**Minutes of the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals**

**November 14, 2018 Meeting**

Hawaii Department of Agriculture

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals was called to order by Advisory Committee Chairperson Mr. Darcy Oishi on Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at 1:38 P.M. at the Plant Quarantine Branch (PQB) Conference Room, 1849 Auiki Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96819.

Members Present:

Darcy Oishi, Advisory Committee Chairperson, Biocontrol Section Chief, Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA)

Kenneth Matsui, Petland/Pets Pacifica

Scott Glenn, Director, Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) Office of Environmental Quality Control, Ex Officio Member

Dr. Maria Haws, Director, Pacific Aquaculture and Coastal Resources Center, University of Hawaii at Hilo

Robert Hauff, Forest Health Coordinator, Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Ex Officio Member Designated Representative

Members Absent:

Kenneth Redman, Retired Director, Honolulu Zoo

Dr. Sarah Park, State Epidemiologist, DOH, Ex Officio Member Designated Representative

Others Present:

Haunani Burns, Deputy Attorney General, Hawaii Department of the Attorney General

Val Kato, Deputy Attorney General, Hawaii Department of the Attorney General

Trenton Yasui , Acting Manager, HDOA, PQB

Craig Kirihara, Masterjourneyman, HDOA, PQB

David Lingenfelser, Acting Invertebrate and Aquatic Biota Specialist, HDOA, PQB

Techie Lancaster, Inspector, HDOA, PQB

Chris Kishimoto, Entomologist, HDOA, PQB

James Thain, Acting Land Vertebrate Specialist, HDOA, PQB

Lance Sakaino, Plant Specialist, HDOA, PQB

Karen Hiroshige, Secretary HDOA, PQB

Cynthia King, DLNR, Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW)

Kylee Wideman, DLNR, DOFAW

1. INTRODUCTION AND COMMENTS

Chairperson Oishi and the Advisory Committee members introduced themselves.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE February 13, 2018 MEETING

Chairperson Oishi asked the Committee to review the minutes for the

February 13, 2018 meeting. The minutes were not available and will be provided at the next Committee meeting.

1. COMMENTS FROM GENERAL PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS (ORAL OR

WRITTEN)

Chairperson Oishi asked if there were any comments from the general public on any of the agenda items. Chairperson Oishi said that comments from the general public will be heard after each submittal.

1. REQUESTS TO BE REVIEWED BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Invertebrate and Aquatic Biota:

Request to: (1) Allow the Importation of Swai, *Pangasius hypophthalmus*, a Fish on the List of Conditionally Approved Animals, by Permit, for Aquaculture Production, by Kohala Mountain Fish Company, LLC.; and (2) Establish Permit Conditions for the Importation of Swai, *Pangasius hypophthalmus*, a Fish on the List of Conditionally Approved Animals, by Permit, for Aquaculture Production, by Kohala Mountain Fish Company, LLC.

Acting PQB Invertebrate and Aquatic Biota Specialist, Mr. David Lingenfelser, provided a synopsis of the request. The applicant and Principal Investigator for this request, Mr. John Oliva, participated in this meeting by phone.

Acting specialist Lingenfelser noted that recommendations from Advisory Subcommittee on Invertebrate and Aquatic Biota member Mr. David Nichols, were received after the submittal went to print. Acting specialist Lingenfelser presented hard copies of Subcommittee member Nichols’ recommendations to approve the requests to import and establish permit conditions to the Committee and read his recommendations aloud.

Advisory Committee member Ken Matsui stated that applicant’s application listed Swai and Basa under “commodity”. He said that Basa fish is *Pangasius bocourti*,which is not on the list of Conditionally Approved species and asked if the applicant is also applying for *P. bocourti*. The applicant and principal investigator for this request, Mr. John Oliva, stated that he is only applying for *Pangasius sutchi*, and that Basa is sometimes used as a common name for *P. sutchi*.

Committee member Matsui asked why the proposed permit conditions for this species include a quarantine period but have no specific certification requirements for World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) diseases. Acting specialist Lingenfelser stated that because this species can currently be imported for pet trade with no health requirements, the Branch would like to prevent a discrepancy between the health requirements of the same species for different purposes.

Advisory Committee member Dr. Maria Haws addressed the applicant’s statement on page 11 of the submittal, in which the applicant wrote, “Our facility has been up and fully operational with tilapia for two years without incident and has received high praises from several agencies and groups for our security and sustainability. Some of these agencies and groups are, but not limited to: State of Hawaii Department of Agriculture, United States Department of Agriculture, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, University of Hawaii Hilo and Arizona State University- Julie Wrigley School of Sustainability.” Committee member Haws expressed concern that the comments by the applicant suggest endorsements by the organizations mentioned and presumed that this may not be accurate. Committee member Haws recommended that Mr. Oliva should agree to strike any mention of endorsement from his submittal. In response, Mr. Oliva stated that individual staff members from the aforementioned organizations did offer praise of his operation. Mr. Oliva subsequently agreed to strike any text from his submittal that infers an endorsement of his company. Deputy Attorney General Haunani Burns, stated that the wording can be revised to proclaim that high praises were received from individuals rather than the agencies themselves.

Advisory Committee member Robert Hauff noted that the applicant stated in his submittal that this species is unable to breed in Hawaii because its river systems are inadequate for reproduction. He asked for clarification of the required conditions for this species to reproduce if it were to escape into a state river. Committee member Haws stated that this species does require very deep river systems and that hormones are typically required to induce breeding in captivity. Mr. Oliva stated that this species requires a long migration, and very deep pools of water with a depth of 15 meters or greater to reproduce. He also stated that migration routes are known to be greater than 250 kilometers.

Committee member Hauff moved to recommend approval of this request. The motion was seconded by Committee member Matsui.

Vote: 5/0. Approval of this request.

Request to: (1) Allow the Importation of Sablefish, *Anoplopoma fimbria*, a Fish on the List of Restricted Animals (Part B), by Permit, for Aquaculture Production, by Pacific Planktonics; and (2) Update Permit Conditions for the Importation of Sablefish, *Anoplopoma fimbria*, a Fish on the List of Restricted Animals (Part B), by Permit, for Aquaculture Production, by Pacific Planktonics.

Acting PQB Invertebrate and Aquatic Biota Specialist David Lingenfelser provided a synopsis of the request. The applicant and Principal Investigator, Syd Kraul, was unable to participate in this meeting.

Advisory Committee member Scott Glenn acknowledged that permit conditions were already approved for this species and he asked if future permits would use the revised permit conditions as proposed in this submittal. Acting specialist Lingenfelser replied that, if approved, these proposed conditions would be applied to future permits for this species pending a site inspection, where PQB determines that the applicant is able to comply with these conditions.

Committee member Glenn asked for a summary of the proposed changes to the permit conditions, with respect to the previously approved conditions. Acting Specialist Lingenfelser replied that multiple standardized conditions were added to ensure that various aspects of import risk were addressed. He said that with regard to prevention of environmental harm, the proposed amendment to permit condition no. 9 would add detailed requirements for the health of the imported fish. Acting Specialist Lingenfelser said that permit condition no. 9 requires that imported organisms must be certified free of diseases listed by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) or diseases that are designated by the Board. He said that if the organisms are not certified, a health inspection report must be included which certifies that disease surveillance has been performed for the restricted articles for a period of 6 months prior to shipment, and that the restricted articles have been found apparently free of diseases and/or pests. Acting Specialist Lingenfelser said that, under proposed condition no. 9, regardless of pre-import health certifications, a 30-day quarantine will also be required at the approved facility. Acting PQB Manager Trenton Yasui added that the permit conditions established for the 2008 import request for sablefish allowed for live transfer of the sablefish, whereas the newly proposed conditions will not allow live transfer. He also said that other conditions were added to include certain recently-approved conditions in recent permits, to better clarify the requirements and to close some of the loopholes, from an inspection standpoint.

Advisory Committee member Ken Matsui asked if there are any OIE diseases listed for sablefish. Acting PQB Manager Yasui stated that he is not aware of any. Committee member Matsui asked how sablefish eggs will be allowed to be imported if there are no OIE diseases listed for sablefish and the requirements say they must be isolated for 6 months prior to importation. Acting PQB Manager Yasui replied that if eggs are imported, the broodstock would be under disease surveillance for those 6 months.

Committee member Matsui said that while the proposed conditions require that the sablefish be free of OIE diseases, the United States Department of Agriculture cannot guarantee that anything is completely disease-free, and that they can only say it is 99.999% disease-free. Advisory Committee member Dr. Maria Haws replied to Committee member Matsui’s comment and said that the proposed permit conditions do not mention that the fish must be disease-free but, rather, certified disease-free, which means that disease has not been detected. Dr. Haws stated that her concern with proposed permit condition no. 9 is what procedures follow the quarantine period. She said that while the fish must be isolated from other aquatic species during the quarantine, she believes they should be isolated from other aquatic species indefinitely, which is a basic practice in most biosecurity manuals. Dr. Haws also stated her concern regarding proposed permit condition no. 13, which requires the permittee to have a biosecurity manual in place but does not give any specifics regarding what the manual should contain. Advisory Committee Chairperson Darcy Oishi asked who would enforce the contents of the biosecurity manual. Acting PQB Manager Yasui said that the condition is intentionally left open-ended to allow for some flexibility, and he agreed that proposed permit condition no. 13 should be re-worded to require the permittee to adhere to the contents of the biosecurity manual.

Committee member Matsui said that the fish health inspection report is a bit difficult to understand. Dr. Haws agreed that results of that report should be clarified.

Advisory Committee member Robert Hauff asked if adherence to the biosecurity manual would be enforced. Acting PQB Manager Yasui replied that the initial site inspection is conducted to ensure that the permittee is able to comply with applicable permit conditions, and post-entry inspections are conducted to verify that the permittee is in compliance with permit conditions, which includes having a biosecurity manual. Acting PQB Manager Yasui agreed that wording could be added to proposed permit condition no. 13 that would require the permittee to follow the procedures as stated in the biosecurity manual.

Committee Chairperson Oishi asked how the PQB inspector conducting the site inspection can determine whether the permittee’s system is sufficiently screened to prevent the accidental release of the fish, as required in proposed permit condition no. 11. Acting PQB Manager Yasui clarified proposed condition no. 11, explaining that the purpose of the screening is to prevent escapement of the fish, and that the necessary screen size depends on the stage and size of the fish. He said that the specific screen size requirement could be added to the site inspection/post-entry report, so that inspectors at subsequent inspections are able to make a clear determination whether the screening is sufficient.

Advisory Committee member Hauff asked where in the Board review process does the environmental risk assessment (EA) exemption occur. Acting PQB Manager Yasui explained that the questions regarding the proposed import’s risk to the environment are posed to the relevant Advisory Subcommittee for comment. The Subcommittee’s comments, which the Advisory Committee reviews and may also comment on, may impact whether a declaration of exemption will be issued. He said that a draft declaration of exemption from EA, with recommendations and comments from the technical advisors on the subcommittee and, possibly, the Advisory Committee, is submitted to the HDOA Plant Industry Administrator for review. He said that the administrator then either approves or disapproves the declaration of exemption from EA. Deputy Attorney General Haunani Burns said that the Board of Agriculture can choose to accept or reject the declaration.

Advisory Committee member Hauff moved to recommend approval of this request, with the further amendments requested by the Advisory Committee to proposed permit condition no. 11, condition no. 13, and which include Dr. Haws’ concern regarding isolating the proposed import from other aquatic species. The motion was seconded by Dr. Haws.

Vote: 5/0, Recommendation for approval

1. ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Committee Chairperson Oishi moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Committee member Glenn and was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 P.M.

Vote: APPROVED 5/0

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Hiroshige

Advisory Committee Secretary