

OREGON CHAPTER AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE 2019-2021 WORK PLAN

Submitted by Committee Chairs Troy Brandt Approved by ExCom:

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:

1. Determines and recommends to ExCom how to best serve the interests of aquatic ecosystems and the fisheries profession through contact with our elected state and national representatives and the Governor of Oregon through his or her Natural Resources Assistant.
2. Coordinate with Chapter Legislative Liaison to monitor legislative activity and informs the ExCom and External Committees about action on specific bills. During years when the chapter does not hire a Legislative Liaison, the Committee Chair(s) will work with ExCom and other External Committee Chairs to identify Chapter members who are actively following of legislative activity and willing to provide updates.
3. Develops guidelines for "legislative procedures" to aid Chapter input in the legislative process.
4. Prepares public statements expressing the Chapter's position regarding proposed legislation and other legislative matters affecting fish and aquatic habitats.
5. Prepares statements and presents testimony expressing Chapter positions on proposed legislation.
6. Works closely with the contract Legislative Liaison and helps the External Director manage that position (if a Liaison is under contract).
7. Submits annual work plan and budget to the External Director by August 1st before the spring ExCom planning meeting or retreat.

2019-2021 Work Plan

1. Meet with key legislators during the session to discuss ORAFS mission and present ourselves as a resource (if Liaison is under contract. See objectives A, E)
2. Coordinate with the Legislative Liaison or connected Chapter members 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) coordinate with appropriate committee (objectives B, E, F)
4. Create rubric and work-flow outline for the white paper composition and editing process, including responsibilities and expectations for each step of the process and ideal timelines.
5. Attain white paper or position statement goals:
 1. Climate adaptation
6. Refine the process for effectively communicating, reviewing, prioritizing, and addressing resource issues and opportunities on short notice (objective C)
7. Identify persons authorized by ExCom who are 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)
8. Organize a policy session or a session focused on a specific legislative issue for the 2020 and 2021 ORAFS annual meetings (objectives F,G)
9. Submit routine updates for the Piscatorial Press newsletter (objective G)
10. Assist the External Director and the Executive Committee to recruit and contract the chapter's legislative liaison.

Budget Request for 2019-2021: \$0

ORAFS Legislative Committee Two-Year Calendar

2020 Legislative Session: January and February

- Legislative Committee works with ExCom, ORAFS members, and legislative liaison 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.

2021 Legislative Session: January through June

- Legislative Committee works with ExCom, ORAFS members, and legislative liaison 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.