

# Ocean Resources Enhancement and Hatchery Program SAC Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, August 21

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location: Microsoft TEAMS Video Conference

## Attendees:

*Ocean Resources Enhancement and Hatchery Program (OREHP) Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) members:* Lee Blankenship; Ken Cain; Tanya Darden; Jackson Gross; Ken Leber; Kai Lorenzen; Matt Powell; Nicole Williamson; Greg Wiens; and Ron Zweig.

*OREHP Advisory Panel Members:* John Ballotti and Wayne Kotow

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

*California SeaGrant (CASG):* Ashleigh Palinkas and Theresa Sincope-Talley

*Guests and Members of the Public:* Mark Drawbridge, Ruari MacNamara, Mike Shane

## 1. Introductions and announcements

*Valerie Taylor and Ron Zweig*

- Quorum is present

## 2. Discussion and vote of May 2, 2023 and June 22, 2023 meeting minutes

*Ron Zweig and SAC*

- Discussion of May minutes. Jackson Gross made a motion to approve and Lee Blankenship seconded. Vote is called and the motion passed unanimously.
  - Kathryn to make adjustments/corrections and will post them on the website once completed.
- June minutes not available yet.

## 3. Receive overview on the OREHP: background, funding, hatchery and growout operations, research, and the SAC's Role

*Valerie Taylor and Mark Drawbridge*

- Valerie gave a presentation on the history of OREHP, funding and the SAC's role.
  - Amended statute effective January 2021
  - Funding sources and spending authority

- Evaluation conducted by CASG in 2017
- SAC's role:
  - Prioritizing research activities
  - Developing quantitative criteria
  - Present yearly review of the OREHP at annual public meeting
  - Assist with development of Legislative report (July 2027)
- Mark Drawbridge presented on the historical background of the hatchery, basic hatchery operations, broodstock collection and management, spawning and egg production, tagging, growout facilities, release strategies, field assessment, fish health and quality control.
  - HSWRI received a NOAA grant that will continue genetics sampling work using 2023 and 2024 samples and includes a pilot fin clip study.
  - Input from the SAC on field sampling strategies and secondary species to focus on would be appreciated
    - Future releases of other species are on hold unless and until they are included in the OREHP
  - Formation of subcommittees on post-release survival, fish health and quality, secondary species may be beneficial

*Questions:*

- Greg Wiens – How long does it take to get to legal size?
  - 3-4 years
- Ken Cain – If there was one area that the SAC to look at initially, what would that be? Genetics or something else?
  - Mark D. – Area of post-release survival – what kind of studies can we design that will help us better understand what's going on? Is there a way to improve survival? Otherwise, may be time to move on to another species.
- Ken Leber – Noted it is challenging to evaluate white seabass because of dispersal in marine environments. Catalina and Channel Island contribution rates and the effects of release habitat on survival – what is the total number of white seabass recaptured at the islands?
  - Mark D.- 14 short white seabass captured during broodstock collection efforts last year were tagged. There is something there that we need to look at. The Catalina pens are very large and return rates from the HSWRI pen was much higher.
  - The fish released at Catalina are larger as well.
  - Ken Leber – recoveries not coming from much farther north than San Francisco. One of the priorities might be targeted fisheries, targeted bays and estuaries. Which of the release sites are getting most fish into the fisheries? Instead of looking

at the impact along the entire coast, look at targeted release sites.

- Ken Leber offers to serve on the post-release survival subcommittee.
- Discussion about number of broodstock and genetics management plan. What is the effective population size of female equivalents?
  - Mark D. – look in the 2012/2013 papers of Gruenthal's. Look at cohorts of fish we're releasing to see who spawned those fish to rotate fish out that have already contributed.
- Nicole Williamson – Has the acoustic tag work been published?
  - Mark D. – time consuming and expensive, but information gained is a nice complement and supplement to other programs.
  - Val will look through annual reports and post those that included telemetry on Teams
- Tanya suggests including someone from HSWRI on each of the subcommittees as subject matter experts. She offers to serve on the post-release survival subcommittee and would serve on a genetics subcommittee as well.
- Discussion on size at release and domestication effects.

#### **4. Receive update on the development of a Genetic Study Request for Proposal (RFP) from the SAC RFP Subcommittee**

*Matt Powell, Ph.D and Michael Franklin, Ph.D*

- As per June meeting, Request For Proposal (RFP) for genetics study subcommittee met in July and put together an initial proposal as a starting point for further discussion
  - Important not to uncouple this project from ongoing projects
  - Opportunity to reduce uncertainty – by using other techniques, we may be able to strengthen or further support what has already been done
  - Generate another data set or another set of markers for this program
- Other SAC members are invited to review and add to the proposal
- Discussion about duplication of efforts, use of microsatellites and SNIPS

#### **5. Discuss overall OREHP structure and research priorities of ongoing and future program activities based on this meeting's SAC suggestions, CDFW-HSWRI Priorities List, and OREHP Evaluation Recommendations Table**

*Ron Zweig and SAC*

- Ron invited SAC members to offer suggestions for research activities to focus on

- Formation of subcommittees
- Tanya Darden made a motion to form a post-release survival subcommittee and Ken Leber seconded the motion
  - Discussion – Ken Leber noted that Mark Drawbridge mentioned three subcommittees that he recommended
  - Tanya modified her motion to include the development of three subcommittees and Ken Leber seconded the motion
  - A vote was called and the motion was passed unanimously
  - SAC members agreed to take volunteers for subcommittees now and again at the next meeting
  - Three subcommittees to be formed: Post-release survival, fish health and secondary species
    - Post-release survival subcommittee: Nicole, Tanya, Lee, Ken Leber and Kai with HSWRI staff as subject matter experts
    - Fish Health subcommittee: Ken Cain, Greg Weins, with HSWRI staff as subject matter experts
    - Secondary species subcommittee: No volunteers yet

## **6. Public comment on agenda items and closing of meeting**

*Valerie Taylor and Ron Zweig*

- Val to send out doodle poll to set up the next meeting for October or November
- Meeting adjourned by Ron Zweig at 1:12 p.m.

Questions about the meeting or agenda can be directed to the OREHP Coordinator, Valerie Taylor, at [Valerie.Taylor@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Valerie.Taylor@wildlife.ca.gov) or [OREHP@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:OREHP@wildlife.ca.gov).

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