Oregon American Fisheries Society 1964-1969

Founding Fathers: Attendees registered for $1 for the first meeting of ORAFS on January 24, 1964

For the first seven years, the annual meeting were held Friday and Saturday at Withycombe Hall during a weekend there was a home OSU basketball game.

The SOBs

1966: Formation of the Save our Bays Committee (The SOBs)
Charter Members included Bob Borovicka – Chairman (BLM), Bob Corthell (Soil Conservation Service), Dale Snow (Oregon Fish Commission), Willie Breese (OSU), Bill Clothier (US Fed. Water Poll. Control Adm.), Dean Marriage (Soil Conservation Service), Glen Carter (Ore. Sanitary Auth.), Monty Montgomery (Oregon Game Commission), and Bill Wick (OSU Coop. Ext. Serv.)

1968: A paper titled "Crisis in Oregon Estuaries" was presented at the 1968 Oregon Chapter, AFS meeting. This paper was turned into a pamphlet and 1,200 copies were distributed. It was edited and upgraded and 5,000 copies distributed to decision makers and state and federal agency personnel. It was again upgraded and reprinted again in 1970. In 1971, it was awarded a national first place blue ribbon by the American Association of Agricultural Editors.
1971: OR AFS provided a Neutral Forum for Oregon Game Commission, Oregon Fish Commission, US Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, the US Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, and Tribal Fisherman to discuss Fisheries Management Allocations between commercial and sport interests, and to discuss conservation of native fish stocks.

Stream Habitat Committee became very active in advocating stream-bank protection from excessive grazing. In conjunction with ODFW and BLM, several test areas were fenced and photos taken annually of the riparian zone recovery. Example: Upper Fifteenmile drainage-Ramsay Creek before riparian fencing in 1974 (above left) and after 1978 (above right).

Five Major New Federal Regulatory Mandates Changed the Playing Field in the 1970’s

1. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA-1970) requiring Environmental Analysis. The requirement for EAs and EIS’s took years and law suits to be fully implemented, but eventually led to many Federal agencies hiring fisheries biologists to comply.


4. Endangered Species Act (1973) – also was slow to implement, but was a major tool to strengthen protection of Oregon fish stocks (see 1990s).

5. Magnuson Act in 1976 created a coastal 200-mile economic (exclusive) fishery zone, mandated US observers on foreign fishing boats, and greatly increased concern for and data on US marine fish stocks.

1975 Bill Saltzman, Bob Corthell, Jim Hall

1976: Al Mills, Chris Christianson, Don Swartz, Ted Fies, Bill Saltzman, and Del Skeesick

Al Mills in 1976 with the wolf eel gavel.

Walt Weber receives Roland Dimick award from Bob Jarvis
1980: First split technical sessions noted for the January 1980 meeting at Valley River Inn
1984: SB225 mandated that the Water Resource Review Board consider adopting 75 minimum stream flows in Oregon. ORAFS Water Resources Committee had a representative testify in support of minimum flow for fisheries values at each of the hearings around the state.
1984: Passage of the Dingell-Johnson expansion legislation culminated a 6-year campaign and should triple the D-J fisheries monies available in the future.
1985: ORAFS expresses opposition to the proposed Salt Caves Project due to its potential impacts to fisheries in the Klamath Basin. The Salt Caves Project was not built.
1985: October issue of Oregon Chapter Newsletter first to be coined “The Piscatorial Press” and won 2nd place among all Chapters nationally. Joe Weatherbee was PP editor at the time.
1989: Oct 10 letter to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commissioners by Gordon Reeves, President ORAFS recommending that the Commission adopt the Wild Fish Policy and Revise the Natural Production policy to clearly emphasize the importance of natural production
Mid 1980s through early 1990s: The ORAFS spent considerable energy in the large effort to stop construction of Elk Creek Dam in the Rogue Basin. Eventually it was stopped at 1/3 height, and then later notched to allow passage of anadromous fish.

1980: First Spawning run?
1981: Stream Habitat Committee and Legislative Committees team up to with Nancy Nuhnkrack of the Oregon Wilderness Coalition to draft and support the passage of Senate Bill 397 through multiple committees of the Oregon Senate and House.

1982: Dave Buchanan and Dan Bottom question the use of the insecticide Sevin to kill burrowing mud shrimp in Tillamook Estuary at the request of oyster growers due to immediate and delayed mortality and harm to a wide variety of non-target estuarine organisms. Peer reviews of their controversial stance by ORAFS Water Resources Committee elevated the discussion. The courts ruled in April 1984 that a state land use regulation protecting estuaries was violated, and that there was a lack of data on the impacts to non-target organisms. Today it remains illegal to spray insecticides onto Oregon estuaries.

1982: Jim Hutchinson and Reese Bender before spawning run

1983: Coho harvest presentation

The Chapter hosted the Gearhart Mt. Bull Trout Workshop in August 1989. Papers presented and then published in proceedings greatly increased knowledge about the status of bull trout in Oregon, and stimulated numerous distribution surveys by agencies.

Beginning of Salvelinus confluentus Curiosity Society......
Oregon American Fisheries Society 1990-1999

1990: Following the Annual Meeting, ExCom members voted to join OR Trout et al. as co-petitioners to list Snake River Chinook under the ESA. Snake River Chinook were listed as “Threatened” under the Endangered Species Act April 22, 1992. This significantly changed management of the Columbia and Snake River systems to benefit passage for these fish.

1990: OAFS members organized a 14 member Watershed Classification and Aquatic Biodiversity Subcommittee to develop criteria for identifying critical watersheds (known as “aquatic diversity areas”). Their criteria, data bases, and maps of key watersheds were distributed to 85 professionals, then were incorporated (anonymously) into regional conservation plans including the President’s Northwest Forest Plan.

1991: “Pacific Salmon at the Crossroads: Stocks at Risk from CA, OR, ID, and WA” by Nehlsen, Williams, and Lichatowich was published in “Fisheries” highlighting the poor condition of 214 native, naturally spawning stocks of salmon and steelhead. This stimulated a host of ESA petitions.

1992: Chapter vote at the annual meeting to file a federal ESA petition to list bull trout in the Oregon. Bull trout were listed as “Threatened” in 1998 and Klamath bull trout were recognized as a distinct population segment.


1997: We wrote lots of letters and provided comments to many items:

- 13 May 1997 to State Director, BLM, Portland- Recommended Versions of Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management
- 30 May 1997 to EIS Team Leader, BLM-Reno scoping comments on proposal to revise mining regulations
- 2 June 1997 to J.P. Burgess, NMFS Silver Spring-guidelines on description and identification of essential fish habitat
- 14 July 1997 to Steamboaters, Glide, OR- stocking of Williamson River rainbow trout into Diamond Lake
- 25 July 1997 to NMFS Silver Spring, USFWS D.C.no surprises policy
- 19 September 1997 to USFWS, Boise-support listing of Klamath River segment of bull trout as endangered, Columbia River segment as threatened
- 30 September 1997 to OR Brd of Forestry-purpose rule for state forest lands
- 5 November 1997 to ODFW, Portland- “Conservation Status of Steelhead in Oregon”
- 17 November 1997 to USACoE, Portland-removal of Elk Creek Dam, Jackson Cty, OR
- 5 December 1997 to ODFW, Roseburg, OR-Milltown Hill Dam
- 20 January 1998 to ODEQ, Portland-proposed water quality certification for federal grazing permits
- 5 March 1998 to DSL, Salem, OR-OARs for maintaining tidally influenced streams
- 27 March 1998 to WRC, Salem-water right for Savage Rapids Dam
- 5 May 1998 to Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Team, Walla Walla, WA-draft Eastside EIS for Interior Columbia River Basin Ecosystem Management Plan
- 11 May 1998 to DSL, Salem, OR-proposed rules designating essential salmonid habitat, regulating small scale recreational & placer mining
- 20 May 1998 to ODFW, Roseburg OR-Milltown Hill Dam (see 5 Dec 1997)
- 20 May 1998 to Oregonian -Opinion Piece on Scientific Uncertainty, Burden of Proof, Salmon Restoration

1997-98: we wrote lots of letters and provided comments to many items:

- 13 May 1997 to State Director, BLM, Portland- Recommended Versions of Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management
- 30 May 1997 to EIS Team Leader, BLM-Reno scoping comments on proposal to revise mining regulations
- 2 June 1997 to J.P. Burgess, NMFS Silver Spring-guidelines on description and identification of essential fish habitat
- 14 July 1997 to Steamboaters, Glide, OR- stocking of Williamson River rainbow trout into Diamond Lake
- 25 July 1997 to NMFS Silver Spring, USFWS D.C.no surprises policy
- 19 September 1997 to USFWS, Boise-support listing of Klamath River segment of bull trout as endangered, Columbia River segment as threatened
- 30 September 1997 to OR Brd of Forestry-purpose rule for state forest lands
- 5 November 1997 to ODFW, Portland- “Conservation Status of Steelhead in Oregon”
- 17 November 1997 to USACoE, Portland-removal of Elk Creek Dam, Jackson Cty, OR
- 5 December 1997 to ODFW, Roseburg, OR-Milltown Hill Dam
- 20 January 1998 to ODEQ, Portland-proposed water quality certification for federal grazing permits
- 5 March 1998 to DSL, Salem, OR-OARs for maintaining tidally influenced streams
- 27 March 1998 to WRC, Salem-water right for Savage Rapids Dam
- 5 May 1998 to Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Team, Walla Walla, WA-draft Eastside EIS for Interior Columbia River Basin Ecosystem Management Plan
- 11 May 1998 to DSL, Salem, OR-proposed rules designating essential salmonid habitat, regulating small scale recreational & placer mining
- 20 May 1998 to ODFW, Roseburg OR-Milltown Hill Dam (see 5 Dec 1997)
- 20 May 1998 to Oregonian -Opinion Piece on Scientific Uncertainty, Burden of Proof, Salmon Restoration

1998-99: Attempted to tie fisheries into the big picture. We had a program where plenary and other sessions took up fisheries in the context of population growth and the economic system.
- Both Tim and Rich wore something other than tee shirts.
- OSU started having open bar alumni receptions
Oregon American Fisheries Society 2000-2009

2000-01
- Hosted a combined ORAFS and TWS Oregon Chapter annual meeting with over 900 participants
- 2000 Annual Meeting. Governor John Kitzhaber addressed the membership at the conclusion with a major policy statement on Columbia River fisheries calling for the eventual removal of the lower Snake River Dams
- 2000 : A Resolution in support of the eventual breaching or removal of the four Snake River Dams, drafted by Rich Grost and Bob Hughes was adopted by Chapter vote at the 2000 meeting in Eugene.

2004-05
- The Piscatorial Press evolved from a paper only distribution to electronic distribution
- Former Oregon Governor, John A. Kitzhaber, M.D. opened the Oregon Chapter’s Annual Meeting in February with his talk: “Creating a Society to Match Our Scenery.”
- Student scholarships were expanded to include undergraduates at the Community College level
- Karaoke was introduced at the Annual Meeting social

2008-09
- ORAFS gets a Facebook page and Twitter account
- Increased the financial value of student scholarships
- Reinstituted the legislative liaison position and provided comments during legal and legislative hearings

2009-10
- Initiation of the “Fish-out-of-Water Waiver” program to assist financially-challenged non-students in attending meetings and workshops.
- Awarding the first several Carl Bond Memorial Scholarships.
- Karaoke was killed for annual meeting socials.

The Texas Hold ’em Tournament and Jam Sessions started during this decade

We learned that baby blue is not a desirable shirt color during this decade

Rich Grost and Ray Troll

Oregon American Fisheries Society 2000-2009

Denny Lassuy
2000-01
Red Lion w/OTWS,
Portland

Tony Faast
2001-02
Sunriver Resort,
Sunriver

Mary Buckman
2002-03
Hilton,
Eugene

Dave Ward
2003-04
Sunriver Resort,
Sunriver

Doug Olsen
2004-05
OSU Alumni Center
Corvallis

Barry McPherson
2005-06
Sunriver Resort,
Sunriver

Mike Reed
2006-07
Hilton,
Eugene

Doug Young
2007-08
Hilton w/West AFS,
Portland

Neil Ward
2008-09
The Riverhouse,
Bend

Rich Grost
2009-10
Hilton,
Eugene

Mary Buckman
2002-03
Hilton,
Eugene

Dave Ward
2003-04
Sunriver Resort,
Sunriver

Doug Olsen
2004-05
OSU Alumni Center
Corvallis

Barry McPherson
2005-06
Sunriver Resort,
Sunriver

Mike Reed
2006-07
Hilton,
Eugene

Doug Young
2007-08
Hilton w/West AFS,
Portland

Neil Ward
2008-09
The Riverhouse,
Bend

Rich Grost
2009-10
Hilton,
Eugene

2008-09
- ORAFS gets a Facebook page and Twitter account
- Increased the financial value of student scholarships
- Reinstituted the legislative liaison position and provided comments during legal and legislative hearings

2009-10
- Initiation of the “Fish-out-of-Water Waiver” program to assist financially-challenged non-students in attending meetings and workshops.
- Awarding the first several Carl Bond Memorial Scholarships.
- Karaoke was killed for annual meeting socials.

We learned that baby blue is not a desirable shirt color during this decade

Rich Grost and Ray Troll

The Texas Hold ’em Tournament and Jam Sessions started during this decade

2000-01
- Hosted a combined ORAFS and TWS Oregon Chapter annual meeting with over 900 participants
- 2000 Annual Meeting. Governor John Kitzhaber addressed the membership at the conclusion with a major policy statement on Columbia River fisheries calling for the eventual removal of the lower Snake River Dams
- 2000 : A Resolution in support of the eventual breaching or removal of the four Snake River Dams, drafted by Rich Grost and Bob Hughes was adopted by Chapter vote at the 2000 meeting in Eugene.
The "Fish Naked Hat" is still raising money for the chapter.

2013
- Provided testimony at a suction dredging hearing
- 1st workshop by new Native Fish Committee: Modoc and Warner Suckers

2013-14
- Won the National AFS Outstanding Chapter of the Year Award for the 11th time since 1992

2012
- Wrote social media policy
- Anadromous Run Forecasting Workshop
- Developed the social media chair position
- Update the ORAFS website
- Freshwater Habitat Committee and ExCom provided review of Southern Oregon/Northern California coho draft recovery plan
- White paper on effects of heavy metals in aquatic systems to help guide legislation on use of copper in brake pads and mercury in light bulbs

2010-11
- Oregonian Op-Ed on Columbia and Snake River fish conservation and recovery in response to an Op-Ed article published by Dr. Jane Lubchenko.
- Actively participated in the Western Division’s “Snake River Committee” including work on the revisions of the 1999-2000 era Oregon Chapter and Western Division resolutions regarding Snake River dam removal.
- Hosted a professional workshop Salmon in the City: Merging Science and Policy that targeted an audience of municipal managers and members of local to regional governments and scientists. Attendance was near 100 people for this one day workshop.

Oregon Chub: 2010- Endangered downgraded to Threatened 2014- Delisted