

Ocean Resources Enhancement and Hatchery Program Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, April 22, 2024
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (PST)
Location: Microsoft TEAMS Video Conference

Attendees:

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

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW): Kathryn Johnson, Kirsten Ramey, Jim Steffey, Valerie Taylor

Ocean Resources Enhancement Advisory Panel (OREAP) Members: John Ballotti and Wayne Kotow

California Sea Grant (CASG) and University of Florida (UF): Susan Hervas Aviles Ph.D., Ashely Palinkas, and Theresa Talley, Ph.D.

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

1. Introductions and announcements

- No announcements

2. Receive presentation from California Sea Grant on the preliminary results of the ORHEP Stakeholder Engagement Visioning Process

- CASG and UF provided overview of the participatory process outcomes of their “Developing a vision, criteria and options for the future of OREHP: A collaborative planning process” study. The presentation can be requested by e-mailing ORHEP@wildlife.ca.gov.
- Questions:
 - Greg Wiens – How many people that responded have caught a white seabass or actively fished for them?
 - We didn’t specifically ask who caught a white seabass, but we did ask them how often they fished and how important white seabass was to them as a target species.
 - Ken Leber – Will these presentations be posted on Teams?

- Yes, all presentations will be posted on the OREHP SAC Team.
- Wayne Kotow – Is the percentage for responses adjusted for the e-mails that bounced back?
 - Yes, the percentage was adjusted.
- Discussion on the sunset provision in the ORHEP statute and how it is presented in the CASG and UF presentation.
- Steve Santeen – White seabass are caught north of Point Conception so should only southern California [anglers] be [paying into the program]?
 - We did have a question about who should pay for the program. It wasn't presented here but will be in the final report.
- John Ballotti – Submits request for CASG and UF to send the presentation to the OREAP so that members can review it before the OREAP meeting next week.

3. Receive update from the Post-Release Subcommittee

- Ken Leber, chair of the Post-Release Subcommittee, provided an update on the subcommittee's activities.
 - Subcommittee has met five times since October 2023.
 - Subcommittee reviewed and ranked post-release survival recommendations from the 2017 OREHP Evaluation report.
 - Subcommittee's top three ranked recommendations:
 - Emphasize the quantitative assessment of contributions (and costs) of enhancement to fisheries management goals
 - Develop a more comprehensive tag recovery plan that includes a strong quantitative, regular-interval, fishery-independent monitoring plan targeting juveniles and subadults.
 - Develop a plan for expanding fishery-dependent monitoring of hatchery fish contribution rates to the fishery including incorporation of an angler assisted fin-clip program to recover tissue samples from White Seabass taken in the fishery, coupled with the use of genetic fingerprinting. Conduct more consistent market surveys to collect more data on adult tagged fish.

4. Receive update from the Fish Health & Welfare Subcommittee

- Greg Wiens, chair of the Fish Health & Welfare Subcommittee, provided an update on the subcommittee's activities.
 - Subcommittee has met two times since October 2023.

- Subcommittee's current strategy is to gain knowledge, review and prioritize research gaps in three general categories – infectious diseases, program efficiencies, and environmental risk.
- Subcommittee received an overview of the OREHP's Health Management Program, as well as presentations from HSWRI and CDFW on the types of infectious diseases that have occurred at the hatchery and growout pens.
- Subcommittee will receive presentations from HSWRI and CDFW on noninfectious diseases at their next meeting.

5. Receive update from the Secondary Species Subcommittee

- Jackson Gross, chair of the Secondary Species Subcommittee, provided an update on the subcommittee's activities.
 - Subcommittee has met three times since January.
 - Subcommittee received presentation from HSWRI on the OREHP's history with secondary species and provided an overview of their research into the culture and release of California halibut.
 - Subcommittee is not ready to make a recommendation – more discussion is needed; need to look at ease of culture, measures of success, fisheries focused vs. management focus, would other anglers in the state prefer a different species.
- Comments:
 - Wayne Kotow – The Coastal Conservation Association is trying to be proactive with private funds to get ready if the OREHP chooses to focus on California halibut.

6. Public comment on agenda items and closing of meeting

- No comments.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.