

Oregon Chapter American Fisheries Society
Legislative Committee 2013-15 Work Plan

Work Plan for May 1, 2013 through April 30, 2015

Submitted by: Committee Chair Jeremiah Osborne-Gowey

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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 Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee is responsible for informing the Oregon Chapter membership of pending legislation related to fish, fisheries, aquatic environments, the fishery profession, and guiding Chapter activities through the legislative process. A member from each External Committee will be designated at the annual meeting to serve as a liaison on legislative matters with the Legislative Committee. The Legislative Committee:

- A. Determines and recommends to the ExCom how to best serve the interests of aquatic ecosystems and the fishery profession through contact with our elected state and national representatives and the Governor of Oregon through his or her Natural Resources Assistant.
- B. Coordinate with Chapter Legislative Liaison to monitors legislative activity and informs the ExCom and External Committees about action on specific bills.
- C. Develops guidelines for "legislative procedures" to aid Chapter input in the legislative process.
- D. Prepares public statements expressing the Chapter's position regarding proposed legislation and other legislative matters affecting fish and aquatic habitats.
- E. Prepares statements and presents testimony expressing Chapter positions on proposed legislation.
- F. Works closely with the contract Legislative Liaison and helps the External Director manage that position (if a Liaison is under contract).
- G. Submits a written report of committee activities to the External Director every six months in November and April.
- H. Submits annual work plan and budget to the External Director by April 1st before the spring ExCom planning meeting or retreat. The Freshwater Habitat Committee Chair prepares these materials.

2013-15 Work Plan Elements

1. Meet with key legislators during the interim session to discuss ORAFS mission and present ourselves as a resource (i.e., cultivating relationships; objectives A, E)
2. Coordinate with the legislative liaison to maintain a formalized watch list of State legislative bills of interest to ORAFS and for the ExCom to help prioritize (objective B)
3. Work with the External Director to a) prioritize the list of legislative bills being tracked by ORAFS and b) assign to appropriate committee (objectives B, E, F)
4. Refine the process for effectively communicating, reviewing, prioritizing, and addressing resource issues and opportunities on short notice (objective C)
5. 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 (objective C)
6. Work with the OSU student subunit liaison (and Scott Heppell, internship class coordinator) to identify students to write white papers as part of their Capstone projects at Oregon State University (objective E)
7. Organize a policy session or a session focused on a specific legislative issue for the 2014 ORAFS annual meeting (objectives F,G)
8. Submit routine updates for the Piscatorial Press newsletter (objective G)
9. Assist the External Director and the Executive Committee to recruit and contract the chapter's legislative liaison.
10. Update white papers and/or position statements on:
 1. Water withdrawal and allocation (OWRD bills that keep showing up in the legislature) - evaluation of how current water can be used more efficiently and if that will meet current needs, currently poorly monitored,
 2. Assist with updating the hatchery/wild fish interaction *white paper* (Natural Production Committee?)
 3. Assist with new *white paper* on GMO fishes in the PNW (on Fish Culture Committee's list; recurring issue in the legislature)
 4. Assist with updating ORAFS *position statement* on marine reserves (Marine Habitat and Ecology Committee)

5. Ocean zoning and wave energy, effects on soft benthic habitat

ORAFS Legislative Committee Two-Year Calendar

2014 Legislative Session: Jan.-Feb.

- Legislative Committee convenes to review bills of interest, prioritize and track.
- Where prioritized bills intersect with white papers, provide relevant information to the External Director for dissemination to committees.
- Legislative Committee convenes and reports to ExCom at annual meeting.
 - Recruit presenters on policy issues for special session at annual meeting.
 - Generate interest in the Legislative Committee and recruit new members.
- Final legislative status report evaluated by committee to identify issues/trends worth pursuing.

2014 Interim Committee Days: May, Sept. and Dec.

- Explore opportunities to meet with committee chairs or present at committee information hearings.
- Track issues and report on interim committee meetings.

2015 Legislative Session: Jan.-June

- Legislative Committee convenes to review bills of interest, prioritize and track.
- Where prioritized bills intersect with white papers, provide relevant information to External Director for dissemination to committees.
- Legislative Committee convenes and reports to ExCom at annual meeting.
 - Generate interest in the Legislative Committee and recruit new members.
- Final legislative session status report evaluated by committee to identify issues/trends worth pursuing.

2015 Interim Committee Days: Sept. and Dec.

- Explore opportunities to meet with committee chairs or present at committee information hearings.
- Track issues and report on interim committee meetings.