

Oregon Chapter American Fisheries Society Legislative Committee 2012 Workplan  
Submitted by Committee Chair Jeremiah Osborne-Gowey

*From the ORAFS Administrative Handbook*

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, annual work plan, and budget to the External Director by early to mid-April before the spring ExCom planning meeting or retreat

2012 Proposed Workplan

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 2013 ORAFS annual meeting (objectives F,G)
8. Submit routine updates for the Piscatorial Press newsletter (objective G)

Updated white papers and/or position statements on:

1. Water withdrawal and allocation (OWRD bills) - evaluation of how current water can be used more efficiently and if that will meet current needs, currently poorly monitored,
2. Updated hatchery and wild fish interaction paper
3. Mining and its impacts
4. GMO fishes in the PNW (on Fish Culture Committee's list)
5. Update ORAFS position statement on marine reserves
6. Ocean zoning and wave energy, effects on soft benthic habitat
7. Netpen farming of fish in the Yaquina estuary, potentially rolling into a hatchery/wild interaction white paper?