

# Ocean Resources Enhancement and Hatchery Program Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025  
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 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.; Michael Franklin, Ph.D.; Jackson Gross, Ph.D.; Ken Leber, Ph.D.; Kai Lorenzen, Ph.D.; Nicole Williamson; and Ron Zweig.

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

***Ocean Resources Enhancement Advisory Panel (OREAP) Members:*** John Ballotti

***California Sea Grant:*** Ashleigh Palinkas and Theresa Talley, Ph.D.

***University of Florida (UF):*** Susan Hervas Ph.D. and Joy Hazel

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

***Public:*** Chris Arechaederra and Tonie Bangos

## ***Meeting Discussion Goals:***

### **1. Introductions and announcements**

- Joy Hazel facilitated meeting.

### **2. Working session introductions and overview (5 mins)**

- UF and CASG reviewed the objectives of the meeting.
  - Pass the baton of project outcomes to the SAC to continue to inform the OREHP and conduct the 2027 evaluation.
  - Discuss project outcomes regarding broadening opportunities.
  - Visualize next steps for SAC planning.

### **3. Facilitated discussions of and activities to implement recommendations and results listed in California Sea Grant and University of Florida's OREHP Stakeholder Engagement Visioning Process**

- CASG and UFL provided a brief review 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 OREHP@wildlife.ca.gov.
- CASG and UFL presented two polls to gather input from SAC members on broadening the OREHP:
  - Poll One: What elements of the OREHP, in addition to enhancement, are you most excited about? (Choose two)
    - Research discoveries (received 8 votes)
    - Integration with (related) fisheries and ocean management (received 6 votes)
    - Public education and engagement (received 2 votes)
    - Transparent and inclusive governance (received 0 votes)
    - Clear and consistent communication (received 0 votes)
  - Poll Two: What elements do you consider most feasible for the SAC to assist with and evaluate? (Choose two)
    - Research discoveries (received 7 votes)
    - Integration with (related) fisheries and ocean management (received 8 votes)
    - Public education and engagement (received 0 votes)
    - Transparent and inclusive governance (received 0 votes)
    - Clear and consistent communication (received 1 vote)
- SAC members were asked to discuss why they voted for specific elements listed within each of the two polls in terms of excitement and feasibility.
- SAC members were tasked with a brainstorming activity listing priorities (next steps) for broadening the OREHP (a copy of this activity can be requested by e-mailing OREHP@wildlife.ca.gov). SAC members agreed on the following top three priorities:
  - Discuss/decide (SAC, OREAP, and CDFW) on whether the OREHP should be broadened as described in the CASG and UFL Stakeholder Engagement Visioning Process.
  - Expand SAC membership to include fisheries (stock assessment) expert(s).
  - Assess existing SAC subcommittees.

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

- John Ballotti asked about the role of the OREAP, and what the plan is to integrate the OREAP’s input into this process.
  - Same presentation and questions will be presented at the next OREAP meeting.
- Ken Leber asked what the overarching goal is and if the SAC needs to formally accept the criteria outlined by the visioning process?
  - No, the SAC does not need to accept the suggested goal as written in the CASG visioning study. The intent was to explore what the SAC can implement and what pieces might need to be outsourced. One of the first tasks of the SAC is to discuss and refine the broadening of the program, which can mean additional funding, partnerships, support, and benefits to communities and the ocean.

- Jackson Gross commented that there is a limit to what the SAC can do since the SAC is advising decision-making and it is the job of management to determine implementation; feels that the SAC is being asked to do more than what is within the capacity of advising; agrees with John Ballotti that the OREAP should be given the opportunity to provide input into this process.
- Nicole Williamson asked what the SAC's role is with the OREAP.
  - SAC is to bring forth potential OREHP research projects, review OREHP scientific research, and if projects need funding, then those projects move forward to the OREAP and CDFW to decide as to which research priorities can/should be funded depending on available funds.
- Ron Zweig expressed appreciation for the work done by the project team and commented on that he found it interesting that stamp holder priorities include knowledge about fisheries and ocean management over actual enhancement numbers.
- Meeting adjourned at 1:29 p.m. (PST)