



State of California – Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
619 2nd Street  
Eureka, CA 95501  
[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

*EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor*  
*CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director*



June 22, 2018

Dear California Ocean Stakeholder,

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department), in partnership with California Sea Grant, recently completed an independent scientific evaluation of the Ocean Resources Enhancement and Hatchery Program (OREHP). The evaluation team concluded that the OREHP has made groundbreaking progress in developing hatchery rearing and enhancement practices and systems for marine species, but has not substantially increased the abundance of White Seabass, resulting in a less than 1 percent contribution to the wild White Seabass fishery over the last 30 years. The scientific evaluation team did not conclude whether the program should continue as-is, be modified, or be discontinued. The evaluation does, however, include objective-specific and program-wide recommendations should the program continue with either White Seabass or another marine species, as well as suggestions on how to discontinue the program. While decisions about the future direction of the program are ultimately up to the OREHP Advisory Panel, the Department and the Legislature, the scientific evaluation team recommends a science-based and public participatory decision-making process.

The OREHP has interacted with a variety of stakeholders in Southern California over the past 30 years, including individuals and organizations involved in commercial fishing, sport fishing, K-12 education, research, and environmental conservation. The Department is interested in gathering input from interested stakeholders on value, participation, and benefits of the program, as well as input on the future direction of the program.

The Department welcomes your feedback and input before July 31, 2018, to help inform the future of OREHP. Please contact Ms. Valerie Taylor, OREHP Program Coordinator, Department of Fish and Wildlife, with your thoughts or comments. Ms. Taylor may be contacted by email at [Valerie.Taylor@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Valerie.Taylor@wildlife.ca.gov), or by telephone at 562-342-7170.

For more information on the OREHP, please visit our website at <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/ABMP/OREHP>. The Evaluation of the Ocean Resources Enhancement and Hatchery Program report can be found at <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=154110&inline>. We look forward to receiving your input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kirsten L. Ramey".

Kirsten L. Ramey  
Environmental Program Manager

*Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870*