

Ocean Resources Enhancement and Hatchery Program

Ocean Resources Enhancement Advisory Panel Minutes

Date: Monday, June 5, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: Microsoft TEAMS Video Conference

Attendees:

Ocean Resources Enhancement Advisory Panel Members and Alternates (OREAP): John Ballotti (sportfishing industry), Gary Burke (commercial fishing industry), Ken Franke (Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel Industry), Luke Gardner (California Sea Grant [CASG]), Jim Hendricks (sportfishing industry), Wayne Kotow (sportfishing industry), Kirsten Ramey (Department of Fish and Wildlife [CDFW]), John Riordan (sportfishing industry), and Tony Vaught (aquaculture industry)

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW): Kathryn Johnson, Valerie Taylor (OREHP Coordinator)

Guests: Kai Lorenzen (SAC member), Mike Shane (HSWRI), Theresa Sinicrope-Talley (CASG), Susana Hervas (CASG), Ashleigh Palinkas (CASG), and Mike Raabe (press)

1. Introductions and announcements

Valerie Taylor and John Ballotti

- Quorum is present with 5 voting members.

2. Provide summary of May 2, 2023, OREHP SAC meeting

Valerie Taylor and Ron Zweig

- Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) Genetics Subcommittee (Kai Lorenzen and Ron Zweig) with assistance from Valerie Taylor organized a comprehensive peer review of the genetics study completed by South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR).
- Peer reviewers, Mark Christie, Ph.D., and Mike Tringali, Ph.D., and SAC members provided key insights into the study and areas that could be strengthened.
 - Final reports of the reviewers were submitted to CDFW and SAC May 2023
 - At the upcoming June 22 SAC meeting, the SAC will present their conclusions, make recommendations, and discuss a Request for Proposal (RFP) for further genetics work.
- Overall approach of the genetics analysis was deemed suitable in principle, and the lab methods were well implemented overall.
- Peer reviewers made some suggestions that would help address their concerns that some inferences may be overstated.

- Reliability of parentage assignments and hatchery is unknown but unlikely.
- Peer reviewers believe that the CERVUS model is not appropriate for this study and that a Bayesian approach should be used instead.
- Marker panel should be expanded, and tissue samples that provide high DNA purity and yield (fin clips and muscle tissue) should be used instead.
- Discussion about tissue collections going forward.
 - Sampling procedure hasn't been developed yet.
 - Heads contain enough muscle tissue to use for genetic testing.
 - It was difficult to fully genotype the historical samples because of lack of genetic material from otoliths.
 - Reliability of results was low because only 8 markers could be used. A higher quality sample would yield more reliable results.
 - Starting a year ago, HSWRI began saving the heads that can be tested (there is private funding for this study).
 - Could fin clips be used instead of coded wire tags?
 - Parentage can be determined from fin clips, but it doesn't provide the other information that coded wire tags do (cohort ID, release location, etc.)
 - Hold off on fin clip collection until the sampling program can be formally compiled through the RFP process.

3. Discuss and provide feedback on next steps of the California Sea Grant OREHP Stakeholder Engagement Visioning Process (60 mins.)

Theresa Sinicrope Talley, Ph.D., Susana Hervas, Ph.D., Kai Lorenzen, Ph.D., Ashleigh Palinkas, and OREAP

Presentation from CASG

- Assembly Bill 1949 was introduced in September 2020 providing a framework for OREHP reform.
 - Making sure the OREHP is satisfying its goals planning for future of OREHP, strengthened evaluation process in the future, increased accountability, independent evaluations more frequently, involvement of the SAC, expanded program capabilities, expanded stakeholders.
- Situation analysis and participatory process are being developed now for the expanded stakeholder survey.
 - The initial situation analysis will inform the design on the participatory process.
 - 24 semi-structured interviews were conducted to elicit information about their perspectives about the program.
 - Most stakeholders interviewed considered the potential contribution of the OREHP to enhancing the white seabass stock as a key measure of success.
 - There is a strong sense of resource stewardship of volunteers and growout volunteers.

- Domination by recreational fishing stakeholders – important for opportunities for engagement from other groups.
 - Most fishing stakeholders aren't actually familiar with the OREHP – outreach efforts are important moving forward.
 - Important to note that this is not a quantitative study and the results are not used for decision making. Opinions are not weighted.
- Next steps:
 - Focus groups to develop goals, objectives, criteria and options.
 - Targeted group of people, diverse, and representative of all stakeholders
 - Will meet in late August for one full day and one half day and follow up with virtual meetings in September
 - Professional facilitation for trust building
 - Survey online or mail
 - Public meetings for additional feedback opportunities
- Questions and discussion about focus group
 - Focus group members receive a stipend for participation.
 - Members will be educated on the program so that those less familiar with OREHP will be on the same page with a common starting point.
 - Members are intentionally chosen from those that represent specific groups.
 - This process seeks input from a variety of stakeholders to weigh in on the program and its future direction.
 - Will then go out to broader group interview process for those that pay into the program.
 - Helps set up framework and timeline, and criteria for success.
 - A final report with recommendations and visioning process will be submitted to the Department and the OREAP. It will be used to help the OREAP and SAC know how the stakeholders feel.
 - 10-15 people will make up the stakeholder group and members are evenly distributed across all group (1 or 2 members in each group)
 - This process isn't specifically called for by AB 1949 but was a recommendation from the Evaluation and was part of the memo from the CDFW Director in 2019 that was submitted to and reviewed by the previous OREAP panel.

4. Provide update on contracts, discuss OREHP budget and vote on funding increase Valerie Taylor, OREAP Budget Subcommittee, and OREAP

Valerie Taylor, OREAP Budget Subcommittee, and OREAP

- Head and broodstock collection contract has been posted for bid. If you are interested in receiving the link for the broodstock and head collection, contact Valerie..

- The Budget Subcommittee (Wayne, Kirsten, Valerie, and John Ballotti) is working on increasing the spending authority.
 - Looking to increase the spending authority to the maximum amount without tapping into the prudent reserve.
 - Proposing giving additional funds to the hatchery
- CDFW is reviewing SFRA funding and currently planning for the fiscal 2024/25 fiscal year. The Budget Subcommittee will meet again if a change to OREHP SFRA funding occurs.
- Motion to approve the budget as presented by Tony Vaught and seconded by Wayne.
 - Call for vote: 5 yays, motion passes

5. Public comment on agenda items and closing of meeting

Valerie Taylor and John Ballotti

- No public comments
- Next meeting will be held in late September.