



PISCATORIAL PRESS

OREGON CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PRESIDENT'S CORNER	1
EXTERNAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT	2-3
MHCC STUDENT SUB-UNIT UPDATE	3
FISH CULTURE COMMITTEE ANNUAL TRIP REPORT	4
2025 ANNUAL MEETING	5
PLENARY SPEAKERS	6
SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE	7
SESSIONS AT A GLANCE	8
STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS	9
SPAWNING RUN/CARCASS CRAWL	9
MEETING REGISTRATION DETAILS	10
REGISTRATION FEE ASSISTANCE WAIVERS	11
RAFFLE & SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS WANTED	12
CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT	13
LODGING	13
VOTE FOR EXCOM	14
2025-26 EXCOM CANDIDATE STATEMENTS	14-18
2025 RASTECH CONFERENCE	19
MEMBERSHIP	20
EXCOM & COMMITTEE CONTACTS	21

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello and Happy New Year! As we ring in the new year, many of us have reflected on the past year and are thinking about things we may want to accomplish in the new year. Some of us have made resolutions, some have already broken them. I rang in the new year with one of my favorite traditions – going on a First Day Hike (this year it was at Silver Falls State Park).

Our 61st Annual Meeting is right around the corner and President-Elect Cory Sipher and the planning team have been hard at work putting together another great program. There is a lot of information in the following pages of this newsletter related to the annual meeting, I encourage you to read through, get excited about attending, and get registered (Register before February 3rd to get the reduced rates).

When I am talking with colleagues, a constant theme that people are struggling with right now is a lack of adequate budgets and increasing workload capacities. We are a non-profit, volunteer-run, volunteer-lead organization and we depend on the enthusiasm, intention, and commitment of all of you to help spearhead and execute our mission. We are an award-winning Chapter with a long history of excellence that was built on the passionate volunteer efforts of our membership and supporters. And when it comes time to recruit help for the next ExCom or to populate our committees, we often struggle to find people willing to commit any of their limited time. There are numerous opportunities to get involved, be it running for a position on the Executive Committee or one of our many teams within the external and internal committee structures. We are striving to keep the workload reasonable while still implementing our mission and endeavoring to be a leader in the AFS organization. This can only happen with a whole team of volunteers, all working together. If you've got a vision for Oregon AFS's future, or can spare just a little time to help, come join the team!



First Day Hike at Silver Falls State Park 1.1.2025

The Oregon Chapter of AFS is somewhat unique amongst the AFS chapters in that we have an investment fund established and managed to provide financial security and stability to the Chapter. Our financial sustainability plan describes ways for us to give back and provide membership services when investment accounts perform well. We allocate part of the profits to support continuing education and information exchange among aquatic resource professionals, student

participation in Chapter events, and special projects that are compatible with the Chapter's mission. You can see some of the member services we are providing this year with the meeting registration and lodging reimbursements for several early career professionals, reduced registration rates for up to 20 professionals requiring a little extra financial support, fully funding the best student paper and poster winners to attend and present at the WDAFS meeting, a free DEI workshop that is currently in development and will be held later this year, and an increase in the available funds for the K-12 education grants.

In addition to planning a high caliber Annual Meeting, the ExCom will continue to focus on all the elements described in the ORAFS annual and external committee work plans and work to support the internal and external committees as needed. As always, I welcome your thoughts and feedback.

And before I sign off, have you renewed your membership? Or if you are not a member, now is a great time to consider becoming one! There are several benefits to membership, including a significant reduction to meeting registration rates. Before you renew or submit your membership, don't forget to check the box to also be an Oregon Chapter member.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Bend at the end of February!



Michele Weaver, President
President@orafs.org

EXTERNAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Meeting times are being planned for the individual committees to meet during the Chapter meeting in Bend February 25-28. The President-Elect, Cory Sipher, has set aside times for the Native Fish, Human Dimensions and Climate Adaptation committees to meet. The DEI and Legislative committees will also be meeting. Look to the upcoming meeting schedule to find out locations and times for any of the External Committee meetings. The External Committee leaders will also gather to share successes, challenges, and needs for the upcoming year.

Native Fish Committee

It is time to acknowledge and thank Dr. James Capurso for his leadership of the Native Fish committee. Jim started the committee in 2013. From the beginning Jim identified the format and goals of the committee:

The committee will feature an annual Native Nongame Fish Workshop that will take advantage of the deep native nongame fish knowledge base we have in Oregon, featuring a single nongame native fish within Oregon during each year's workshop. The workshop would be field-based, with a half day of presentations by species experts and a half day in the field sampling the species in their habitat. It would be open to AFS members and non-members alike and would serve as an introduction for non-members to join our chapter. In addition, the Native Fish Committee will take on all chapter responsibilities pertaining to native fish conservation, working cooperatively with other related committees when necessary.

Jim's efforts were highly successful in bringing people together to learn more about Oregon's native fish species, bringing in experts from other agencies and fields of expertise, sharing of information, and highlighting challenges and needs to conserve native fishes around the state. In addition to Jim handing off the committee to Brian Bangs of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Jim also retired from a distinguished career in the U.S. Forest Service at the end of 2024.

Brian Bangs will bring his passion for Oregon's native fishes to the committee leadership position. Brian has worked in ODFW's Native Fish Investigations Program for over 15

years, and currently works for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Much of Brian's focus with ODFW was research and conservation of Oregon's resident non-game fish species, primarily Oregon Chub, as well as Pacific and brook lamprey, Sand Roller, great basin redband trout, and Alvord Chub. With the USFWS, Brian has worked on a number of aquatic species across the state, including beaver, Hutton Tui Chub, Foskett Speckled Dace, and Borax Lake Chub.

Education Outreach Committee

This committee will also have a transition in leadership.

After serving as Chair several times over the last 15 years, Karen Hans is stepping down to become the Chair of the Legislative Committee. While she will continue as a member of the Education Outreach Committee, she is leaving the Chair position in good hands when Marty Olson will take over at the Annual Meeting.

In the meantime, Marty and Karen, along with Sara Hart, will be administering and awarding the 2025 Educators Grant Award. Please circulate this grant Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) far and wide to any educator you know that has a fisheries related education program. We want to cast a wide net, especially to underserved communities. A copy of the NOFO can be found on the Oregon Chapter website under Grant Awards.

[Grant Opportunities – Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society](#)

See you in Bend!

Karen Hans

Legislative Committee

This year the Oregon legislative session is a six month "long" session that begins January 21st (the swearing in of members is Monday June 13th).

ORAFS has retained Jack Dempsey as our legislative liaison for the session. We are anticipating working with Jack as we did during the last long session in 2023 when we teamed up with the Oregon Chapter

Continued on page 3

EXTERNAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT CONT'D

of The Wildlife Society. Unfortunately, ORTWS opted to not partner with us for the 2025 session. Jack Dempsey is under a contract to provide us with information regarding topics and draft bills that may be of interest to ORAFS.

Troy Brandt is reducing his time in committee leadership, while Dr. Christine Moffitt and Amy Unthank have started learning how the committee operates. As stated above, Karen Hans will also transition from her role as Chair of the Education and Outreach committee to help chair the Legislative committee. The committee will track the concepts/bills of interest as they mature through the session. A main task of the committee is to prepare letters of support or

concern regarding specific bills or portions of bills. If there is a bill that is most problematic, the goal is to help prepare a white paper and rally the chapter membership to approve the paper.

If interested in helping the Legislative committee please contact External Director, Amy Unthank, Troy Brandt, or Karen Hans. We can also be found at the Annual Meeting in Bend.



Amy Unthank, External Director
ExternalDirector@orafs.org

MHCC STUDENT SUBUNIT UPDATE

After a long winter break, winter term has just begun here at MHCC. To kick things off, the Fisheries club will be holding a social event for club members to bring both 1st and 2nd year students up to date on club events and other opportunities this term such as the 2025 annual ORAFS meeting in February. Some of our members have already signed up to help with the cornhole tournament!

Elizabeth Grassl
 President, MHCC Student Subunit
mhcc.orafs.subunit@gmail.com

MT. HOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE



ORAFS Student Subunit

Do you have something newsworthy to share?

Hot Topics, Fishery Features, Upcoming Events...

Submissions from ORAFS members are welcome!

Do you have an update on interesting work you would like to share with the membership? Are you interested in providing a Fishery Feature or a Hot Topic to tell the membership about your recent project? Do you have an upcoming event that you would like to advertise to the membership? If so, please submit your story or thoughts to Stacy Strickland at:

stacy.a.strickland@odfw.oregon.gov.



Follow the chapter online!

Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/ORChapterAFS>

X – <https://twitter.com/OregonAFS>

LinkedIn – <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4833367/>

Instagram – https://www.instagram.com/or_afs/?hl=en

FISH CULTURE COMMITTEE 1ST ANNUAL FIELD TRIP

The Fish Culture Committee put on a field trip November 5, 2024 to visit the Sandy Fish Hatchery, operated by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Eagle Creek National Fish Hatchery, operated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Both facilities spawn, rear, and release Coho Salmon for harvest supplementation. Sandy Hatchery also spawns, rears, and releases Winter Steelhead and Spring Chinook.

The field trip was to observe Coho spawning at Sandy Hatchery, including the gamete removal from both males and females, fertilization, putting the eggs down for development, and data collection, and to observe rearing juveniles and the adults returning to Eagle Creek National Fish Hatchery. Fifteen people from various agencies and specialties attended.



(Left) Attendees observe eggs being incubated in Heath Stacks. This method allows for eggs to be separated into small groups (5000-8000) while still incubating a large number of eggs with a small amount of water. (Right) Eggs being incubated in a bulk incubator. This method allows for a large number of eggs to be incubated without being separated.



(Left) Female coho laid out on the rack and males under the rack waiting to be spawned. (Middle) A pathologist collecting ovarian fluid from a female to test for viruses. (Right) A bucket of eggs after addition of milt, during fertilization.

juveniles that will be released in spring of 2025 rearing in raceways. He discussed how the facility supports the US Government's commitments to tribal fisheries by rearing fish for release by tribes, and as a back up source of eggs. He also talked about the challenges associated with those tasks and funding that supports those processes.

The staff at Sandy Hatchery talked attendees through differentiating between males and females, how eggs and milt (sperm) are taken and mixed, how fish are screened for disease by pathologists, how eggs are put down, and how the adults are prepared for stream enrichment.

On the way to Eagle Creek National Fish Hatchery there was a lunch stop at Eagle Fern Park. There attendees were able to ask the ODFW District Biologist questions about the program, and learned about the challenges fish face as they navigate the dams on the system, and about habitat improvements that have happened in the Clackamas basin over the last few years.



The picnic shelter at Eagle Fern Park. Attendees are talking with the ODFW District Biologist and other area staff.

At Eagle Creek National Fish Hatchery, the hatchery manager walked the attendees through collection of adults, through their egg incubation, and showed the



Attendees arrive at the Sandy Hatchery spawning shed.

While a trip outside in Western Oregon in November is almost guaranteed to be wet and cold, and it was, the attendees were able to learn more about the purpose of fish hatcheries, how they operate, and how other agencies and divisions within the operating agencies support the work of the hatcheries by providing safer passage and suitable habitat.



This year's logo created by Elizabeth Wilson, Mount Hood Community College

Connecting Communities

Feb 25 - Feb 28 Bend, Oregon

“CONNECTING COMMUNITIES: ENGAGING THE PUBLIC IN NATURAL RESOURCE DECISIONS”

[Annual Meeting Website](#)

This year we have over 110 oral presentations and 30 posters spanning all manner of fisheries and aquatic science themes. Take in talks and presentations in over a dozen technical sessions including: Marine Fishes, Fish Passage, Hatcheries, Klamath Basin Fish Monitoring, DNA and Genetics, Thirtymile Creek Steelhead Recovery, Chinook Salmon, Bull Trout, Freshwater Habitat, Native Fish, Outreach and Education, Monitoring, and...The Fisheries Film Festival!

There is still time to participate as a member of one of the largest American Fisheries Society Chapters. Sign up for the student-mentor mixer, join in on the spawning run or cornhole tournament, volunteer to moderate a session, or stop by a committee meeting to see how you can help advance the chapter.

PLENARY SPEAKERS

Megan S. Jones

Megan is a conservation social scientist based at Oregon State University, where she is jointly an Assistant Professor in the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Sciences and an Assistant Unit Leader in the U.S. Geological Survey Oregon Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit.



Her work focuses on how to bridge the gap between conservation practice and social science theory, so that science can support the protection of nature and people, and practice can support the most useful science.

Brooke Thompson

Brook is a Yurok and Karuk Native American from Northern California and is currently a Ph.D. student at the University of California Santa Cruz while also working as a Restoration Engineer for the Yurok Tribe. She graduated with an M.S. at Stanford University in Environmental Engineering with a focus on Water Resources and Hydrology. In 2020 she received her B.S. from Portland State University's Honors College with a degree in Civil Engineering and a minor in Political Science. Brook has been an active advocate of the Klamath River restoration and through her work, she aims to bring together water rights and Native American knowledge through engineering, public policy, and social action.



Want to give back to ORAFS? Want to support students? We need volunteers to judge student presentations and posters at the meeting. It's quick and easy – all scoring is electronic. It's gratifying – knowing you helped support a fellow biologist. And you're guaranteed to learn something new. To volunteer indicate your interest on your registration form or email stephanie.gunckel@oregonstate.edu. Your contribution is greatly appreciated.

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

Tuesday, February 25th		
11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration / Information	Cascade Lobby
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Workshops	Cascade D, E
3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Coffee & Refreshment Service	Cascade Lobby
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Workshop Social	Cascade A
Wednesday, February 26th		
7:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Registration / Information / Sales Desk Open	Cascade Lobby
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Coffee & Refreshment Service	Cascade Lobby
8:00 a.m. - Noon	Workshop	Cascade D
8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Trade Show Display Setup	Exhibit Hall
10:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.	Break & Refreshment Service	Cascade Lobby
1:00 p.m. – 1:10 p.m.	Welcome	Cascade ABJ
1:10 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Plenary Session (2 speakers)	Cascade ABJ
2:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.	Trade Show	Exhibit Hall
2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Break & Refreshment Service	Exhibit Hall
12:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Poster Session Setup	Exhibit Hall
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions	See Sessions at a Glance
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Student – Mentor Mixer	Cascade ABJ
8:00 p.m. – 11:30 p.m.	Poster Session and Trade Show Social	Exhibit Hall
9:00 p.m. – 11:30 p.m.	Cornhole Tournament – Round 1	Exhibit Hall
Thursday, February 27th		
7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration / Information / Sales Desk Open	Cascade Lobby
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Coffee & Refreshment Service	Exhibit Hall
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Trade Show	Exhibit Hall
8:00 a.m. - Noon	Concurrent Sessions	See Sessions at a Glance
10:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.	Break & Refreshment Service	Exhibit Hall
Noon – 1:45 p.m.	Awards Luncheon, Professional Awards, Scholarships	Exhibit Hall
1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	ORAFS Business Meeting (All are encouraged to attend)	Cascade C
2:40 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Break & Refreshment Service	Exhibit Hall
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions	See Sessions at a Glance
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Spawning Run / Carcass Crawl	Meet in Lobby
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Happy Hour and preview Silent Auction	Cascade ABCDJ
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Banquet Dinner (Meal Ticket Required)	Cascade ABCDJ
7:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.	Auction/Raffle/Entertainment (All are welcome to attend)	Cascade ABCDJ
9:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.	Cornhole Tournament – Round 2	Cascade Lobby
9:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.	Entertainment and live band - The Muddy Souls	Cascade ABCDJ
Friday, February 28th		
8:00 a.m. - Noon	Registration / Information / Sales Desk Open	Cascade Lobby
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Coffee & Refreshment Service	Exhibit Hall
8:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.	Trade Show	Exhibit Hall
9:00 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions	See Sessions at a Glance
10:20 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.	Break & Refreshment Service	Exhibit Hall
12:00 p.m.	Meeting Ends, thank you for attending, enjoy the weekend	

SESSIONS AT-A-GLANCE

Draft

Wednesday February 26 th					
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Welcome and Plenary Speakers				
2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Break and Refreshment Service				
	Concurrent Sessions				
3:00 p.m. – 5:20 p.m.	Marine Fishes	Fish Passage	Hatcheries	Klamath Basin Monitoring	
Thursday, February 27 th					
	Concurrent Sessions				
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Marine Fishes (2)	Fish Passage (2)	DNA and Genetics	Klamath Basin Monitoring (2)	
10:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.	Break and Refreshment Service				
	Concurrent Sessions				
10:20 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Marine	Thirtymile Creek Steelhead Recovery	Chinook Salmon	Klamath Basin Monitoring (3)	
12:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.	Awards Luncheon, Professional Awards, and Scholarships				
1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	OR AFS Business Meeting				
2:40 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Break and Refreshment Service				
	Concurrent Sessions				
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Freshwater habitat	Thirtymile Creek Steelhead Recovery (2)	Bull Trout	Native Fish	Fisheries Film Festival
Friday, February 28 th					
	Concurrent Sessions				
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Education and Outreach	Monitoring	Bull Trout (2)	Native Fish (2)	
10:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.	Break and Refreshment Service				
	Concurrent Sessions				
10:20 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Education and Outreach (2)		Bull Trout (3)	Native Fish (3)	
12:00 p.m.	61th ORAFS Annual Meeting Concludes, thank you for attending, enjoy the weekend				

ORAFS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS!

To reward and promote the education and development of future fisheries professionals

- * Visit <http://orafs.org/student-scholarships/> for submission instructions.
- * **ATTENTION UNDERGRADUATES! There Is Still Time!** - Albert G. Lassuy Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Scholarship (undergrad students, \$2000): To promote the education and development of future fisheries professionals who are commonly under-represented in the fisheries field, including people of color, women, and other historically marginalized communities.
 ⇒ **Applications due to ORAFS External Director by 1/31/2025**
Email: externaldirector@orafs.org
- * Closed 12/31: ORAFS Student Scholarships: (Associate’s, Bachelor’s, Master’s, and Doctoral, one each at \$2,000), Carl Bond Scholarship (graduate students, \$2,000), Jerry Bouck Memorial Scholarship (graduate students).

Each award includes an award certificate and recognition at the 2025 Annual Meeting, and in the *Piscatorial Press*.

Where do I go for complete application instructions? <http://orafs.org/student-scholarships/>.

How do I become a Student Member of AFS?

Go to www.fisheries.org and apply online and be sure to check the Oregon Chapter box (\$30 total cost for annual membership).

Spawning Run and Carcass Crawl

Continuing with the long established tradition, we will have another Spawning Run/Carcass Crawl. Join in the fun and run (or walk) to get your blood flowing after a great day of talks. The run/walk will be held after talks but before the banquet on Thursday February 27th. In Bend, there is always a chance for snow, which makes this event even more fun.

Register for the event (\$25) before the early registration deadline (February 3rd) to secure your commemorative logo beanie (may differ from picture).

Contact Stefan Kelley at stefan.kelly@ctwsbnr.org for more information.



REGISTRATION DETAILS

[Click here to register today!](#) If you register before the early registration deadline of **February 3rd, 2025**, you will receive \$50 off the General Registration Fee (\$25 - \$30 off for students and \$55 for retirees).

Additionally, AFS members* save \$125 off the general registration fees (\$25 off for students). **Not a member of the American Fisheries Society?** Please consider joining the oldest and largest professional society for fisheries scientists in the world online at <http://www.fisheries.org>; don't forget to add the Oregon Chapter to your membership!

The **Early** and General Registration Fees are:

- **\$350 (\$400)** for AFS members*,
- **\$475 (\$525)** for non-members,
- **\$65 (\$90)** for student AFS members*,
- **\$90 (\$120)** for student non-members,
- **\$175 (\$230)** for retired professionals, and
- **\$125** Live-Stream viewing of presentations only.

The General Registration fee includes access to all technical sessions and social events including the Poster Session and Trade Show Social, the awards lunch, raffle/auction, and more. Additional activities for purchase include the banquet dinner (\$41), and the 5K Spawning Run/Carcass Crawl (\$25). **Please note that all attendees, including oral and poster presenters, are required to register for the conference.** Reduced cost registration waivers are available; see next page for more information.

Please **[click here](#)** to access the meeting website which includes a link to the online registration form. If, after checking the websites, you have any questions about registration, please contact Jordan Smith at treasurer@orafs.org.

Register early and join AFS if you're not already a member! We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting in Bend!

In our ongoing efforts to make ORAFS more meaningful to you, we seek your insights on our organization's educational needs. Your input is vital in shaping programs that enhance diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) within fisheries science and conservation.

Please take a moment to participate in the survey we are conducting. Your responses will help us design training and capacity-building initiatives that reflect your needs and priorities. Your feedback will also be instrumental in shaping our sessions for the upcoming Annual Meeting in Bend, ensuring they are relevant and impactful for you.

Please take a moment before January 24 to let us know your thoughts by visiting this link whenever you get a chance. <https://belongingat.com/survey/>

We greatly value your participation and look forward to incorporating your feedback!

Thank you, Guillermo Giannico and the DEI Committee

REGISTRATION FEE ASSISTANCE WAIVERS

ORAFS is offering up to 40 opportunities for reduced registration at the 2025 Annual Meeting!

Registration and Lodging for Early Career Professionals

We are proud to offer annual meeting registration and lodging reimbursements to up to 20 early career professionals! This reimbursement is intended to cover the cost of attendance for early career professionals that are not able to get registration and lodging covered through their employer. The reimbursement will cover both the registration fee and up to \$475 in lodging expenses.

To be considered an early career professional, you must have attended school within the last 5 years. Reimbursements will only be granted to AFS members. Those selected will be provided a code to register online and will need to provide their hotel booking confirmation for the lodging reimbursement at the meeting. Reimbursements will be granted on a first-come, first-serve basis so get your application in ASAP!

To apply, email the following materials to the ORAFS Treasurer (treasurer@orafs.org):

- Contact information;
- AFS membership number;
- Documentation most recent school enrollment;
- A statement of lack of funding or financial support from your employer to attend the Annual Meeting.

Registration Fee Assistance Waiver (formerly the Fish Out of Water waiver)

With this waiver, the Chapter offers an opportunity for reduced registration (\$50) to the Annual Meeting and/or a related workshop. This waiver is intended to reduce the registration fee for those who require financial support to attend the Annual Meeting. Professionals, students, and community members may apply. Selection criteria will include financial need, dedication to the fisheries field (including AFS membership and service), reasons for attendance (e.g., presenting, networking), and available space at the meeting and/or workshop.

To apply, email the following materials to the ORAFS Treasurer (treasurer@orafs.org):

- Resume and contact information;
- AFS membership number (if a member, but not required);
- Brief summary of your financial need;
- Brief summary of your reasons for attending the annual meeting; and
- If employed, a statement of lack of funding or financial support from your employer to attend the Annual Meeting or that your work is not fisheries-related.



Jorden Smith, Treasurer
treasurer@orafs.org

2025 RAFFLE & SILENT AUCTION: DONATIONS WANTED!



Whether you'll be able to attend in person or not, consider supporting the future of ORAFS with a donated item or experience for the auction and raffle to be held at the upcoming 61st Annual Meeting, our biggest fundraiser of the year!



How about that awesome piece of artwork that sits on the floor waiting to be hung in an office that you hardly work in anymore? Or what about an excuse to get that drift boat in the water with new friends?

These funds go directly towards student scholarships, supporting student subunit groups, supporting conference and workshop attendees, ORAFS representation at Western Division and Society meetings, legislative activities, and public outreach.

ORAFS has updated its mission and objectives to promote an inclusive and equitable professional environment to support diverse membership by increasing access to the annual meeting, workshops, funding opportunities, and fisheries science and management information. Your donations support this!



Please contact Kate Self at vicepresident@orafs.org to coordinate your donation. We will need a description of the item or activity, photos if applicable, value, and a suggestion for the starting bid.

Generous donors like you are vital to the continuation of this important work.

Your donation to ORAFS, a 501(c)(3) organization, is tax deductible.



ANNUAL ORAFS

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

Prizes for 1st,
2nd, & 3rd
places

For more information and to sign up
your two-person team go to the
Annual Meeting Registration Desk

Proceeds benefit the ORAFS Student Scholarship
program, professional development in fisheries,
student travel support, student subunits, and
more!



Located in Bend along the Deschutes River, [Riverhouse on the Deschutes](#) is the venue and primary hotel for the 2025 ORAFS Annual Meeting.

ACCOMODATIONS

ORAFS has reserved a block of rooms for attendees at the Riverhouse on the Deschutes!

- Make yourself comfortable in the completely re-imagined guest rooms, each with their own private patio or balcony.
- The comfortable guest rooms offer free high-speed Wi-Fi and guests have access to an indoor pool, hot tub, and fitness center.
- Nightly rates for conference attendees are **\$125 for standard rooms** and **\$145 for riverside rooms**.
- The block of rooms are available now, and will be held until **5pm PST on February 3rd, 2025**. After this date, the block of rooms will be opened to the general public, and the Riverhouse on the Deschutes cannot guarantee that rooms will be available.

Reservations can be made [Here](#), or by calling the Riverhouse on the Deschutes at 1-866-453-4480 and requesting the meeting rate for the **Oregon Chapter of American Fisheries Society**.

PLEASE NOTE: the Riverhouse on the Deschutes cancellation policy states if you cancel less than 7 days prior to arrival, you will be charged one night's room and tax.

For more information about the Riverhouse on the Deschutes, [click here](#), or to reserve a room, call 1-866-453-4480.

CAST YOUR VOTE FOR THE EXCOM 2025-2026 CANDIDATES!

VOTE ELECTRONICALLY FEBRUARY, 2025



We are excited to have some fantastic candidates for your 2025-2026 Executive Committee (ExCom) officers this year! E-ballots will be emailed to Oregon Chapter members and the polls will be open in February. Elected officers will be announced during the 2025 Business Meeting on February 27th. Your potential officers for 2025-2026 are:

President-Elect: Kelcee Smith

Internal Director: Stephanie Messerle (incumbent)

External Director: Amy Unthank (incumbent)

Vice President: Karah Roof

Secretary: Katie Woodside or Gina Maag-Klobas

Treasurer: Jorden Smith (incumbent)



President-Elect: Kelcee Smith

Hello ORAFS! My name is Kelcee Smith, and I am honored to be nominated as President-Elect for the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Currently, I am the Chum Salmon Reintroduction Coordinator for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, but my career has taken me many places across the country and while I've worked on everything from seahorses to sharks, AFS has been there through it all.

I'm originally from the Southeast and have over ten years of experience monitoring and evaluating the conservation status of imperiled species in the Gulf of Mexico. After receiving a B.S. in Marine Biology from Spring Hill College in 2010, I worked as a fisheries biologist for the National Marine Fisheries Service in Panama City, FL, where I wrote status reviews for marine species petitioned for listing on the Endangered Species Act, co-led juvenile shark abundance surveys, and monitored Endangered Smalltooth Sawfish (*Pristis pectinata*) in the Florida Everglades. Despite my chops in the field, attending my first AFS meeting in Minneapolis in 2012 was a little intimidating and I wasn't sure if I was cut out to be a "real" scientist. Luckily, my mentors still saw my potential and encouraged me to present at the Florida Chapter of AFS. The smaller venue, higher student ratio, and relaxed environment made me realize that I was supposed to be there, and my perspective was valuable.

Eventually, the numerous biological data gaps in Smalltooth Sawfish life history spurred my return to graduate school in 2014. As a Ph.D. student at Louisiana

State University (LSU), I was busy with lab work and my dissertation, but the connections I made through the Louisiana Chapter of AFS helped me find some of the most valuable samples in my research. During this time, I also worked for one year with the Texas Parks and Wildlife



Department as a Science Policy Fellow with the National Academies of Science – Gulf Research Program. The year of my fellowship, the agency was responsible for hosting the meeting for the Southern Division of AFS and I got to see some of the innerworkings of planning such a huge event. In this case, my perspective was not only valuable but called upon and I participated as an invited speaker to one of the sessions. It was at this point when I realized that I could maybe make a difference in the field through this organization.

Continued on pg. 15

CAST YOUR VOTE FOR THE EXCOM 2024-2025 CANDIDATES!



After I graduated with my Ph.D. in Renewable Natural Resources from LSU in 2021, I moved to Oregon for the opportunity to help restore one of the region’s most iconic species, and the first thing I did was get involved with the Oregon Chapter of AFS.

Despite all my positive experience with the society through my professional career, the Oregon chapter has proved to be one of my favorites. I love how ORAFS has a focus on, and is known for, diversity and supporting students. These are the chapter’s strengths, and as President-Elect, I would continue to carry those values forward. I would also like to see the chapter be more involved in the communities we work in – that could be through volunteering, connecting with the next generation of anglers, or communicating about the work we do in different ways, to different audiences. This not only helps us connect to the folks who help us learn, manage, and protect fish in Oregon, but it also helps us grow as a chapter.

Ultimately, AFS has been an integral part of shaping my early career and it would be an honor to give back and help fulfill the goals of the Oregon Chapter as President-Elect. I humbly ask for your vote and thank you for this opportunity.

Internal Director: Stephanie Messerle

Hello Oregon Chapter of AFS! My name is Stephanie Messerle and I’d be honored to continue in the role of Internal Director for ORAFS. This past year has been a learning time for me in the Internal Director position. Like with any new position, it takes some time to understand the duties and get a handle on what needs to happen and when. Luckily the ORAFS has an amazing ExCom and a fantastic support structure. I haven’t been alone! Stepping behind the scenes, I am in awe of the amount of work it takes to make the ORAFS such a successful chapter.



I’ve had fun learning about the annual meeting planning, committees, scholarships, programs, and opportunities supported through ORAFS. I want to continue in the Internal Director position for another year and ask for your vote!

In my regular job I’m a fish biologist for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the Oregon/Washington State Office. Prior to joining the BLM State Office, I was the District Fish Biologist for the Coos Bay BLM for ten years. I was also a fish biologist for the Myrtlewood Resource Field Office, Coos Bay BLM for six years and a fish biologist for the Medford BLM District for four years. I’ve also had seasonal fisheries technician jobs for ODFW and BLM as well as a stint with the National Park Service in Utah in their biological resource division. Working for a public land management agency in fisheries has been an excellent career for me. I thoroughly enjoy working to improve fish habitat on public lands as well as partnership involvement to improve conditions at watershed scale across land ownership. After high school, I worked at an Oregon Coast State Park for three summers, which gave me my first experience in the benefits of public land. I’m involved with the National AFS as steering committee member for the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology program and have been a mentor to over a dozen Hutton Interns. I received an Environmental Science bachelor’s degree from Southern Oregon University with additional classes from OSU.

I live in Coos Bay along the southern Oregon Coast, where I’m originally from, with my husband and our two sons. I’m a firm believer in sharing my love of the outdoors with my kids and enjoy recreating with them in our beautiful state.

Thank you for your consideration to stay as the Internal Director for another year. I will continue to give the position my best effort!

External Director: Amy Unthank

Statement of Interest to my fellow ORAFS members:

One year is enough time to better understand the potential of the External Director position and get familiar with the Executive



Continued on pg. 16

CAST YOUR VOTE



Committee duties and accomplishments. Even though the External Director position is one of the lighter duty positions on the Executive Committee there are definitely some areas in which I can improve. Those include the basics of helping facilitate the External Committee's needs, and of course the social media information and postings.

There is no doubt our External Committees are serving the Oregon Chapter mission but we can always step it up to help meet the part of our mission to advance the science, education, and public discourse for the long-term public benefit. I'd like to thank the External Committee chairs for their volunteer efforts this past year and look forward to working with them in the next year. In summary – I'd like to receive the support of the membership to serve another year!

Vice President: Karah Roof

My name is Karah Roof, and I am honored to be running for Vice President of the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

I graduated from Northern Arizona University in 2014 with a B.S. in biology and certificates in conservation biology and wildlife ecology and management. While in college, I attended a faculty-led conservation-focused study abroad program on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. We worked closely with locals and the Department of Natural Resources to design and conduct research projects on conservation of local flora and fauna. My project focused on giant clams, which historically were part of subsistence fishing, but have now become overfished. This challenging and immersive experience gave me insight into the complexities of conservation and led me to pursue fisheries as a career.



In 2015, I started my career by working as a fisheries observer aboard commercial fishing trawlers in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska. The importance of the data collected by observers cannot be overstated, and I worked hard to ensure that I collected high quality data. Over the course of my tenure as a fisheries observer, I racked up about 700 days at sea, living and working alongside fishermen of all ages, from all walks of life, from all around the world.

I am currently a project biologist at ODFW as part of the Northern Pikeminnow Management Program, a multi-agency program designed to reduce and quantify impact of predation on outmigrating salmon smolt, using a sport reward fishery. This project is where I started my career at ODFW as a seasonal in 2019. Since that first field season, I have also conducted spawning surveys for spring Chinook, worked as a crew lead to creelers on the Columbia River, and ran autotagging trailers that clip and tag juvenile salmonids at ODFW hatcheries all around the state.

I first attended an Oregon AFS conference in 2023, and I was immediately impressed with the sense of community I felt. Now that I'm more settled in my career (and have a much shorter field season that I have had in the past), I'm looking forward to being able to get more involved in AFS, and I have actively sought opportunities to do so. At the annual meeting in 2024, I volunteered to judge student posters and assisted with set up of the auction and raffle. In the fall, I attended the Native Fish Workshop in North Bend, which coincidentally focused on my favorite fish—Starry Flounder! The time spent with other passionate people who were there for the sake of expanding their knowledge outside of their specific body of work further solidified my interest in being actively involved in this network of equally enthusiastic fish nerds.

Aside from exposure to fascinating work being done around the state, country, and even the world, the networking opportunities at AFS conferences are endless and invaluable. The organized events outside of the talks are excellent facilitators for these opportunities, especially for students on the verge of starting their professional journey. I attended two conferences when I was in college, where I was able to connect with professionals at all levels in their career. I greatly valued the time that they took to share with me their experiences and give me advice and insight into how to accomplish my goals. It would be an honor to pay it forward and help the next generation of upcoming professionals, by both working with the student subunits and

Continued on pg. 17

CAST YOUR VOTE FOR THE EXCOM 2024-2025 CANDIDATES!

organizing the events at the conference that provide these opportunities for development of relationships, both professional and personal.

Although I'm relatively new to AFS, I'm passionate, motivated, and deeply committed to the mission and enduring legacy of this chapter. I have greatly benefitted from my experience with the Oregon Chapter and it would be an honor to serve as the Vice President. I look forward to giving back to a community that means so much to me. Thank you for your time and consideration!

Secretary: Gina Maag-Klobas

My name is Gina Maag-Klobas, and I am a field biologist with Mount Hood Environmental out of Sandy, Oregon. I've been with MHE for two years now, mostly conducting



rotary screw trap efficiency trials, pHOS angling studies, stream inventory surveys, and fish salvage. A little different from the traditional fisheries route, I originally graduated from Concordia University with a BA in English, and after teaching in Japan for a few years, I decided to get an Associate's in Fisheries Technology from MHCC. I worked as a student intern out of the Lewis River Hatchery Complex and then as a seasonal with the Forest Service before joining MHE as a technician.

I've decided to run for the position of secretary because I'd love to continue to be involved with ORAFS. At MHCC, I served first as the secretary and then president for the student subunit. In addition to presenting at ORAFS, I also participate in the annual Hutton Scholarship selection process since I benefited from an AFS scholarship when I was a student. I recently attended the inaugural fish culture

committee hatchery tour and plan to be more involved with that committee as well. The secretary position would be a good opportunity for me to contribute to the meaningful work ORAFS does, and I think I would contribute a unique blend of interdisciplinary experience with my English and Fisheries degrees as well as an inter-cultural communication background through my time teaching in Japan and working in education.

Secretary: Katie Woodside

Thank you for the opportunity to run for Oregon Chapter AFS Secretary. I have been an AFS member for 19 years. I have attended AFS meetings in several states and been a member of different divisions and chapters. Throughout my career, I have conducted fisheries work in California, New York, Florida, New Mexico, and Oregon. I have a B.S. from the University of California at Davis and an M.S. from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. I am the current Poster Chair for the 2025 Oregon AFS meeting. It would be nice to



continue to give back to AFS through service as the Oregon AFS Chapter Secretary.

I have training and experience managing and facilitating state agency meetings with internal and external stakeholders. I am organized and enjoy planning. I currently take my own notes when conducting staff meetings as the Coastal Chinook Research and Monitoring Program (CCRMP) Leader for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). I also volunteer to take notes when attending and participating in the ODFW Wellness Committee meetings. As Secretary, I understand I may be responsible for updates to the current website or development of a new

Continued on pg. 18

CAST YOUR VOTE



website. CCRMP recently published their own website on the Oregon State University (OSU) server (Home | Coastal Chinook Research and Monitoring Program). I was responsible for initiating and overseeing these efforts as well as contributing to edits and photos. While working for Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, I contributed the agency website frequently and facilitated a few meetings pertaining to the incorporation of long-term data on the agency website. I routinely wrote fishing forecasts and lead efforts to increase and improve Freshwater Fish Division participation in social media. I produced educational pamphlets and designed permanent kiosks and signage for native bass identification and regulations. Most notably, I coordinated internal and external education efforts for a statewide black bass regulation change. I volunteered to review regulations online as well as in the statewide regulations magazine and statutes to ensure corrections were made in a timely and comprehensive manner.



Thank you for your time and consideration.

Treasurer: Jordan Smith

Hello! Current ORAFS Treasurer, Jordan Smith, here!

I am the Northeast Hydropower Coordinator and acting Fish Policy Analyst for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. My family and I reside in beautiful Baker City and spend most of our free time out in the mountains enjoying the best parts of Eastern Oregon.



In addition to being part of an Executive Committee that works hard to provide opportunities for our members, I have really enjoyed getting to engage with all of you through this role. I have learned a lot during the past two years as treasurer and would love to put that knowledge to work during a second term as we host the 2026 Western Division annual meeting, think critically about new ways to serve our Chapter, and continue to achieve financial sustainability.



Thank you for your consideration and for being such an outstanding group of people!

2025 RASTECH CONFERENCE



2025 RASTECH
Conference and Trade Fair

CONNECT WITH THE WORLD'S EXPERTS

June 9-10 2025
San Diego, CA

REGISTER NOW



This year's RASTECH 2025 Conference and Trade Fair will not be the same without your attendance!

As a new feature to our program, I'm introducing a new session dedicated for those who work in our fish hatcheries in enhancement, restocking, and conservation. The session will be called "RAS hatcheries" and it will be designed to provide fundamental instruction to the complex technology of land-based, recirculating aquaculture technology. Whether it's hybrid flowthrough, or partial reuse or even full recirculation, this session is for those who want to share knowledge and best practices in operating RAS hatcheries.

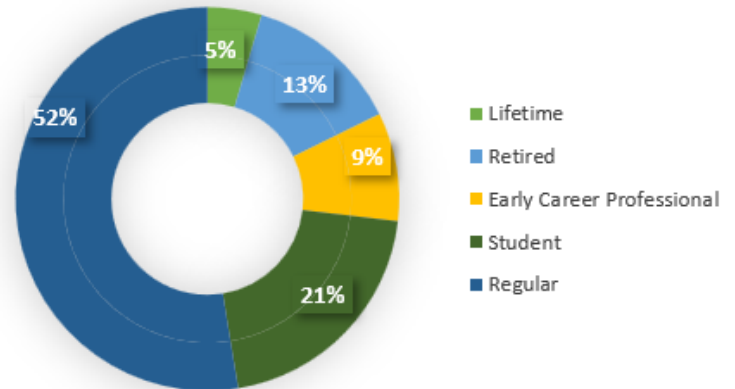
Every year, our conference invites some of the leading global experts in the commercial food fish industry to share about their biggest projects and their latest innovations. It has become a central hub for those who drive that sector. But, we also know that some of the biggest users of RAS are the humble hatcheries that dot our continent.

I hope you consider our event on June 9-10, 2025 in San Diego, Calif. Learn from the experts at NOFIMA, the Freshwater Institute, the Danish Technical University, Pure Salmon Technology, Benchmark Genetics, Skretting, and many others from around the world. You can find more information on our website: www.ras-tec.com.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

DON'T FORGET TO RENEW FOR 2025!

Don't forget to ring in the New Year by renewing your membership! ORAFS is one of the few AFS chapters that requires AFS membership in order to be a chapter member. ORAFS is a membership leader in both the Western Division and AFS! Not only is membership important for our members' professional development, your membership is also important for ORAFS sustainability. The Chapter receives a 3% rebate from AFS on Regular dues paying members. All members have benefits such as access to online journals, webinars, and reduced registration fees and bookstore prices. Please go to <https://fisheries.org/membership/> to find out more about different membership types.



As of December 2024, ORAFS membership included 175 members with a membership breakout included in the adjacent figure. ORAFS members hail from 13 states and provinces! If you have any questions about membership or ideas on how to reach more fisheries professionals, please contact Sarah Abbott.

Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society membership breakout; As of December 2024 there were 175 members, of which were made up of 53% regular members, 21% students, 9% early career professionals, 13% retired, and 5% lifetime members.



Sarah Abbott, Secretary
secretary@orafs.org

ORAFS LIFE MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE!

Are you an AFS Life Member and interested in showing your life-long dedication to the Oregon Chapter? We have an Oregon Chapter Life Membership that allows you to do just that! The Oregon Chapter Life Membership costs \$125.00 or 12.5 times the Oregon Chapter annual membership rate. This relative cost difference mirrors the AFS Life Member cost. Show your dedication to the ORAFS legacy and invest in a membership that will pay off for a lifetime! Please contact Sarah Abbott (secretary@orafs.org) for more information.

**2024-2025 OREGON CHAPTER AFS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS
(ORAFS EXCOM)**

President: Michele Weaver;
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President-Elect: Cory Sipher;
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Past President: Gary Vonderohe;
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Vice President: Kate Self; vicepresident@orafs.org

Secretary: Sarah Abbott;
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Treasurer: Jordan Smith; treasurer@orafs.org

External Director: Amy Unthank;
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Internal Director: Stephanie Messerle;
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OSU Student Rep: Roberto Ponce Velez;
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MHCC Student Rep: Elizabeth Grassl;
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Freshwater Habitat: Rebecca Schwartz
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Legislative Committee: Karen Hans,
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Marine Habitat & Ecology: Vacant

Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Mission

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.

Native Fish: Brian Bangs
541-908-1538; Brian_Bangs@fws.gov

Natural Production: Ian Tattam
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Social Media: Vacant

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AFS / TWS Liaison: Derek Broman
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Additional contact information (mailing addresses, fax numbers) for all officers, committee chairs, and support personnel are available at: <http://orafs.org> under "Officers & Committees".



Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

www.orafs.org

CHANGE OF ADDRESS & MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS:

To join or change address, go to www.fisheries.org and be sure to sign up for the Oregon Chapter. Also visit www.orafs.org/membership to join our listserv and get other Chapter information.