

OREGON CHAPTER AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY  
FRESHWATER HABITAT COMMITTEE WORK 2020 WORK PLAN

Committee Chair: Cory Sipher  
Approved by ExCom: February 2020

**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 June 1, before the summer ExCom planning meeting or retreat. The Freshwater Habitat Committee Chair prepares these materials.

**Proposed 2020 Work Plan**

- Increase membership participation in the freshwater habitat committee through communication of activities, needs, and opportunities through emails, the Chapter's Facebook page, and Chapter newsletter.
- Develop poster and informational/recruiting material for 2020 Chapter meeting
- Work to develop a group field trip with student chapter(s) to review several habitat restoration projects on BLM or FS.

- Engage with the legislative committee and respond to requests for information regarding bills that affect freshwater habitat and resources in Oregon and around the region. Reach out to committee members to provide opportunities to comments and give oral or written testimony through the State legislature.

**Budget request for 2020:**

None