREHP statutory language. CDFW is in support of the bill and provided an analysis to the Legislature. There has been no major opposition, and largely support for the bill.

6. OREAP Bylaws

Discussion on the draft OREAP bylaws. The OREAP is encouraged to submit edits or comments on the draft before the next meeting. CDFW will work on finalizing the draft pending passage of Assembly Bill 1949.

7. OREHP Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

Discussion on drafting a MOA between all growout facility volunteer operators, HSWRI, and CDFW. CDFW will draft a MOA and present to the growout volunteers at their next meeting later this year.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting will be in September or October 2020.