

Ocean Resources Enhancement and Hatchery Program Ocean Resources Enhancement Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes

September 28, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: California Department of Fish and Wildlife Seal Beach office

Attendees:

Ocean Resources Enhancement Advisory Panel (OREAP) members and alternates:

Wayne Kotow, John Ballotti, Jim Hendricks, Gary Burke, Jojo Pemberton, Rachele Lopez, Rob Ross, Tony Vaught, Merit McCrea, Dallas Weaver

Ocean Resources Enhancement and Hatchery Program Scientific Advisory Committee members: Matt Powell, Ph.D., Kai Lorenzen, Ph.D.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW): Bryan Barney, Kathryn Johnson, Kirsten Ramey, Jeff Rodzen, Valerie Taylor

Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute (HSWRI): Mark Drawbridge, Mike Shane, Ruairi MacNamara

California Sea Grant (CASG): Susana Avila Hervas, Ph.D., Ashleigh Palinkas

1. Introductions and announcements

Valerie Taylor and John Ballotti

2. Receive summary of August 21, 2023, OREHP SAC meeting and update on the development of the Genetics Study Request for Proposal (RFP)

Valerie Taylor and Matt Powell, Ph.D.

- Presentations were given for the benefit of new SAC members from Valerie, CASG, and HSWRI.
- Subcommittees to be formed for post-release survival research, fish and health welfare, and secondary species.
- Matt Powell gave a summary of the RFP for the genetics work.
 - Genetics subcommittee met in August.
 - Third iteration of the RFP is on the SAC's Teams website. and is close to being final unless there are minor changes.
 - CDFW genetics lab may be able to perform some of the work.
 - RFP will need to be presented to the entire SAC to vote whether to bring it forward to the OREAP.
 - Brief OREAP meeting to be scheduled for November for their vote on the RFP.

- Discussion on the CDFW genetics laboratory qualifications and timeline.

3. Receive HSWRI's annual progress report for the contract period July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, and update on hatchery and field operations

Mark Drawbridge

- Annual report has been received by OREAP members.
- Mark Drawbridge gave an overview of production and broodstock collection efforts.
 - Loss of all newly captured broodstock being held in Catalina due to sea lion predation.
 - Hatchery currently has 97 broodfish and the target number is 140-200 broodfish.
- Questions and discussion
 - Sea lion predation and legal methods of deterring them or preventing them from getting into the nets.
 - Parentage analysis previously done by Kristen Gruenthal.
 - Ideal number of spawns and sex ratio.
- Head Collection and tag recoveries
 - Using x-ray to see if there are tags that aren't being detected with wands or if tags have moved from the site of implantation.
- Seabass in the Classroom
 - New schools have been added to the program.
- Miscellaneous
 - Ongoing genetics research project with South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
 - Evaluation of heads collected in 2022.
 - Privately funded research and a NOAA grant.
 - Using microsatellites with fresh samples.
 - Stable isotopes to identify hatchery fish partnership with lab in Ensenada, Mexico.

4. Discussion and possible vote on OREHP contracts, funding, and updated OREHP Fiscal Year 2023/24 Budget

Valerie Taylor, OREAP Budget Subcommittee, and OREAP

- Valerie and HSWRI are working together on the contract for the next three years.
 - Valerie will be submitting a new spending authority increase of \$5.2 million (\$1.3 million per year for three years) set to begin fiscal year 24/25.
 - Increased spending authority would go towards HSWRI to help with increased costs and to help cover reduction of SFRA funds.
- Questions and discussion

- Discussion about timing and what happens if the spending authority is approved after the new contract starts.
- Valerie to send Rachele Lopez a more detailed copy of the budget.
- John Ballotti makes a motion to approve the proposed budget for FY 23/24 and Merit McCrea seconds the motion.
 - Call for vote; motion passes with 7 yays and 1 nay.

5. Receive update on the California Sea Grant OREHP Stakeholder Engagement Visioning Process

Susana Hervas, Ph.D. and Kai Lorenzen, Ph.D.

- First meeting of the Focus Group was held in person in La Jolla in August
 - An overview of the OREHP was presented and attendees discussed what “success” of the program would look like.
- Second Focus Group meeting will be held virtually in October.
 - Clarify the OREHP goal and success criteria.
 - Review the survey that will be sent to license holders.
- Questions and discussion
 - What was the makeup of the focus group and were there any groups not available?
 - Different types of stakeholders were reached out to.
 - Growout pen volunteers and aquaculture industry were not present in the focus group, but the rest of the members varied.
 - A commercial representative was not able to attend the second day of the meeting.
 - Attendee feedback indicated that the focus group experience of being able to interact with other stakeholders was valuable.
 - New technology and research coming out of the OREHP are valuable to different types of stakeholders.

6. Public comment on agenda items and closing of meeting

Valerie Taylor and John Ballotti

- Discussion about when to hold the next OREAP meeting.
- Members agree to schedule a short meeting to vote on the genetics work in December following the next 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 agendas and minutes can be found at

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/OREHP/Advisory-Panel>