

Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
Work Plan Fiscal Year 2010-11
(May 1, 2010 - April 30, 2011)

Mission

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.

Situation: Economic recovery not really taking hold in Oregon, further 9 percent reduction in state budgets, furloughs and unemployment, travel and support restrictions for many members\

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

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 2010-11, 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 meeting which provide current and relevant training of interest to our membership.

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) Advertise ORAFS events in *Fisheries* magazine and on the AFS website.
- c) Invite Western Division AFS (WDAFS) and AFS representatives to address the membership at the annual meeting.
- d) Provide financial support to the President (or designee) plus one other to attend the AFS annual meetings to represent ORAFS (Note: there is no WDAFS meeting in the 2010-11 FY because the 2011 annual meeting is in Seattle in September 2011.)
- e) Provide partial sponsorships (funding support) for ExCom-selected fishery events, publications, meetings, and workshops that align with the ORAFS mission.

1.4 Host separate workshop(s) 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. Potential workshop topics include

- Salmon in the City (Portland, Fall 2010)
- Fisheries Science and Policy (Salem, January 2011)

- 1.5. 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).
- 1.6. Encourage crossover with other professional fish and wildlife organizations
 - a) Research appropriate organizations (The Wildlife Society, Desert Fishes Council, American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists, etc)
 - b) Establish either funding support to send a representative from ORAFS to the respective annual meeting or bring a representative from another organization to the annual meeting.
 - c) Consider two such crossover events for this fiscal year.
- 1.7. 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 annual meeting in Seattle.
 - c) Periodically re-evaluate Oregon 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 to support a legislative liaison to serve as ORAFS's eyes and ears in Salem, and provide weekly or monthly reports and suggestions (as warranted)
 - c) 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.
 - a) Implement 2.1
 - b) Encourage and maintain active External Committees to address relevant topics and issues.
 - c) Review regional and national-level information from AFS and other sources for potential action by ORAFS.
 - d) Encourage members to make ORAFS aware of local policy development as warranted and assist ORAFS with formulating appropriate responses.
 - e) Refine the process for effectively communicating, reviewing, prioritizing, and addressing resource issues and opportunities on short notice.
 - f) 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.
 - g) Take steps to ensure that ORAFS is on the appropriate mailing lists (electronic and otherwise) relating to projects and aquatic resource management issues.

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 2010 Education and Outreach grant recipients to describe the benefits derived
- c) Sponsor up to two teachers who need assistance to attend the annual meeting

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

- a) Encourage and support the development of the “Fishes of Oregon” book project
- b) Include in the annual meeting at least one session focused on Education and Outreach content and case histories

3.3. Maintain a user-friendly Web page.

- a) Keep most of the ORAFS website accessible to the public
- b) Consider updating webpage to reflect more current style
- c) Maintain a home page that is public-friendly
- d) Consider creation of an on-line forum to facilitate information exchange

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) Continue use of ORAFS Twitter and Facebook accounts as an additional ORAFS communication tool
- b) Expand number of authorized tweeters within ExCom
- c) Consider other social media venues as they arise
- d) Develop social media policy

4. Promote development of fishery and aquatic science professionals.

4.1 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

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

- a) Recognize professionals for outstanding accomplishments and present awards at the annual meeting 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

4.3. 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
 - b) Consider conducting a certification workshop at the annual meeting to facilitate certification process (free)
 - c) Advertise the funds are available to pay for certification (three scholarships)

- 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
 - c) Consider re-structuring scholarship program to reflect either more awards with smaller dollar amounts, awards for under-represented groups, or other measures to increase appeal and importance of scholarships.
 - d) Evaluate previous years responses and develop a plan for routinely improving student participation.

- 4.6. Distribute information to membership through the Piscatorial Press (PP, quarterly), Website (continuously), and listserv (periodically) as the primary communication devices with members.

- 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 by soliciting participation in committees and ExCom
- 5.4. Target under-represented groups (gender, ethnicity, fishery specialty, etc.) and encourage participation including considering changing the annual meeting venue as appropriate.

6. ORAFS Investments

- 6.1. Identify prudent options for utilizing budget surpluses to further the Chapter mission without risking Chapter solvency
- 6.2. Maintain 2-years operating capitol in low-risk investments
- 6.3. 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
 - b) Consider adjustments to ExCom terms or Chapter fiscal year so that all coincide
 - c) Depending on 7.1.b, consider adding early start for incoming ExCom following annual meeting to facilitate crossover.
- 7.2. Update by-laws when needed