



bay restoration commission

STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

santa monica bay restoration commission / 320 west 4th street, ste 200; los angeles, california 90013
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THE SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION MARINE RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

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WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Dan Pondella called the meeting to order on May 29, 2012 at 1:00pm in the ECC 1857 room of University Hall on the Loyola Marymount University Campus, 1 LMU Drive, Westchester, CA 90045. Round robin introductions followed.

MRAC Members

Dr. Dan Pondella (Chair)	Present
Gerald McGowen (Vice-chair)	Present
Dr. Jim Allen	Absent
Dr. Rich Ambrose	Present
Dr. Ana Pitchon	Absent
Shelley Walther	Absent

Ad Hoc MRAC Members

Dr. Christine Whitcraft	Present
Larry Simon	Absent

Staff Present

Guangyu Wang, Deputy Director
Lia Protopapadakis, Marine Scientist & Project Manager
Letise Houser, Research Assistant

Members of the Public

Jack Malone (Anchor QEA)
Kat Prickett (Port of Los Angeles)
Steve Santen (Marina Del Rey Anglers (MDRA))
Eric Miller (MBC)

PUBLIC FORUM

Members of the public and representatives of organizations/agencies wishing to comment must fill out a comment card at the meeting and will be allowed up to 3 minutes to address the Committee and to provide public testimony on items not otherwise on the agenda. Speaker time may be reduced depending on the number of speakers or otherwise at the discretion of the TAC Chair.

Steve Santen (MDRA) noted that his club is concerned with the status of California halibut. They want to help bring back these fish. They have purchased a portable veterinary ultrasound unit that they hope to be able to donate to DFG, but DFG has to ensure that they can accept such a donation from a no-profit before that can happen. Their club is willing to help DFG collect much needed data on California halibut in any way they can. He announced that the MDRA will loan the equipment to SMBRF as a partner on the project.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- a. Order of the Agenda. - Approved
- b. Approval of Meeting Minutes. – Pushed until next meeting
- c. Reports from the Chair, Subcommittees, and Staff

our mission: to restore and enhance the santa monica bay through actions and partnerships that improve water quality, conserve and rehabilitate natural resources, and protect the bay's benefits and values





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The Chair had nothing to report.

Staff reported that they are very excited about the grant SMBRF has been awarded from USC Sea Grant to test a non-lethal method of determining sex in the California halibut. DFG is a partner on the project and hopes to work with the MDRA and student volunteers. The first sampling days will occur at the MDRA's annual halibut derby.

- d. Member Comment (*TAC members may wish to comment on issues not otherwise on the agenda.*) - None

AGENDA ITEM 3. Review and Discuss: The value of vegetated coastal marsh habitat in compensatory mitigation for lost subtidal habitat, draft white paper

Lia gave an overview of the status of the draft documents. The draft is very sketchy, but hopefully gives a good indication of where it is headed. The "crosswalk" contains all the information from the literature that will be incorporated into the draft. Ultimately, this will become a reference document in an appendix. The Literature Review will precede the "white paper" which is where potential metrics and crediting methods will be discussed.

Discussion

The MRAC had a good discussion about the draft documents. Overall they thought the draft was structured well. Specific points and recommendations for improvements are as follows:

- The White Paper should consist of 3 sections: an introduction (taken largely from the previous draft), the literature review (the document being discussed today), and a discussion piece.
- The discussion piece (mentioned above) should include data gaps, potential metrics, and applications in mitigation crediting processes. One data gap and challenge is that the method for measuring resilience is determined by the perturbation. Another is that biodiversity is a commonly measured metric, but does not clearly relate to function.
- Include surf zone/sandy beach because fish and birds that are common here are also common in wetlands
- All references in the "crosswalk" document should include the location of the study, both geographically and tidally.
- The literature review should include a review of how intertidal and supratidal are distinguished and a discussion of where this line falls within wetland habitats and how it relates to MHW, MHHW and other regulatory definitions. Some of this material may also need to be introduced in the introduction.
- Definition of wetland should not include upland habitat. Uplands are part of the wetland system or complex, but are not technically wetlands.
- Guilds should be included as an appendix. They can be used to allow extrapolation between geographic areas or from one species studied to all species in the guild. They can also be used to determine how widespread the benefits of a particular function are (ie if a function benefits the species within a guild that has a lot of species and many common species then the benefits of this function are more widespread).
- We need to find more food web papers to get references that discuss secondary production. Right now, we only have primary production accounted for.
- The habitat usage function should be a primary category label. The references attributed to "usage" are really "presence" and should be subcategorized that way. Shelter, reproductive support, foraging, and resting should also be subcategorized under "habitat usage". These are all direct functions.
- Other functions should be: Energy production/flow, Nutrient cycling, Wave attenuation, and Transport/connectivity, and other.

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- Heterogeneity is not a function. Rather it is a feature of habitat types that facilitate higher level functioning. This should be discussed in the literature review and carried into the discussion piece. Move references under this header in “crosswalk” to relevant function and identify as providing higher level function.
- Biodiversity is also a feature not a function. Treat as with heterogeneity above.
- Transport and connectivity are landscape level function and can remain. This allows for animal movement between systems. Ie uplands to salt marsh.
- Buffer is a feature that provides higher level functioning. However, wave attenuation is a function and should remain.
- Sediment accretion, removal of impurities, etc can go under an “other” function category.

Next steps: The Agencies interested in this document will not be discussing these types of issues until the next IRT meeting in August. Staff will work on completing the literature review, drafting an introduction, and discussion piece.

Public Comment. Taken in the course of the discussion.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be near the end of July. Staff will send out a doodle poll.

