



**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVITALIZATION PLAN  
CORE COMMITTEE MEETING  
February 13, 2009 (2:00 p.m.)**



**Don L. Nay Port Administration Building (Training Room)**

**Attendees:**

August Felando, Fisheries Attorney  
Adam Krohn, Port - Land Use Planning  
Bruce Cummings, Port - Terminal Supervisor  
Cody Hooven, Port - Environmental Services  
Deborah Ruddock, Coastal Conservancy, by phone  
Jonathan Hardy, Senator Ducheny's Office  
Kelly Falk, Port - Committee Chair  
Kelly Makley, Port - Environmental Services  
Maryanne Kind, Port - Grants Office

Matthew Valerio, Port - Land Use Planning  
Mitch Hobron, Fishermen's Working Group  
Paula Sylvia, Hubbs-SeaWorld (guest speaker)  
Peter Flourney, Fisheries Attorney  
Pete Halmay, Fisherman's Working Group  
Scott Breidenthal, SDPFA/SPEARIT  
Scott Hawkins, Commercial Fisherman  
Steve Foltz, Chesapeake Fish Processing  
Tina Pierce, Port - Grants Office

**Open Meeting, Introductions, Updates from Port**

Kelly Falk opened the meeting by informing the Committee that a Stop Work Order had been issued on the Commercial Fisheries Revitalization Plan by the State Coastal Conservancy. He indicated that we would discuss this matter in more detail later in the meeting, and that Deborah Ruddock would be joining us by phone and may wish to say a few words as well. Kelly then introduced the guest speaker, Paula Sylvia from Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute. Upon the recommendation of one of the Core Committee members, Paula was invited to make a presentation regarding on the *Offshore Aquaculture Demonstration Project*.

**Presentation by Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute**

Paula Sylvia, Aquaculture Project Manager for Hubbs-SeaWorld, presented a proposal for a commercial-scale, offshore aquaculture demonstration project planned offshore approximately five miles West of Mission Bay. She indicated that San Diego has the opportunity to lead the nation in aquaculture. The planned fish farm will produce striped bass raised year-round in surface pens, and will help to provide a healthy, sustainable supply of seafood to U.S. consumers.

Paula provided background information on Hubbs-SeaWorld, indicating that the research institute was founded by the same folks that started SeaWorld over 40 years ago. Hubbs-SeaWorld has an unparalleled track record with more than 30 years' experience leading aquaculture research, has all critical capabilities already in place, and is the only California entity with the net pen experience and success. Southern California is probably the nation's most promising location for an offshore aquaculture demonstration project due to climate and water temperatures, proximity to seafood industry infrastructure; and location (site meets multiple requirements and avoids potential conflicts and is close to Hubbs-SeaWorld headquarters).

Paula discussed aquaculture issues and the need for a commercial-scale, offshore aquaculture demonstration project:

- The only feasible way to obtain funding is on a commercial scale;
- Only commercial-scale demonstration projects can answer the questions regarding whether aquaculture is commercially feasible--financially and environmentally sustainable;
- Commercial-scale is necessary to use existing commercial fishing and processor capabilities.

Information shared also included that 80 percent of U.S. edible seafood supplies are imported and that nearly 50 percent of all seafood is farmed. The rationale for using the striped bass for the demonstration project included the fact that the species is hardy and is found in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans as well as the Gulf of Mexico; it is a designated recreational species in California, there are several farm sources for fingerlings already, and there is a proven market value, interest level and growth opportunity. Paula's presentation included information about the fishery operations, and she indicated there would be many types of business scenarios available for commercial fishermen. Handouts were provided to attendees.

## Updates/Items of Interest

### State Coastal Conservancy Stop Work Order

Kelly Falk updated the Core Committee regarding the Stop Work Order that was issued by the State Coastal Conservancy as a result of the State budget crisis. The order is very specific and states that contractors and grantees are not to do any work on their projects. Because of this Order, Port staff has been “treading lightly” as to how to proceed.

Deborah Ruddock expressed that this situation was a shock to the Conservancy as well, and that this is an unhappy situation for everyone. Deborah continued by saying that the Stop Work Order is designed to protect everyone involved. The Conservancy is currently waiting for a budget that is considered structurally sound by the folks that rate the bonds. In response to a question about the timeline for the project, Deborah said that the current funding source liquidates, so the Conservancy may have to backfill with new funding sources and amend the contracts to extend the project dates. She informed the Committee that the Conservancy requested invoices from the Port for work through 12/18/08. Those invoices are sitting on the desk of someone in the Department of Finance in Sacramento. The Conservancy is committed to the commercial fisheries revitalization project and will get things moving again just as soon as contractually possible.

Kelly pointed out that the Coastal Conservancy website contains a section entitled, “Questions & Answers,” and that it provides information on the Stop Work Order as well. Core Committee members were reminded that Kelly still needs their comments on the draft *Background and Existing Conditions Report* so that Lisa Wise Consulting can complete their work. The report is slowly becoming outdated, so it should be finalized as soon as possible.

### California Ocean Protection Council - “California Fisheries Challenge 2009” Grant Opportunity

Kelly discussed the *California Fisheries Challenge* grant opportunity and offered an idea for a proposal to be considered by the Core--to establish a San Diego Commercial Fisheries management entity. He commented on the distinction between the work product that is required under the Port’s agreement with Lisa Wise Consulting and a suggested proposal to implement/establish the management entity. He also mentioned another possible proposal idea involving bilge oil recovery. A few other Core members suggested project ideas, e.g., loading dock at Driscoll’s Wharf. It was pointed out that some of the ideas may not be appropriate for this particular grant opportunity or at this stage in the revitalization project plan.

Maryanne Kind outlined a proposal scenario and reviewed some of the grant guidelines. She indicated that the Port would be the applicant on behalf of the Commercial Fisheries Core Committee. These grant funds could be used to pay for projects recommended by the Revitalization Plan being prepared by Lisa Wise Consulting. Peter Halmay shared his thoughts on the suggested proposal and indicated that he would also be submitting a grant application that would be specific to Driscoll’s Wharf. Maryanne commented that the Stop Work Order impeded the grant application process, as it was originally planned that LWC would assist with its preparation (and now under the Stop Work Order, they would not be able to do so). The Committee members agreed that the Port should proceed with the preparation of the application on behalf of the Core (due February 17, 2009).