OREGON CHAPTER AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

FRESHWATER HABITAT COMMITTEE 2023-2024 WORK PLAN

Submitted by Committee Chair, Cory Sipher

Approved by Ex Com: <date>

**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:

1. Encourages implementation and improvement of existing regulations and activities that protect the State’s waters.
2. Works to ensure adequate consideration of fishes by public entities whose actions affect Oregon’s waters.
3. Reviews and comments on plans, policies, criteria, and rules affecting aquatic habitats.
4. Promotes public awareness of the importance of healthy aquatic habitats and the hazards of poor habitat conditions.
5. Networks with similar aquatic habitat committees of the Western Division and Parent Society.
6. Conducts periodic habitat workshops at annual meetings.
7. Submits a written report of committee activities, annual work plan, and budget to the External Director by June l, before the summer Ex Com planning meeting or retreat.

**Proposed 2023-2024 Work Plan**

1. Increase membership participation in the habitat committee through communication of activities, needs, and opportunities though the Chapters’ social media pages, and the Chapter newsletter. This will continue to be the Committee Chair’s focus for this year.
2. Communicate frequently with committee members via emails or Zoom check-in calls
3. Continue with work on a freshwater habitat technical session for the Oregon AFS 2024 Chapter meeting (objective 6). Solicit focal topic from ExCom or from committee members. Focus could include the following:
4. Long-term monitoring of habitat enhancement projects
5. Meadow restoration with a focus on Eastern Oregon landscape
6. Fire and aquatic landscape interactions
7. Be prepared to respond to Oregon legislative bills as needed during the 2023-24 legislative session (objectives 2, 3, 4):
8. The above information will be updated as new information is received from the Legislative Committee. Response could come in the form of a white paper, position statement, or testimony on these informational hearing dates: Will notify members when dates are established.

**2023-2024 Proposed Budget**

None