

Oregon Chapter American Fisheries Society
Marine Habitat and Ecology Committee
Committee Chair Scott Heppell
Work Plan for May 1, 2013 through April 30, 2014

Mission of Oregon AFS:

To improve the conservation and sustainability of Oregon fishery resources and their aquatic ecosystems for long-term public benefit by advancing science, education and public discourse concerning fisheries and aquatic science and by promoting the development of fisheries professionals.

Objectives of Marine Habitat and Ecology Committee (from Oregon AFS administrative handbook as amended December 2011)

The Marine Habitat and Ecology Committee is responsible for advocating the protection and restoration of marine environments and their inhabitants in Oregon, promoting the advancement of techniques to protect and restore marine species and habitats, documenting fisheries problems in Oregon's marine waters, and developing strategies for their solution. Its concerns include, but are not limited to: marine fisheries management, bycatch in commercial and recreational fisheries, population status of marine species and their assessment, climate-related issues, marine reserves, essential fish habitat, ocean aquaculture, and rebuilding marine fish stocks in Oregon's ocean, bays, and intertidal areas.

The Marine Habitat and Ecology Committee:

- a. Encourages implementation and improvement of existing regulations and activities that protect Oregon's natural marine environments and their inhabitants.
- b. Works to ensure adequate consideration of fishery resources by public entities whose actions affect Oregon's marine fisheries.
- c. Reviews and comments on plans, policies, criteria, and rules affecting marine species.
- d. Promotes public awareness of the importance of functional marine ecosystems and the effects of anthropogenic impacts.
- e. Acts as a liaison with similar committees of the Western Division and Parent Society.
- f. Conducts periodic marine fisheries workshops at annual meetings.
- g. Submits a written report of committee activities to the External Director every six months in November and April.

- h. Submits annual work plan and budget to the External Director by April 1st before the spring ExCom planning meeting or retreat. The Marine Habitat and Ecology Committee Chair prepares these materials.

Proposed 2013-14 workplan:

- Draft an ORAFS position (“white”) paper on use of wave energy in Oregon’s nearshore environment (objective a)
- Review ORAFS position (“white”) paper on marine reserves (objective a; originally drafted in 2002?)
- Increase membership *and participation* in the committee (initiated at the 2012 chapter meeting)
- Be prepared to participate and comment on upcoming Oregon marine reserve issues, as Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife develops monitoring plans for marine reserves to be implemented in the next two years (objectives b,c)
- Develop marine-oriented symposium theme for 2014 ORAFS chapter meeting
- Begin planning process for involvement of marine committee in 2015 National Meeting in Portland (objective e)
- Begin work with ORAFS on potential cooperation in developing the 2016 Western Groundfish Meeting, which will come to Oregon in that year (objective e with an external group)

Budget request for 2013-14

- None at this time