



NEWS

For Immediate Release

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MAJOR GIFT TO HUBBS-SEAWORLD RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO ESTABLISH THE DICK LAUB FISHERIES REPLENISHMENT PROGRAM

San Diego, CA (March 18, 2015) - Dorothea Laub, wife of the late, long-time angler Dick Laub, has committed \$900,000 to Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute (HSWRI) to establish the **Dick Laub Fisheries Replenishment Program**.

The Program will serve as a centerpiece to restore recreational nearshore fisheries. The Laub memorial gift will propel the technical, feasibility and regulatory phases of the Program, the desired outcomes of which are fish culture refinement, and juvenile fish pilot production and release, leading up to final program implementation.

The Ocean Resources Enhancement Hatchery Program (OREHP) is one of HSWRI's conservation research programs that was designed in collaboration with southern California recreational anglers, under the auspices of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, to specifically counteract the alarming decline of certain vital marine fish stocks. Since 1983, HSWRI scientists and their collaborators have developed culture techniques to rear and release white seabass, a commercially and recreationally important coastal marine fish species. Volunteer anglers contribute more than 20,000 hours annually to support the juvenile fish at grow-out facilities. Now that white seabass stocks are recovering, anglers are looking at additional species that may benefit from the decades of culture experience learned through OREHP.

With several years of support from Chevron Corporation, Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute's scientists have already been investigating additional species such as yellowtail and halibut that might fit into OREHP's mission. In 2014, an anonymous angler made a generous donation which served as the catalyst for HSWRI to explore the potential for additional species and a multi-year campaign was initiated. Momentum was gained with recent donations from AFTCO, Frank LoPreste and his partners in Fisherman's, Pt. Loma, Seaforth and H&M Landings, and Semptra Energy.

Concurrent with this new initiative, California's recreational angling community has become organized under the umbrella of the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA), a nation-wide, state-driven, recreational fishing advocacy organization. A new CCA-California Chapter was recently formed and has chosen the **Dick Laub Fisheries Replenishment Program** as its first priority after incorporation.

The species to be focused on by this larger enhancement program are still under discussion between the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the marine science community and recreational anglers. With the creation of CCA-California, the **Dick Laub Fisheries Replenishment Program** will enjoy additional support from the angler community but matching gifts and advocacy will still be needed over several years from philanthropic partners. For more information, please contact Eileen Sigler, HSWRI's Development Director, at 619-672-6062 or to make a donation, visit www.hswri.org/donate-now.

HSWRI is a nonprofit research foundation established in 1963, dedicated to studying the world's natural resources, with an emphasis to find sea life solutions to mitigate human impacts on marine and coastal environments. Through a commitment to innovative scientific research, the Institute contributes to the understanding and conservation of the marine world.

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