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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

It's a huge privilege to kick off my term as Chapter president with my first President's Corner. As is the case with much of our careers, I never could have imagined myself in this position from where I started. As a reminder of that journey, I recently received a commemorative pin from the American Fisheries Society, recognizing 25 years of membership. Looking back, I first started my AFS journey as a first-year graduate student at Colorado State University. We had an active student chapter and several professors and advisors that encouraged membership and participation in professional societies, both as a way to enhance one's career through learning and networking, but also as a way to give back. I've found both to be equally valuable over my career.

My first experience at an AFS meeting was as a volunteer at the Western Division meeting hosted by the Colorado/Wyoming chapter in Telluride, CO. Ever since then I've tried to attend and participate as a moderator, committee chair, or speaker at as many meetings as I could. Eventually, those strange faces in the crowd became friends, colleagues, and peers who I've both looked up to and worked alongside.

We have a lot to look forward to in 2026 but a lot to look back on and take pride in as well. The Oregon Chapter was recently selected as the 2025 Outstanding AFS Large Chapter at both the Western Division and at the Society level. It's a huge testament to our active membership and the committees that are at the heart of our chapter. Everyone from our legislative committee which helped draft letters in support of legislation important to aquatic resources across the state, to the



Michele Weaver passing the wolf eel to Cory Sipher. Congratulations, Cory!

habitat committee commenting on important changes to the Endangered Species Act, our members stand out among the society. Our Diversity and Inclusion committee was also a highlight as they developed a DEI survey and upcoming training workshops for members looking to better understand and expand opportunities for diverse groups. Stay tuned for more information on that. And our always active Native Fish Committee led a trip to the Oregon Coast to investigate Starry Flounder.

Next year, we'll continue our efforts to distinguish ourselves by hosting the Western Division meeting at the Holiday Inn Portland – Columbia Riverfront, May 4-7, 2026. If you were lucky enough to attend the National AFS meeting in Portland back in 2015, you know we like to put on a show! Look for more info as the time nears and if you'd like to volunteer on the planning committee in any capacity, feel free to reach out to Kelcee Smith

([presidentelect@orafs.org](mailto:presidentelect@orafs.org)) who will be chairing the program committee for the ORAFS.

Thanks again to everyone on our Executive Committee who helped during the 2024-25 term – Sarah Abbott, Stephanie Messerle, Amy Unthank, Kate Self, Jorden Smith, Michele Weaver, Gary Vonderohle, Elizabeth Grassl, and Roberto Ponce. I can't wait to see what 2026 brings!

Cory Sipher,  
President  
[President@orafs.org](mailto:President@orafs.org)



## INPUT NEEDED

It's time to update the ORAFS 5-year Strategic Plan

[https://orafs.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/ORAFLS-2020-2025-Strategic-Plan\\_Final\\_May2022.docx.pdf](https://orafs.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/ORAFLS-2020-2025-Strategic-Plan_Final_May2022.docx.pdf)

This is the overarching guidance that the ExCom will use for the next 5-years to develop the annual work plans and associated budgets. We are looking for your input to help guide our Chapter goals and objectives for the next 5-years. Please reach out to [pastpresident@orafs.org](mailto:pastpresident@orafs.org) with any ideas or input you may have.



Follow the chapter online!\*

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

X – <https://x.com/OregonAFS>

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

Instagram – [https://www.instagram.com/or\\_afs/?hl=en](https://www.instagram.com/or_afs/?hl=en)



\*The ORAFS social media committee could use some help managing and posting content to these accounts, please consider helping improve our online presence and be part of this committee. Contact [externaldirector@orafs.org](mailto:externaldirector@orafs.org).

# EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORT

## Native Fish Committee

This year's Native Fish Workshop details will be shared as soon as they are available.

## Marine Committee

Natalie Donato (OSU) and Eric Anderson (ODFW) have produced a draft work plan for the marine committee (nod to Natalie for her primary work on it). It will be shared with ORAFS President Cory Sipher for review. The ExCom is excited that the Marine Committee is rising and looking forward to its participation in next year's Chapter meeting which will be joint with Western Division AFS.

Natalie also was the primary designer of the Sharks of Oregon license plate, which is nearly 1/3 of the way toward the 3,000 voucher sales needed to put it into production! Natalie also recently re-illustrated and designed the Sharks of Oregon poster in collaboration with Oregon Sea Grant, which will be releasing the poster later this week.

## The Education and Outreach Committee

Karen Hans and Marty Olsen of the Education and Outreach Committee shared several photos to illustrate to our membership the outcomes and good work made possible through awarding the Oregon AFS Educators Grant.



The South Santiam Watershed Council was a recipient of an Educators Grant this last cycle, and they used the funds to help set up a Salmon Dissection station at a local outdoor education event.



Marys River Watershed Council Educators Grant 2022. Philomath High School Students Efishing for lamprey.



Corvallis 3rd graders sampling for macroinvertebrates.



Continued on Page 4

## EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORT - CONT'D



Blue Mountains Fisheries/  
Watershed Educational Program



Talmage Middle School Students – all smiles for being in the creek.



Here are a few more photos of outdoor education events that were made possible by the AFS Educators grant. These are pictures from a recent outdoor day that the middle school students from the Medford School district were able to participate in. The grant was administered by the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council. Macroinvertebrate sampling and water quality was the theme of the day at this event, and the AFS grant helped pay for waders and water quality testing sample kits.

## EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORT—CONT'D

### Fish Culture Committee Field Trip Summary

On July 17, the Fish Culture Committee sponsored the second annual field trip. This year 9 attendees visited Bonneville Dam and were able to tour the Smolt Monitoring Facility, the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) Adult Fish Facility, view the corner collector, and observe fish in the Washington fish ladder. Unfor-

tunately, we were about 5 days too late to see fish at the Smolt Monitoring Facility, as river temperatures hit the shutdown threshold the week before. We also didn't see any adults being handled in the Adult Fish Facility, again due to high river temperatures. During the summer, smolts bypass the sampling facility, and adults are only handled in the early morning to avoid handling stress.

Continued on page 6



Dean B. of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission demonstrating how a subsample of fish is collected every ten minutes and brought into the Smolt Monitoring Facility for sampling.



An adult lamprey works its way up the Lamprey Passage Structure on the Washington side fish ladder.



Adult lamprey that climb the Lamprey Passage Structure end up in this collection box, where CRITFC staff collect them and transport them to holding tanks at Bonneville Fish Hatchery.



Becca C. of the Army Corps of Engineers explains how adult salmon are collected and processed in the CRITFC Adult Fish Facility.



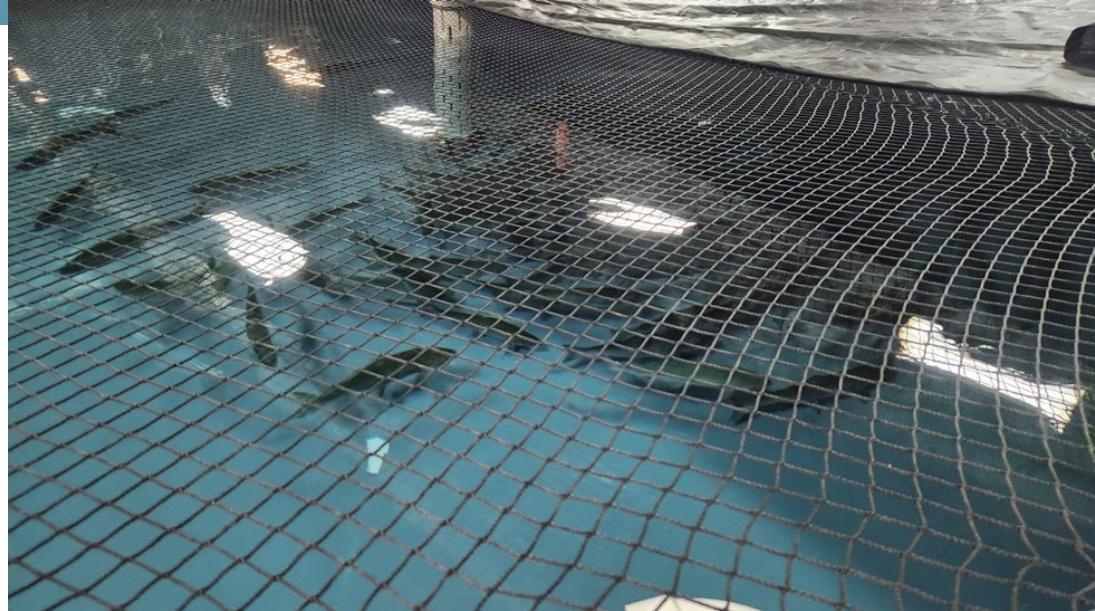
The entrance to the Washington fish ladder. Large grates are installed at the entrance to exclude sea lions from entering the fish ladder.

## EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORT—CONT'D



Lamprey in their holding tank. There were multiple tanks, each one corresponding to which dam the fish were collected from. These adult fish are then translocated to the upper basins to help return higher numbers of lamprey to their spawning areas than could be achieved if they were only able to get there by passing through the dams.

After a lunch break, we went to Bonneville Fish Hatchery and learned about the CRITFC Lamprey collection program, where lamprey are collected from the Lamprey Passage Structures on the dams, brought back to tanks at the hatchery, and then distributed throughout the territories of the four Columbia River Treaty Tribes (Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and Nez Perce Tribe). We also saw the first sockeye collected from a new pilot program attempting to reintroduce sockeye salmon to Wallowa Lake.



Jack sockeye collected at the Bonneville Fish trap. The first release of sockeye for the Wallowa Lake reintroduction program was in the spring. These jacks will be taken to Idaho to supplement Red Fish Lake and others in the area. Returning adults next year will be split between broodstock for the program and Idaho, with the ultimate goal of outplanting adults to Wallowa Lake.

# MHCC STUDENT SUBUNIT UPDATE

June 14th marks the finish of the 54th graduating class of the MHCC Fisheries program. Many of our club members are heading into both permanent and seasonal employment and a few of the first-years are setting out on their cooperative learning experience internships at hatcheries throughout the state. We were also pleased to roll out our new club logo designed by Elizabeth Wilson.

Spring term saw a plethora of club happenings. The club hosted our third event with the Washington County Fly Fishers, a fly-casting clinic. In May we cleaned up four bioswales at MHCC. The bioswales were installed to filter stormwater runoff from several parking lots on campus and were put in as part of us becoming the first community college to be Salmon Safe certified. This was done with the help of the East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District who was



involved with their installation. This will be an ongoing service project for the club. We hosted the Johnson Creek Watershed council to discuss their current monitoring and restoration projects. Lastly, for an offsite this year, we visited Hay Creek in Cottonwood Canyon State Park, to view the impact of beaver dam analogs which were installed as part of a restoration project completed by the Oregon Natural Desert Association in 2020.

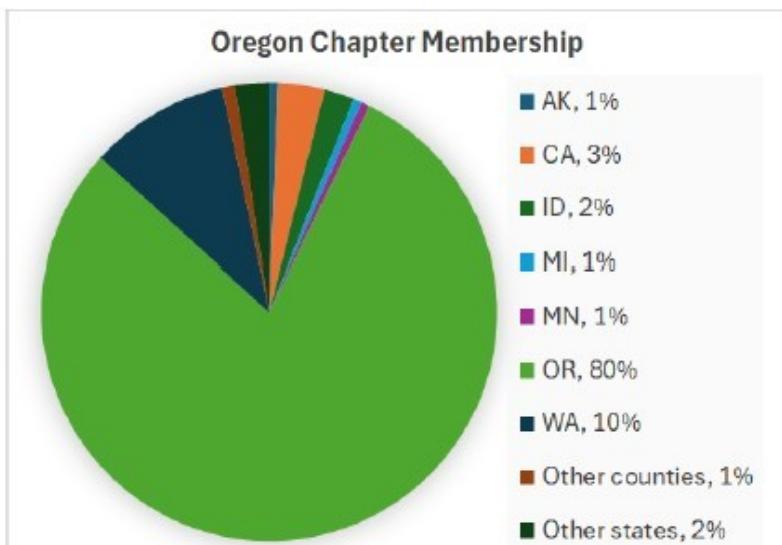
We will be planning over the summer for next academic year's events. If you're looking for volunteers, ways to share projects, or want to connect more with the MHCC Fisheries Club, please reach out at [mhccstudentrep@orafs.org](mailto:mhccstudentrep@orafs.org)!



## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We currently have 331 members in the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society as of June 2025, comprising of over 64 organizations. Along with all of the benefits of being a member of ORAFS, dues provide opportunities for professional workshops, student scholarships and experiences, and events that promote ORAFS fisheries science missions. To this end, please refer us to colleagues or new contacts that could enrich our chapter. We are always looking to increase the diversity of our members, add to the scope of our fisheries work, and grow in the knowledge of all things fishy. If you have membership questions or an idea of how to diversify and broaden our membership base, please contact our chapter secretary.

**Note:** Renewing members may have difficulty paying Oregon Chapter dues. If uncertain if your dues have been paid or if experiencing difficulties, please reach out to the Oregon Chapter Secretary for additional information or instructions. Thank you for paying membership dues and being an active member!



*Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society membership breakout. As of June 2025, there are 331 members in the Oregon Chapter.*

Katie Woodside  
Oregon Chapter Secretary  
[Secretary@orafs.org](mailto:Secretary@orafs.org)

[Katie.L.Woodside@odfw.oregon.gov](mailto:Katie.L.Woodside@odfw.oregon.gov)



## BECOME A LIFETIME MEMBER OF ORAFS

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 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 Katie Woodside ([Secretary@orafs.org](mailto:Secretary@orafs.org), [Katie.L.Woodside@odfw.oregon.gov](mailto:Katie.L.Woodside@odfw.oregon.gov)) for more information.

## PISCATORIAL PRESS: CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

**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](mailto:stacy.a.strickland@odfw.oregon.gov). Submission deadlines for news items are: September 15; December 15; March 15; and June 15. The newsletter is published approximately three weeks after submissions are received. Submissions are used as time and space allows.

## ORAFLS Hosts AFS-Western Division Meeting in Portland 2026

You guys, the next 11 months are going to be exciting. Our chapter will be hosting the AFS Western Division meeting in Portland, OR from May 4-7, 2026. It's time to start planning.

We'll need:

1. A relatable theme to mark the year we're in
2. Dope plenary speakers
3. Workshops and continuing education opportunities that you can use
4. Interesting sessions on a wide variety of topics
5. Networking events that actually work
6. A social that goes down in history books
7. A sweet logo for the merch
8. A Spawning Run that cooks
9. And so much more!

This sounds like a lot (and it is), but the good news is that we've already got a lot going for us:

1. A great location with tons of potential
2. Chapter of the Year award
3. A track record of amazing chapter meetings
4. An ExCom team with experience

5. A membership that isn't afraid to step up and help

Over the next few months, I will be working with members of the ExCom to organize this behemoth of a meeting. Now is the time to contribute.

Email me ([presidentelected@orafs.org](mailto:presidentelected@orafs.org)) if:

1. You have workshop ideas
2. You want to design the logo
3. You are interested in running a session
4. You have ideas for the social or networking events
5. You know a great route for the Spawning Run
6. You have connections to other organizations that would diversify attendance

Save the date: May 4-7, 2026



Holiday Inn Portland – Columbia Riverfront  
909 North Hayden Island Dr. Portland, OR 97217

Western Division and Oregon Chapter American Fisheries Society invite you to save the date May 4-7, 2026 for the Joint Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon



7. You have a colleague that would be a great plenary speaker
8. You have items to donate to the raffle
9. You are really good with technology
10. You are good at organizing people or things
11. You have any skills at all...

I am very excited to get going with the planning of this meeting, but more than anything, I want the meeting to represent us as a chapter, to have our vibe, to have our DNA built in. I'm proud to be face of it and advocate for all of you in the process.

Thanks!

Kelcee, ORAFS President-Elect



AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

# 155TH ANNUAL MEETING SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

*“Headwaters to Saltwater: Understanding the Past,  
Protecting the Future, 155 Years of AFS”*

AUGUST 10 - 14, 2025



## REGISTRATION OPEN!

**Headwaters to Saltwater: Understanding the Past, Protecting the Future, 155 Years of AFS.**

The American Fisheries Society President Miguel Garcia, the AFS Southern Division and the AFS Texas Chapter are excited to welcome you to the 155th Annual Meeting, August 10-14, 2025, in San Antonio, Texas! The theme for 2025 is *Headwaters to Saltwater: Understanding the Past, Protecting the Future, 155 Years of AFS*. If you've never attended a large, national fisheries meeting, now is your opportunity to attend an exciting meeting near the Texas Gulf Coast hosted in conjunction with the Black Bass 2025 Symposium.

<https://afsannualmeeting.fisheries.org/>

**2025-2026 OREGON CHAPTER AFS  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS  
(ORAFS EXCOM)**

**President:** Cory Sipher,  
president@orafs.org

**President-Elect:** Kelcee Smith,  
presidentelect@orafs.org

**Past President:** Michele Weaver,  
pastpresident@orafs.org

**Vice President:** Kara Roof, vicepresident@orafs.org

**Secretary:** Katie Woodside,  
secretary@orafs.org

**Treasurer:** Jorden Smith, treasurer@orafs.org

**External Director:** Amy Unthank,  
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**Internal Director:** Gina Maag-Klobas,  
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**OSU Student Rep:** Roberto Ponce Velez,  
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**MHCC Student Rep:** Bianca Wiens,  
mhcc.orafs.subunit@gmail.com

**EXTERNAL COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Climate Adaptation:** Vacant

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:** Guillermo Giannico,  
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**Education and Outreach:** Marty Olson,  
martin.p.olson@odfw.oregon.gov

**Fish Culture:** Jen Krajcik,  
jenniferkrajcik@ctuir.org and Marla Chaney,  
Marla.Chaney@mhcc.edu

**Freshwater Habitat:** Rebecca Schwartz,  
rebeccahschwartz93@gmail.com

**Human Dimensions:** Jason Dunham  
jdunham@usgs.gov and Hannah Gosnell  
hannah.gosnell@oregonstate.edu

**Legislative Committee:** Karen Hans,  
karen.m.hans@odfw.oregon.gov

***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.*

**Marine Habitat & Ecology: Vacant**

**Native Fish:** Brian Bangs,  
541-908-1538; Brian\_Bangs@fws.gov

**Natural Production:** Ian Tattam,  
541-575-1167; Ian.A.Tattam@odfw.oregon.gov

**Social Media:** Vacant

**INTERNAL COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

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541-908-1538; Brian\_Bangs@fws..gov

**Financial Sustainability:** Tony Siniscal,  
anthony.siniscal@noaa.gov and Troy Brandt,  
tbrandt@riverdesigngroup.net

**Scholarships:** Gina Maag-Klobas,  
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**Resolutions and Bylaws:** Kara Roof,  
vicepresident@orafs.org

**AFS / TWS Liaison:** Derek Broman,  
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**INTERNAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL**

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michael.w.gauvin@odfw.oregon.gov

**Newsletter Editor:** Stacy Strickland,  
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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](http://orafs.org)

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS & MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS:**

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