

Kelp Restoration Management Plan (KRMP) Community Working Group Meeting #1 Summary July 26, 2023

Attendees

Claire Arre, Capt. David Bacon, Kathryn Beheshti, Alyssa Bellamy, Doug Bush, Alicia Cordero, Grant Downie, Gary Fleener, Tom Ford, Rietta Hohman, James Jungwirth, Tristin Anoush McHugh, Anna Neumann, Andrea Paz-Lacavex, Dave Rudie, Marc Shargel, Javier Silva, Tribal Participant - Name Redacted Upon Request

Overview

The first virtual meeting of the Kelp Restoration Management Plan (KRMP) Community Working Group (CWG) was held on July 26, 2023, with 18 KRMP CWG members in attendance in addition to the KRMP Project Team (i.e., California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Ocean Protection Council, and Strategic Earth Consulting). The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), in partnership with the Ocean Protection Council (OPC), gave a presentation to orient the CWG to the KRMP process. The bulk of the meeting focused on reviewing and discussing the CWG roles, responsibilities, and operating procedures that will be included in the CWG Charter, which is anticipated to be updated and approved during the next CWG meeting.

Intentions

At the beginning of the meeting, participants shared their names, affiliations, and words of intention for the CWG's efforts in the KRMP process. All participants are interested in **restoring** kelp ecosystems along the California coast. CWG members' additional intentions for participating in the CWG included **contributing to the KRMP, elevating traditional knowledge, developing collaborative ideas and solutions, listening, learning, and educating the public.**

CWG Orientation to the KRMP

CDFW, in partnership with the OPC, gave an overview [presentation](#) about the KRMP process. Participants were also provided a brief overview of the Science Advisory Committee's (SAC) role in the KRMP process. CDFW confirmed the intention of CWG input to be integrated with the SAC's recommendations; however, the exact process for the co-communication is still undetermined. The SAC will meet for the first time in September, and further insight will be identified and shared with the CWG when appropriate. CDFW clarified that the Project Team will work in close coordination with California Sea Grant to ensure the work of the SAC and the CWG inform each other.

Updated Charter

A draft CWG Charter (Charter) was developed and discussed to ensure a common understanding of the CWG's charge and general operations. The Charter sections were discussed, and suggestions were made for modifications.

- The CWG generally supported the Background, Purpose and Charge, and Goals and Objectives. Terminology was updated throughout the charter to reflect the sentiments of the group.
- Composition & Roles
 - The CWG explored the need for subcommittees to meet and collaborate in smaller groups between larger CWG meetings. The CWG generally supported employing subcommittees or breakout rooms in meetings on an as-needed basis to advance discussions and optimize creativity. All information and ideas generated during subcommittee discussions will be brought back to the full CWG for integration and further discussion. Subcommittees may be parsed out by species of interest (e.g., giant or bull kelp) or region (e.g., Southern, Central, or Northern California).

- This first CWG meeting took place prior to the finalization of CWG membership. The KRMP Project Team is in the process of adding additional representation for regions and sectors currently missing from the CWG, such as North Coast representatives of the recreational and Tribal communities.
- The CWG also discussed the need for Alternates and whether they should be permitted to vote in a member's absence. Alternates must be approved by the KRMP Project Team prior to a meeting. The Project Team reminded the CWG that members are expected to prioritize all meetings and be present at all meetings regardless if voting will occur. This will be revisited and confirmed by the CWG prior to finalizing the charter.
- Procedures, Process for Input, Recommendations, and Advancing Ideas
 - Members generally agreed that administrative decisions can be made with a simple majority vote.
 - In order for a meeting to occur, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the CWG members must be in attendance (e.g., if there are 18 members, 14 must be present to convene a meeting).
 - A recommendation that is forwarded to CDFW will require $\frac{2}{3}$ affirmatives of the CWG members (e.g., if there are 18 members, 12 affirmatives are needed to make a recommendation).
 - Minority opinions with the support of two or more CWG members will be forwarded along with the majority recommendation(s).
 - Future CWG meetings may be open to the public. CWG members are still considering the nature of public interaction during these meetings (e.g., listen-only, open public comment).
- The Procedures section and subsections regarding Attendance, Meeting Agreements, Information Sharing Protocols, Travel Reimbursements, and Charter Amendments were generally supported. CWG requested additions and modifications.
 - The CWG requested the KRMP Project Team identify action items and circulate materials in advance of meetings.
 - The Project Team flagged that CWG members can provide updates on the KRMP and CWG to their peers, media, etc., as individuals and may not speak on behalf of the full CWG.

CWG members will continue to review the Charter and finalize it at the next CWG meeting.

Looking Forward

Throughout the development of the KRMP, the CWG will meet four times virtually and once at an in-person event between 2023-2025. Meetings will be informed by and help inform other KRMP-related discussions, including, but not limited to, the Science Advisory Committee meetings, Fish and Game Commission meetings, Ocean Protection Council meetings, Government to Government consultations, and Tribal Roundtable Listening Sessions.

If you have questions or comments, would like additional information, or would like to request direct Tribal consultation on the KRMP, please contact kelp@wildlife.ca.gov. Updates, informational materials, upcoming opportunities, and events will be highlighted on the [KRMP Website](#).

Next Steps

In preparation for the next CWG meeting, anticipated to occur in late 2023 or early 2024, CWG members were asked to percolate and discuss the following questions amongst their networks:

- *What do you and your community see as important priorities for the KRMP (e.g., kelp restoration, management, locally, statewide, etc.)?*
- *What are some examples of successes that you are seeing (e.g., communications, community engagement, management approaches, restoration, etc.)?*
- *What are the current challenges for you in your sector regarding bull and/or giant kelp?*

CWG members will continue to review background materials (i.e., the [Kelp Enhanced Status Report \(ESR\)](#)) and the draft CWG Charter prior to the next CWG meeting.

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