

Oregon Chapter American Fisheries Freshwater Habitat Committee 2012 Workplan
Submitted by Committee Chair Ian Reid, 9 May 2012

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:

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

Proposed 2012 Workplan

- Draft letter of support for ExCom approval for Elk River Salmon Emphasis Area (objective a)
- Increase membership in the habitat committee by 20 percent through active recruiting (current membership is 24, new membership would be 29; objective g)
- Provide comments for draft SONCC coho salmon recovery plan (completed April 2012, objectives c and e)
- Form subcommittee to explore idea of a habitat restoration workshop, possibly in conjunction with AFS national in 2015 or sooner (objective f)

- Be prepared to respond to these Oregon bills which are likely to resurface in 2013 (objectives b, c, d):
 - [HB 4101](#), water storage and withdrawal from Columbia River
 - [SB 1511](#) Expands state policy relating to ecosystems
 - [SB 1513](#) Allows water right lease to split use of water between existing right and in-stream right within same year

Response could come in the form of a white paper, position statement, or testimony on these informational hearing dates: **May 21, 22, 23; Sept. 12, 13, 14; Dec. 10, 11, 12**

- Offer habitat committee field review of proposed freshwater habitat restoration projects in Oregon (objective d)
- Consider assessing risk of suction dredging in Oregon to fish habitat in a white paper (objective d)

Budget request for 2012:

\$555 for mileage reimbursement for committee members to review proposed habitat projects around the state (assumes 4 committee members drive 250 miles round trip to review projects and the current mileage reimbursement rate of \$0.555/mile).