

Ocean Resources Enhancement and Hatchery Program Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, June 11, 2025
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 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.; Michael Franklin, Ph.D.; Jackson Gross, Ph.D.; Ken Leber, Ph.D.; Kai Lorenzen, Ph.D.; Nicole Williamson; Greg Wiens, Ph.D.; 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 and Wayne Kotow

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

Public: Chris Arechaederra

1. Introductions and announcements (5 mins.)

- No announcements.
- A copy of the presentation that is used throughout the meeting can be requested by e-mailing the OREHP Coordinator at OREHP@wildlife.ca.gov.

2. Discussion and possible vote for new SAC Chair and Vice-chair (20 mins.)

- Valerie Taylor provided an overview of chair and vice-chair duties.
- SAC By-laws set three-year terms for chair and vice-chair.
- Current chair, Ron Zweig, and vice-chair, Ken Cain, terms expire this month.
- Ken Cain was nominated by Ken Leber as vice-chair.
 - Ken Cain accepted nomination.
 - SAC voted unanimously to confirm Ken as vice-chair.
- Ron Zweig was nominated by Ken Leber as chair.
 - Ron Zweig accepted the nomination.
 - SAC voted unanimously to confirm Ron as chair.

3. Discussion and possible recommendation vote to fill vacant genetics seat and/or add additional expertise to the SAC (e.g. experts in stock assessments, education, communication, etc.) (20 mins.)

- Valerie Taylor presented an overview of the role of the SAC.
- SAC members expressed the importance of having a geneticist with expertise in broodstock and natural population assessment, as well as recruiting experts in fisheries ecology, management, and communication to broaden the SAC's expertise.
- Kai Lorenzen called for motion to have CDFW solicit nominations for three new SAC members with genetics, fisheries management/ecology, and communication/outreach or social science expertise. Michael Franklin seconded the motion. Discussion. Call for vote. Motion passed unanimously.
 - Action item: SAC members to send suggested names of individuals that can possibly fill these roles to Valerie Taylor by June 30, 2025.

4. Discussion of OREHP short and long-term outcomes and criteria as listed in Table 1 of the California Sea Grant (CASG) and University of Florida's (UFL) ORHEP Stakeholder Engagement Visioning Process report (60 mins.)

- Valerie Taylor presented the outcomes of the CASG and UFL polls regarding what Program elements the SAC and the Ocean Resources Enhancement Advisory Panel (OREAP) thought were the most exciting and feasible.
- Valerie Taylor reviewed a proposed timeline for OREHP next steps, incorporating the CDFW genetics study, development of long-term outcomes and associated short-term actions, establishment of subcommittees and workplans, and preparation of the OREHP legislative report.
- Valerie Taylor presented a copy of Table 1 of the CASG and UFL OREHP Stakeholder Engagement Visioning Process report for discussion.
 - CDFW priorities are listed in bold.
 - Action item: SAC members to review Table 1 (long-term outcomes and associated short-term actions) and provide additional feedback to Valerie Taylor by July 18, 2025.
- Ken Leber suggested adding the criterion of incorporating additional species into the OREHP into Table 1 and the need to consider funding availability to conduct the work associated with the criteria listed in Table 1.

5. Discussion on preparation of OREHP Legislative report and potential in-person meeting and site visit to OREHP facilities (15 mins.)

- Valerie Taylor presented the proposed timeline for the OREHP legislative report, which is due to the California Legislature by July 1, 2027.
- Members discussed preparation, workload, and review process of the report, as well as the sunset date (January 1, 2028) listed in the OREHP statute (Fish and Game Code Section 6598) and the process of how to extend the program beyond the sunset date.
- Members discussed a combined SAC and OREAP in-person meeting, facilitated by a third party, for next fiscal year (possibly December 2025).

6. Public comment on agenda items and closing of meeting (10 mins. Up to 2 mins. per commentor)

- No public comments.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m. (PST)