

## OREGON CHAPTER AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE 2015-2017 WORK PLAN

Submitted by Committee Co-Chairs Josie Thompson and Haley Blake  
Approved by Ex Com: Oct. 8, 2015

### **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 Legislative Committee**

The Legislative Committee is responsible for informing the Oregon Chapter membership of pending legislation related to fish, fisheries, aquatic environments, the fishery profession, and guiding Chapter activities through the legislative process. A member from each External Committee will be designated at the annual meeting to serve as a liaison on legislative matters with the Legislative Committee. The Legislative Committee:

1. Determines and recommends to the Ex Com how to best serve the interests of aquatic ecosystems and the fisheries profession through contact with our elected state and national representatives and the Governor of Oregon through his or her Natural Resources Assistant.
2. Coordinate with Chapter Legislative Liaison to monitor legislative activity and informs the Ex Com and External Committees about action on specific bills. During years when the chapter does not hire a Legislative Liaison, the Committee Chair(s) will work with the Executive Committee and other External Committee Chairs to identify chapter members who are actively following of legislative activity and willing to provide updates.
3. Develops guidelines for "legislative procedures" to aid Chapter input in the legislative process.
4. Prepares public statements expressing the Chapter's position regarding proposed legislation and other legislative matters affecting fish and aquatic habitats.
5. Prepares statements and presents testimony expressing Chapter positions on proposed legislation.
6. Works closely with the contract Legislative Liaison and helps the External Director manage that position (if a Liaison is under contract).

7. Submits a written report of committee activities to the External Director every six months in November and April.
8. Submits annual work plan and budget to the External Director by August 1st before the spring Ex Com planning meeting or retreat.

### **2015-2017 Work Plan**

1. Meet with key legislators during the interim session to discuss Oregon Chapter American Fisheries Society mission and present ourselves as a resource (if Liaison is under contract. See objectives A, E)
2. Coordinate with the legislative liaison or connected Chapter members to maintain a formalized watch list of State legislative bills of interest to ORAFS and for the Ex Com to help prioritize (objective B).
3. Work with the External Director to a) prioritize the list of legislative bills being tracked by ORAFS and b) assign to appropriate committee (objectives B, E, F)
4. Create rubric and work-flow outline for the white paper composition and editing process, including responsibilities and expectations for each step of the process and ideal timelines.
5. Attain white paper or position statement goals:
  - a. Compile information on water withdrawal and allocation (OWRD bills that keep showing up in the legislature) and evaluation of how current water can be used more efficiently and if that will meet current needs.
  - b. Finalize hatchery/wild fish interaction white paper.
  - c. Finalize update to ORAFS position statement on marine reserves (Marine Habitat and Ecology Committee)
6. Refine the process for effectively communicating, reviewing, prioritizing, and addressing resource issues and opportunities on short notice (objective C)
7. Identify persons authorized by Ex Com who are prepared to respond (orally or in writing), as appropriate, to Oregon legislative actions, and to local, state or federal policies that affect conservation and sustainability of Oregon fishery resources (objective C)
8. Work with the OSU student subunit liaison to help educate subunit members about pertinent legislative bills and activity

9. Organize a policy session or a session focused on a specific legislative issue for the 2016 ORAFS annual meeting (objectives F,G)
10. Update contact list at 2016 ORAFS annual meeting to include all members wishing to receive legislative updates by email.
11. Submit routine updates for the Piscatorial Press newsletter (objective G)
12. Post legislative updates on the ORAFS Facebook page and website, especially when the legislature is in session.
13. Assist the External Director and the Executive Committee to recruit and contract the chapter's legislative liaison.

**Budget Request for 2015-2017**

None

## **ORAFS Legislative Committee Two-Year Calendar**

### 2016 Legislative Session: Jan.-Feb.

- Legislative Committee convenes to review bills of interest, prioritize and track. Where prioritized bills intersect with white papers, provide relevant information to the External Director for dissemination to committees. Legislative Committee convenes and reports to Ex Com at annual meeting.
- Recruit presenters on policy issues for special session at annual meeting.
- Generate interest in the Legislative Committee and recruit new members.
- Final legislative status report evaluated by committee to identify issues/trends worth pursuing.

### 2016 Interim Committee Days: May, Sept. and Dec.

Meet with committee chairs or present at committee information hearings. Track issues and report on interim committee meetings.

### 2017 Legislative Session: Jan.-June

Legislative Committee convenes to review bills of interest, prioritize and track. Where prioritized bills intersect with white papers, provide relevant information to External Director for dissemination to committees. Legislative Committee convenes and reports to Ex Com at annual meeting.

- Generate interest in the Legislative Committee and recruit new members.
- Final legislative session status report evaluated by committee to identify issues/trends worth pursuing.

### 2017 Interim Committee Days: Sept. and Dec.

Meet with committee chairs or present at committee information hearings. Track issues and report on interim committee meetings.