

OREGON CHAPTER AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY  
MARINE HABITAT AND ECOLOGY COMMITTEE 2015-2016 WORK PLAN

Submitted by Committee Chair Michael Harte  
Approved by Ex Com: Oct. 8, 2015

**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 Marine Habitat and Ecology Committee**

The Marine Habitat and Ecology Committee is responsible for advocating the protection and restoration of marine environments and their inhabitants in Oregon, promoting the advancement of techniques to protect and restore marine species and habitats, documenting fisheries problems in Oregon's marine waters, and developing strategies for their solution. Its concerns include, but are not limited to: marine fisheries management, by-catch in commercial and recreational fisheries, population status of marine species and their assessment, climate-related issues, marine reserves, essential fish habitat, ocean aquaculture, and rebuilding marine fish stocks in Oregon's ocean, bays, and intertidal areas. The Marine Habitat and Ecology Committee:

1. Encourages implementation and improvement of existing regulations and activities that protect Oregon's natural marine environments and their inhabitants.
2. Works to ensure adequate consideration of fishery resources by public entities whose actions affect Oregon's marine fisheries.
3. Reviews and comments on plans, policies, criteria, and rules affecting marine species.
4. Promotes public awareness of the importance of functional marine ecosystems and the effects of anthropogenic impacts.
5. Acts as a liaison with similar committees of the American Fisheries Society and the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society .
6. Conducts periodic marine fisheries workshops at annual meetings.
7. Submits a written report of committee activities to the External Director every six months in November and April.
8. Submits annual work plan and budget to the External Director by June 1st. The Marine Habitat and Ecology Committee Chair prepares these materials.

9. Conducts technical session at chapter annual meetings by convening and inviting relevant speakers.

### **2015-2016 Work Plan**

1. Identify potential areas of interest for the Committee's next focus area or areas. For example:
  - a. Explore interest in developing a position paper on the role of ecosystem-based fisheries management (EBFM) in Oregon's state fisheries and in federal regional fisheries management (objective 1).
  - b. Facilitate discussions among stakeholders and federal and state agencies regarding the future of West Coast Rockfish Conservation and recognizing opportunities that this would afford for systematic conservation planning. Such systematic conservation planning efforts could give rise to an appropriate mix of protection and harvesting that would complement existing marine conservation efforts in state and federal waters on the west coast (objective 1)
2. As appropriate, participate and comment on Oregon's Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) processes administered by the Oregon's Department of Land, Conservation and Development and MR planning and monitoring and assessment processes administered by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (objectives 2,3).
3. Liaise with similar committees of the American Fisheries Society and the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society on MSP, EBFM and marine reserve matters.
4. Work with other Oregon AFS committees in developing the 2016 Western Groundfish Meeting, which will be held in Oregon (objective 5 with an external group).

### **Budget request for 2015-2016**

None