

Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
Work Plan FY 2009+
(May 1, 2009 - April 30, 2010)

Situation: abysmal economy, furloughs and unemployment, travel and support restrictions for most members

Response: operate frugally but support members as possible; top priority is the Annual Meeting (AM) and related communication, student support, award, scholarship, and workshop programs; improve low-cost communication with entire membership via website and listserv.

The mission of the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (ORAFS) is 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.*

To accomplish our mission and serve our members, the chapter goals (#) and objectives (##) as stated in the Strategic Plan for 2009-2013, and the actions (a, b, etc.) planned to achieve them during FY 2009-10, are as follows:

1. Develop programs that advance understanding of fishery science and responsible stewardship of fishery resources.

1.1. Host a high-quality annual meeting.

a) Maintain a meeting format and content similar to recent successful years, with depth and diversity of topics and sufficient social and professional networking functions.

b) Keep annual meeting fees and support options reasonable to encourage participation

1.2. Host workshops as part of annual meetings and as stand-alone events.

a) Offer workshops at the annual meeting workshop which provides current and relevant training of interest to our membership in association with the annual meeting.

b) Host a separate workshop only if a relevant subject and adequate support (personnel, financial) are identified to do so economically (no net dollar loss) and without compromising other objectives.

1.3. Encourage members to participate in regional and national fishery events and activities.

a) advertise regional and national events and activities via the Piscatorial Press (PP) and ORAFS website.

b) invite Western Division AFS (WDAFS) and AFS representatives to address the membership at the AM.

c) provide financial support to the President (or designee) to attend the WDAFS and AFS annual meetings to represent ORAFS

d) draft a program for soliciting, reviewing, and funding proposals from students for small projects that are relevant to Goal 1 and which can be completed within 1 year with a small grant (e.g. \$5,000 limit)

e) provide partial sponsorships (funding support) for ExCom-selected fishery events, publications, meetings, and workshops that align with the ORAFS mission, potentially including:

- Salmonid Modeling book, July 2009
- Beaver Conference, Feb 2010
- WDAFS annual meeting, May 2010
- NWFish Culture Conference, Dec 2009

1.4. Encourage members to publish and present scientific findings in appropriate forums.

a) maintain a format and policy to accept the maximum practical amount of presentations and posters at the AM.

b) provide awards to students for best and runner-up paper and poster presentations (details elsewhere).

1.5. Target hosting an annual Western or national AFS meeting

a) target 2016 to host WDAFS, unless earlier opportunity occurs

b) assist WA/BC Chapter with 2011 National AFS AM in Seattle

c) periodically re-evaluate OR facilities for ability to accommodate a national meeting

2. Advocate policies and laws that benefit the conservation and sustainability of Oregon fishery resources.

2.1. Maintain a presence in the Oregon legislative process and subsequent development of administrative rules.

a) continue supporting (at least periodically) a legislative liaison to serve as ORAFS's eyes and ears in Salem, and provide weekly or monthly reports and suggestions (as warranted)

b) 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.

2.2. Maintain awareness of and ability to respond to policies developed for use by fishery managers at local, state, and federal levels. Respond orally or in writing when appropriate.

See 2.1 a and b above.

c) encourage and maintain active External Committees to address relevant topics and issues

d) review regional and national-level information from AFS and other sources for potential action by ORAFS

e) encourage members to make ORAFS aware of local policy development as warranted and assist ORAFS with formulating appropriate responses

f) refine the process for effectively communicating, reviewing, prioritizing, and addressing resource issues and opportunities on short notice

g) identify persons authorized by ExCom and 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

2.3. Develop a system where members make personal contact with their local decision makers and volunteer their expertise.

a) post links to contact information for local representatives (local, state, or federal) on ORAFS website

3. Increase public awareness, understanding, and appreciation of fishery resources.

3.1. Use resources available to assist and promote fishery and aquatic education in schools.

a) promote involvement of Oregon youth in the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program

b) follow-thru with the 2009 E&O grant recipients to describe the benefits derived

c) request, review, and support additional E&O activities with the remainder of the 2009 E&O grant funds (\$6,240)

3.2. Produce materials and workshops that aid teachers, watershed councils, and other educational entities.

a) fund printing and distribution of additional Stream Continuum Posters

b) encourage and support the development of the "Fishes of Oregon" book project

c) include in the AM at least one session focused on E&O content and case histories

3.3. Maintain a user-friendly Web page.

a) keep most of the ORAFS website accessible to the public

- b) maintain a home page that is public-friendly
- 3.4. Participate in public forums that focus on fishery and aquatic science issues, advocating well-reasoned policies that maintain and enhance fishery and aquatic resources.
- a) consider opportunities as they arise
 - b) investigate use of “Twitter” as an additional ORAFS communication tool

4. Promote development of fishery and aquatic science professionals.

General:

- a) encourage agencies and other employers to support participation in the ORAFS AM and other AFS activities, actively solicit AM sponsorships and provide value to their staff
- b) offer partial sponsorships for up to two ORAFS members-in-need to attend ExCom-selected events, including:
 - ORAFS AM
 - Northwest Fish Culture Conference
 - Others???
- c) sponsor a relevant plenary speaker at the ORAFS AM

4.1. Promote understanding of and adherence to professional standards and ethics.

- a) recognize professionals for outstanding accomplishments and present awards at the AM as warranted for: Fishery Worker of the Year, Fishery Team of the Year, Awards of Merit, Bill Wingfield Memorial Award in Fish Culture, and Past President’s Award
- b) award certificates to winners and first runner-ups of best student paper and poster presentations at annual meeting of the Chapter. Lead author winners of best paper and best poster will also be awarded 1-year AFS student memberships
- c) solicit for and recognize those involved in “special events” with the Broken Oar Award

4.2. Maintain a part of the Web page that supports professionals through information exchange.

- a) attempt to de-bug the blog area and restore it to usefulness
- b) consider creation of an on-line forum to replace the blog

4.3. Maintain a portion of the Web page that advises career opportunities.

- a) maintain postings or links of relevant career opportunities for all levels of professionals
- b) continue to conduct and improve a Student-Mentor Mixer at the Annual Meeting with the goal of introducing students to a diversity of fishery professionals and opportunities

4.4. Provide information and assist members who participate in the AFS Professional Certification Program by increasing awareness of the certification process and its benefits and offering classes for continuing education credit.

- a) maintain link from ORAFS website to AFS Professional Certification Program webpage

4.5. Provide scholarships to worthy student candidates.

- a) award four student scholarships of \$2,000 each at the AM -- one scholarship each for a Community College student, B.S. candidate, M.S. candidate, and PhD candidate – each to be accompanied by a 1-year student membership to AFS and ORAFS
- b) solicit for and award (if warranted) one Carl Bond Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$5,000

4.6. Maintain an informative newsletter.

- a) update and maintain the Piscatorial Press (PP, quarterly), Website (continuously), and listserv (periodically) as the primary communication devices with members

b) retain a paid “publications manager” to oversee timely layout, review, and publication of the PP and AM program (unless / until a qualified volunteer is identified)

c) consider revamping the PP similar to the new WDAFS newsletter

4.7. Encourage participation in leadership roles in the chapter as an opportunity for professional growth.

a) ensure that ExCom functions in an efficient, rewarding, fun manner

b) actively solicit for members willing and able to serve on committees and ExCom

5. Maintain an active and diverse membership.

5.1. Promote membership to fishery and aquatic scientists from a variety of disciplines of the profession.

a) solicit from a broad range of members and potential members for participation in the AM

b) ensure that the AM addresses diverse topics and disciplines

c) advertise the AM among networks of diverse disciplines

5.2. Support a student chapter and encourage new members from diverse backgrounds and fields of study.

a) provide financial support for specific ExCom-selected Student Subunit activities

b) provide AFS and ORAFS memberships to the Student Subunit liason

c) actively involve students in the Annual Meeting by providing opportunities for volunteer service and by providing financial support (e.g. registration discounts and waivers, sponsored lodging) as warranted to promote attendance

d) actively solicit participation of students from schools other than OSU by nurturing contacts with instructors and communicating student opportunities to these groups as well as within OSU

5.3. Develop programs that encourage retirees to maintain membership and active involvement.

a) actively solicit retirees to participate in committees and ExCom

5.4. Target under-represented groups (gender, ethnicity, fishery specialty, etc.) and encourage participation.

a) consider AM venues other than Bend and Eugene as opportunities to do so arise to provide a local interface with diverse groups and individuals

5.5. Develop a poster about the Oregon Chapter and present it at diverse and appropriate venues.

a) evaluate condition and value of current poster, appropriate venues and handling

6. ORAFS Investments

6.1. Identify prudent options for utilizing budget surpluses to further the Chapter mission without risking Chapter solvency

a) maintain 2-years operating capitol in low-risk investments

6.2. Develop a 5-year investment plan consistent with 6.1

7. Evaluate ORAFS ExCom operational structure

7.1. Update ORAFS Administrative Handbook

a) revise to account for new VP duties and AM registration and student support guidelines

7.2. Update by-laws when needed