

OREGON CHAPTER AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
FRESHWATER HABITAT COMMITTEE 2016-2017 WORK PLAN

Committee Chair: Bill Wall
Approved by ExCom: Sept. 25, 2016

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 Freshwater Habitat Committee

The Freshwater Habitat Committee is responsible for advocating for the protection and restoration of surface and ground waters in Oregon, promoting the advancement of techniques to protect and restore water bodies, documenting problems in Oregon's waters, and developing strategies for their solution. Concerns of the Freshwater Habitat Committee include physical habitat and water quality and quantity in estuarine and fresh waters. The Freshwater Habitat Committee:

1. Encourages implementation and improvement of existing regulations and activities that protect the State's waters.
2. Works to ensure adequate consideration of fishes by public entities whose actions affect Oregon waters.
3. Reviews and comments on plans, policies, criteria, and rules affecting aquatic habitats.
4. Promotes public awareness of the importance of healthy aquatic habitats and the hazards of poor habitat conditions.
5. Networks with similar aquatic habitat committees of the Western Division and Parent Society.
6. Conducts periodic habitat workshops at annual meetings.
7. Submits a written report of committee activities, annual work plan, and budget to the External Director by June 1, before the summer ExCom planning meeting or retreat. The Freshwater Habitat Committee Chair prepares these materials.

2016-2017 Work Plan

1. Increase membership participation in the habitat committee through communication of activities, needs, and opportunities through emails, the Chapters Facebook page, and Chapter newsletter. This will continue to be the Committee Chair's focus for this year.
2. Propose to the committee through communication activities (above) to present a session on prioritizing restoration projects. The session will be in conjunction with the Oregon AFS 2017 chapter meeting (objective 6). Potential topics include:
 - a. Combining science, public interest, and opportunities.
 - b. How much should science play a role over public interest and priorities?
 - c. How best to document decisions/justification in regards to these priorities?

3. Be prepared to respond to these Oregon bills which are likely to resurface in 2016 (objectives 2, 3, 4):
 - a. The above information will be updated as new information is received from the Legislative Committee. Response could come in the form of a white paper, position statement, or testimony on these informational hearing dates: Will notify members when dates are established.

2016-2017 Budget:

None