

Ocean Resources Enhancement and Hatchery Program SAC Meeting Minutes

Date: June 22, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m.– 12:30 p.m.

Location: Microsoft TEAMS Video Conference

Attendees:

Ocean Resources Enhancement and Hatchery Program (OREHP) Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) members: Lee Blankenship; Ken Cain, Ph.D.; Tanya Darden, Ph.D.; Mike Franklin, Ph.D.; Jackson Gross, Ph.D.; Kai Lorenzen, Ph.D.; Nicole Williamson; Greg Wiens, Ph.D.; and Ron Zweig

OREHP Advisory Panel members: Wayne Kotow

California Department of Fish and Wildlife: Adam Frimodig, Kathryn Johnson, Kirsten Ramey, Valerie Taylor

California SeaGrant: Theresa Sincopé-Talley, Ashley Polinkas, Susana Hervas

Guests and Members of the Public: Ellen Reiber, Mike Raabe, Mark Drawbridge, Mike Shane, Ruari MacNamara

1. Introductions and announcements

Valerie Taylor and Ron Zweig

- SAC members/alternates – please complete the paperwork for compensation as soon as possible or if you will be waiving the compensation, please let Valerie know.

2. Discussion and vote of May 2, 2023, meeting minutes

Ron Zweig and SAC

- Tanya requested to table the vote to approve the May meeting minutes due to significant changes since the draft was circulated. SAC members agreed to add to agenda for next meeting.

3. Formulate SAC conclusions regarding SCDNR genetics study and vote on recommendations and next steps provided by the SAC Genetics Peer Review Subcommittee

Ron Zweig, Kai Lorenzen, Ph.D., and SAC

- The Genetics Peer Review Subcommittee gave a brief presentation outlining their summary report. Ron requested to hear comments from

each SAC member followed by the formation of a subcommittee to develop an RFP for the next study.

Lee Blankenship

- Loss of magnetism of tags isn't possible; if the tag is still there after several months (when fish are scanned at the pens), the tags aren't going anywhere.
- The discrepancy between the two estimates (the percent contribution from the genetics study and the percent contribution from sampling) may be due to false assignments in the genetic testing.

Ken Cain

- No comments; would like to hear from those with strong genetics backgrounds.

Tanya Darden

- Expressed disappointment with the process, the independent reviewers, and the failure of the subcommittee to include Flannagan and Jones (2018) in their assessment.
- Does NOT agree with the recommendations or the subcommittee process.

Michael Franklin

- Believed the study and the reviews to be very robust.

Jackson Gross

- No comments; material beyond the scope of his expertise.

Kai Lorenzen

- Drafted the summary report with Ron based on the two expert peer reviews. The summary provides a path to finding more reliable parentage estimates and collecting further information.

Nicole Williamson

- No comments. How many days after release were the samples taken and how far from the release pens were the fish sampled?
 - Kai – most samples were from the juvenile gillnet surveys; fish were at liberty anywhere from a few months to 1.5 years.
 - Tanya – there were multiple age ranges and a wide range of year classes.
 - Mark Drawbridge – the gillnet sampling program wasn't paired with releases; sites in close proximity to release sites would not be sampled until at least two weeks post-release.

Greg Weins

- Believes the discrepancy to be a legitimate scientific argument and an important point to try and resolve. Given the small sample size, are there other methods that could be used to independently confirm? Draft genetic sequencing?

Ron Zwieg

- Best to have a consensus on how to move forward, if possible.
- Call for motion to accept the summary report.
 - Lee motioned to accept the summary report of the peer review. Ken Cain seconded the motion.
 - Discussion of the motion
 - Tanya expressed hesitation with approving the report because it does not take into account the peer reviewed document she provided (Flannagan and Jones 2018). She is opposed to using time and resources to use another model because the people that performed the review have a different preferred model.
 - Call for vote. Motion passed (8 yays, 1 nay).
- Discussion about formation of a subcommittee to formulate the RFP for further genetics studies.
 - Matt Powell, Kai Lorenzen, Michael Franklin, and Greg Wiens agreed to participate on the subcommittee.
- Discussion of potential for collaboration with SCDNR to ensure that efforts aren't duplicative with work being produced with HSWRI for the NOAA grant and whether data from the initial study is public or not.
 - Tanya is working to prepare the paper to publish the initial study and hopes to submit it by summer.

4. Discuss and provide feedback on the California Sea Grant OREHP Stakeholder Engagement Visioning Process

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

- Solicitation of feedback from all fishermen that purchase OREHP stamps in keeping with timing of the sunset provision (2028).
- Initial situation analysis to specifically inform the participatory process.
 - Qualitative exploration of the project so that CASG can put together a plan to design the participatory process.
 - Importation to make opportunities for stakeholders to become familiar with the program and its performance to provide input.
 - Not intended to be a full representation of everyone's opinions.
- Focus groups will explore deliberate issues and will be professionally facilitated.
 - Participants (10-15 members) will be selected from diverse backgrounds.
 - First meeting will be held in person in early August and the second meeting will be held virtually in September.
- Discussion and questions
 - Tanya – how did you select the participants in the situation analysis and how did you choose your sample size?

- The people that were interviewed were key informants to the program and they would suggest other people to interview.
- Tanya – will the next phase be more inclusive?
 - Those that are already familiar with the program will be invited to participate and those that are not very familiar with the OREHP but would benefit from the program will also deliberately be included.
- Mark Drawbridge – expressed concerns about timeline and how the stakeholder engagement process fits in.
- Ken Cain – Need to make recommendations for some studies that would address some of the key issues and improve the program as a whole other than the genetics work.
- Kai – Focus group will meet in early August and results of those bigger picture, facilitated discussions will be presented to the SAC and the OREAP early next year; but no need to wait for that to be completed to move forward. Part of the idea behind this process is to define realistic goals/targets that are broadly accepted by stakeholders.

5. Public comment on agenda items and closing of meeting

Valerie Taylor and Ron Zweig

- No public comments
- SAC members discussed the timing of next meeting, potential agenda items and research priorities. RFP subcommittee will meet in July or August before the next full SAC meeting.

Questions about the meeting or agenda can be directed to the OREHP Coordinator, Valerie Taylor, at Valerie.Taylor@wildlife.ca.gov or OREHP@wildlife.ca.gov.

Meeting notices, agendas, and minutes can be found at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/OREHP/Scientific-Advisory-Committee>.