

Kelp Restoration and Management Plan Community Working Group & Science Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, May 21, 2025 | 8:30am-4:00pm
Room 410, Justice Joseph Rattigan Building, 50 D St, Santa Rosa, CA

Meeting Goals

- Foster alignment and collaboration between the Community Working Group (CWG) and Science Advisory Committee (SAC) on key Kelp Restoration and Management Plan (KRMP) priorities.
- Inform how scientific information, coupled with community observations and capacity, can support the development of the KRMP.
- Create space for reciprocal exchange of information through focused and guided discussions on specific areas of overlap between the CWG and SAC.

Intended Meeting Outcomes

- Clear understanding of the roles and contributions of both CWG and SAC around the development of the KRMP.
- Define what a kelp-connected community looks like, including but not limited to understanding community impacts from management decisions, community-based partners for monitoring and/or restoration, etc.

Welcome, Introductions, and Community Building

Confirm meeting goals and intentions, walk through the agenda, and share roundtable introductions.

Setting the Stage with the KRMP Project Team

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and Ocean Protection Council (OPC) presentation on 1) key components of the KRMP; 2) roles of the Project Team, CWG, SAC; and 3) KRMP development process.

Science Advisory Committee and Community Working Group Updates

Brief presentation(s) from California Sea Grant outlining the SAC's progress and how the SAC will continue to inform the KRMP. Brief presentation from Strategic Earth summarizing CWG's progress and how the CWG will continue to inform the KRMP.

Discussion & Interactive Exercise: Kelp Ecosystem Health

Discussion around the CWG and SAC's visions for a healthy kelp ecosystem, including the information needed to assess ecosystem health and identify when a management response

should be explored. CWG and SAC members will participate in an interactive exercise to identify qualities associated with kelp forest health ("thriving," "fine," "compromised," "depleted").

Discussion Questions

- How can all forms of information (e.g., Tribal science, Western science, community observations) be used to assess the health of kelp ecosystems?
- What kelp changes have already or would affect your communities (i.e., what are some key or major variables that should be monitored and assessed)?
- What would trigger a management response? Are some observed changes in a kelp ecosystem more critical or urgent than others, and if so, what temporal or spatial scales of change would warrant a response?
- How can the community and scientific community sound the alarm to managers when they notice changes?

Lunch & Poster Hall

SAC and CWG members will have an optional opportunity to provide posters on kelp-related projects, including scientific studies, community initiatives, and related efforts. (Note: Please reach out to the Project Team if you would like to develop a poster.)

Kelp Management & Restoration Priorities and Capacity

Review kelp management and restoration tools. Discuss the feasibility, advantages/disadvantages, socioeconomic impacts, and community capacity to support the state's efforts.

Management strategies within the context of the KRMP

- Harvest framework (e.g., considerations by species, seasonality, region, method)
- Restoration tools (e.g., managing grazing pressure, kelp spore supply/availability, competitive species)
- Research to inform adaptive management (e.g., knowledge gaps, emerging restoration tools, climate-readiness/resilience)

Looking Ahead and Adjourn

Review key takeaways, next steps, and opportunities for continued communication and collaboration between the CWG and SAC on overlapping priorities.

Evening Social Gathering

Unhosted, informal gathering to encourage relationship-building, collaboration, and dialogue among CWG and SAC Members.

Available Resources

- [CWG and SAC Meeting Agendas and Summaries](#)