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OREGON CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I hope all of you had a productive summer full of the surveys and field work that we all, frankly, got into this profession to spend our days on. My time in the field unfortunately has dwindled over the years but still happy for the occasional field trip to assist with stream surveys, monitor restoration projects, or meet with private landowners and watershed councils to find common ground on aquatic resource management.

This past summer, I was able to represent the Oregon Chapter while attending the National AFS meeting in San Antonio, Texas. While I was there primarily to accept Oregon's Chapter of the Year award, it was a unique opportunity to meet many of the other Western Division and Society AFS leadership and get a little behind-the-scenes of what makes the AFS such a beneficial professional society. From workshops and webinars to networking and job boards, being part of the AFS is a great way to gain professional knowledge and enhance your career through mentoring. Learn more about membership benefits at <https://fisheries.org/membership/>

One benefit that the Society offers is its Professional Certification program. It's an opportunity to highlight for your employer and peers your technical knowledge, experience, and commitment to the profession. As an added bonus to members, the Oregon Chapter provides reimbursement for the cost of certification at either the Associate or Certified level. Reach out to president@orafs.org for information about submitting a reimbursement request and learn more about the AFS certification program at <https://fisheries.org/2016/04/presidents-commentary-afs-professional-certification-101/>

As many of you know, the Oregon Chapter will be hosting the 2026 Western Division meeting at the Holiday Inn Portland – Columbia Riverfront, May 4th through the 7th. This is a new venue for us and will have lots

of opportunities for social events with convenient travel from the airport. The planning committee is starting to develop technical sessions, social events, and the schedule-at-a-glance so stay tuned to the meeting website, our quarterly newsletter, and our social media for more updates. All dates may be subject to change.

It's never too early, though, to consider nominating a deserving coworker or colleague for one of our many notable (or notorious) awards. Oregon Chapter AFS Awards include the Award of Merit, Fishery Worker of the Year (and Team of the Year), Lifetime Achievement Award, The Bill Wingfield Memorial Award in Fish Culture, and The Broken Oar! See p. 14 for more on the descriptions and nominating criteria for each award and I hope to see you all in Portland!

*Cory Sipher,
President
President@orafs.org*



EXTERNAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

It has been a quiet summer for the External Committees, but fall will be busier as the planning for the May 2026 joint ORAFS - Western Division AFS meeting gets underway. Here is an updated listing of the external committees and their leaders. We are looking for someone interested in leading the Climate Adaptation Committee. There are so many aspects of climate change and its intersection with fisheries and aquatic habitat – that a leader can bring their own expertise and interest to the topic. Reach out to me at externaldirector@orafs.org or any other member of the ExCom - if interested in helping.

Thank you!

Amy Unthank, External Director
Externaldirector@orafs.org



Committee	Lead/Co-Lead
Fish Culture	Jennifer Krajcik Marla Chaney
Native Fish	Brian Bangs
Freshwater Habitat	Rebecca Schwartz
Legislative	Troy Brandt is handing off to Karen Hans
Education and Outreach	Marty Olson
Climate Adaptation	VACANT
DEI	Guillermo Giannico Nilanjana Das
Human Dimensions	Jason Dunham
Marine	Natalie Odonato Eric Anderson
Natural Production	Ian Tattam

Here are some small tidbits from the External Committees:

Fish Culture – look in this newsletter for an invitation to the Fish Culture Concepts meeting being held this December. Also Jen Krajcik is starting up the Request for Applications for the travel award for that same meeting.

Native Fish - the annual field trip planning is still in the early stages and both the Marine Committee and the Freshwater Habitat Committee are willing to combine forces with Brian Bangs to determine a place and fish(es) to investigate.

Freshwater Habitat – Rebecca Schwartz (formerly with CTUIR) is well into her job as the John Day Flow Restoration Project Manager for Trout Unlimited and mentioned that an “abstract that was submitted on behalf of Liz Perkin was accepted to the Society of Freshwater Sciences.

The title of the talk is "A Refresh to Stream Restoration Monitoring". Liz will likely be presenting in person in Boise.

DEI – Dr. Guillermo Giannico has been very busy, but has planned the next DEI meeting for October 29. At that meeting there will be an update on how many members have taken the DEI training modules set up by Ana Lu Fonseca Tapia for Oregon AFS members. Three modules on interdimensional knowledge, systemic knowledge, and global knowledge are part of the training. The modules include interactive components and pre- and post-surveys to measure impact.

Legislative – The leadership of that committee is transitioning from Troy Brandt to Karen Hans. The Oregon session is over (except for a special session call back to deal with ODOT being underfunded). A proposal to dedicate more transient lodging tax monies to fund Oregon's wildlife species (House Bill 2977) was denied in the final days of the session. ORAFS provided input supporting the bill and we were disappointed to see the bill denied approval. Input was also provided to amend a proposed Senate Bill (SB 221) for a hatchbox program in Coos County and to support a proposed task force on Eel Grass habitat (House Bill 3580). Many thanks to Dr. Christine Moffitt for contributing to the Legislative Committee to address these issues.

ORAFS also provided input to the Oregon State Marine Board for proposed jet boat regulations on the Rogue River, rules for boats on the Siletz River, and to the Federal Rule changes proposed by USFWS and NMFS on the Endangered Species Act. Those final letters are not all posted on the ORAFS website, but will be soon!

Marine – the newly revived committee, led by Natalie Odonato and Mike Anderson, is working to identify activities and is gearing up for helping prepare OSU students to participate at the joint ORAFS-Western Division AFS meeting. Stay tuned!

OSU STUDENT SUBUNIT UPDATE



Hey from Corvallis!

We're wrapping up our third week of fall term at Oregon State University, and the Fisheries and Wildlife Club is already making a splash! We started the term with our annual Welcome BBQ, which brought in 50+ students for good food, games, and a chance to meet other folks passionate about fish and wildlife.

Last week, our president and vice president had the exciting opportunity to represent the club at the E.R. Jackman Friends and Alumni Meeting, where they presented about the club's activities to some of the College of Agricultural Sciences' top donors.

We also kicked off our first biweekly meeting with a campus scavenger hunt and bingo night, which got everyone exploring and connecting with new members (pictured)!

Looking ahead, we've got an awesome lineup of events this term. We're planning a "How to Get Into Research" event to help students learn how to find opportunities and connect with professors. Later this month, we'll be joining forces with the Bird Nerds, Herpetology Club, and the Mammalogy and Ichthyology Collections for our annual Night at the Museum event. It's one of our biggest highlights of the year... we transform the OSU Natural History Collections into a spooky, Halloween-themed experience where visitors of all ages can explore real animal specimens and learn about the incredible diversity of life on

Earth. From frogs and fish to birds and bats, it's a night full of science, creativity, and community fun!

We're also working on plans for a tidepooling trip and a fly fishing outing before the end of the term, so members can get outside and experience Oregon's ecosystems firsthand.

It's shaping up to be an exciting term for the club, and we can't wait to share more soon. Stay tuned and stay fishy!

Adel Bordas

Oregon
State
University
Student
Subunit



MHCC STUDENT SUBUNIT UPDATE

MHCC students started classes September 23rd. Some of the students this summer completed their cooperative work experiences at ODFW Hatcheries across the area, (Bonneville, Big Creek, Trask, Cedar Creek, Leaburg, and North Fork Nehalem), as well as with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. Students got experience with a variety of salmon species, life stages, and lamprey.

We're excited to welcome our new students into the first year of the program. The Fisheries Club hosted our first event of the year on Oct. 2nd to kick off the school year. We are looking forward to a volunteer day maintaining bioswales on campus, hosting guest speakers, and planning other events for the rest of the year.

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!



Incoming 2nd year student Brianna Chase crowding fish at a cooperative experience through Bonneville Hatchery

Northwest Fish Culture Concepts 74th Annual Meeting

December 9 – 11, 2025

Wildhorse Resort and Casino – Pendleton, Oregon



This is your invitation to attend the 74th Annual Northwest Fish Culture Concepts (NWFCC) meeting, December 9 – 11, 2025. The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Nez Perce Tribe are pleased to be hosting this event at the Wildhorse Resort and Casino in Pendleton, Oregon. We look forward to seeing you at this year's conference to enjoy meeting with peers and hearing the presentations highlighting work being done in our field. This conference continues to be extremely educational and beneficial for everyone attending, presenting, and exhibiting fish culture products.

Unfortunately, due to the construction of a new tower at the resort, almost half of the rooms will not be available by December. We were guaranteed only a block of 75 rooms for the conference. So, if you would like to stay at the resort where the meeting is being held, you will need to reserve your room early. There are more than 75 rooms at the resort, and you may be able to reserve a room above the 75 if they are available. We have also set up blocks of rooms at other hotels in the area. See meeting website below for all hotel information.

The fee for early registration is \$175 by October 31. Late registration increases to \$200 on November 1st. Registration includes one entry to the social event. Extra tickets for guests at the social can be purchased for \$50 each and can be added to the online registration or purchased at the meeting. Registration for students and retirees \$75 each. Single day registration is \$75 each. To register go directly to <https://17958.ezfacility.com/login?SmuFormId=0DCEB6E7-33EA-4C38-9C4F-A6282C70EA52> or visit the conference website <https://fishculture.fisheries.org/northwest-fish-culture-concepts/upcoming-nwfcc-workshop/>. Online registration requires a credit card to use with secure credit card payment options. For those unable to use a credit card please contact Margaret Anderson margaret63anders@gmail.com directly to make other arrangements.

NWFCC 2025 Contact Information: Log onto the NWFCC conference website for all online registration procedures including conference/exhibitor registration, paper submissions (deadline October 31st), and mail-in forms and hotel links <https://fishculture.fisheries.org/northwest-fish-culture-concepts/upcoming-nwfcc-workshop/>.

NWFCC Abstracts for Oral and Poster Presentations: Please contact Mike McLean: MikeMcLean@ctuir.org Phone: (541) 429-7960.

Vendor Information: Please contact Mike McLean: MikeMcLean@ctuir.org Phone: (541) 429-7960.

Conference Chair: Mike McLean: MikeMcLean@ctuir.org Phone: (541) 429-7960.



*Oregon Chapter
of the
American Fisheries Society
Fish Culture Committee*

The Fish Culture Committee of the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (ORAFS) is soliciting applications for student and early career professional travel awards to the Northwest Fish Culture Concepts Workshop being held in Pendleton, OR December 9-11, 2025 ([NWFCC Workshop](#)). The Fish Culture Committee is offering two travel awards for students and two travel awards for early career fish culture professionals to attend the conference for up to \$250.00 each.

Applicants for the student awards must be current students enrolled in fisheries courses and need to:

- Write a letter to the awards committee that states their interest in fish culture and the benefits of attending the NWFCC Workshop. 500-word limit.
- Commit to attending the full conference.

Applicants for the early career fish culture professional awards must have graduated within the last 5 years (2020-current) and need to:

- Write a letter to the awards committee that states their interest in fish culture, current job experience, and the benefits of attending the NWFCC Workshop. 500-word limit.
- Commit to attending the full conference.

The deadline for submission is October 24, and the letter should be sent to

Marla.Chaney@mhcc.edu. Preference will be given to applicants who are ORAFS members.

Successful applicants will be reimbursed up to \$250.00 for lodging, transportation (fuel), and meals and incidentals (GSA rate per diem). To receive reimbursement, receipts must be turned in for lodging and fuel, and the dates, locations, and times of travel must be provided.

Applicants will be notified via email by October 31 if they are selected to receive a travel award.

Please reach out to Jen Krajcik with any questions. JenniferKrajcik@ctuir.org, or 541-429-7278.

IN MEMORIUM: OUR FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE, DR. ROBERT M. HUGHES

It is with profound sadness that we mark the passing of Dr. Robert M. Hughes on June 23, 2025. Dr. Hughes was a distinguished and influential figure whose work fundamentally shaped the field of aquatic science and conservation over the course of five decades. A tireless researcher, a dedicated mentor, and a respected leader, Dr. Hughes's legacy has benefited the health of rivers and streams worldwide.

Dr. Hughes earned an A.B. in Psychology and Biology from the University of Michigan in 1967, an M.Sc. in Resource Planning & Conservation in 1973 and a Ph.D. in Fisheries from Oregon State University in 1979. His dissertation on juvenile salmonids laid the groundwork for many future contributions.

His career was a testament to his expertise and versatility. He held significant positions at key organizations, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and Oregon State University, where he returned as a Courtesy Associate Professor and later a Senior Research Professor. His international influence was highlighted by his time as a Visiting Senior Professor at the Federal Universities of



Lavras and Minas Gerais in Brazil, a role he earned through three prestigious Fulbright Scholar awards. His work at research institutions like ManTech and Dynamac, solidified his reputation as a leading aquatic ecologist.

Dr. Hughes was a pivotal force in the American Fisheries Society (AFS), serving in a multitude of leadership roles that had a lasting impact on the organization. He rose through the ranks of the Oregon Chapter AFS, serving as President from 1994 to 1995, and was instrumental in its financial stabilization and the development of its

code of ethics. His leadership extended to the Western Division, where he was President from 2006 to 2007, and to the parent society, where he served as President in 2013-2014. He also served as president of the Water Quality Section and International Fisheries Section and was an active AFS past-president and stalwart of the policy committee. He was a champion of professional ethics, financial sustainability, and the modernization of the Society's communications, pioneering the use of electronic communication and webcasts to broaden the

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IN MEMORIUM—CONT'D

reach of scientific knowledge.

Among his most significant scientific accomplishments was his role in advancing bioassessment methods and the Index of Biological Integrity (IBI), which uses fish and other taxonomic communities to evaluate the health of aquatic ecosystems. He was a key figure in the USEPA's Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP) Field Surveys and was instrumental in the development of sound quantitative approaches in assessing aquatic habitat and ecological integrity. His work with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the USEPA helped shape policy and criteria for water quality in the region and ultimately internationally. Dr. Hughes was a prolific author, with over 180 peer-reviewed publications and 6 edited books. He was a highly sought-after speaker, giving over 90 invited presentations at national and international conferences across the globe. In 2025 alone he had 14 papers in review by the time of his passing.

Dr. Hughes was honored with the Oregon Chapter AFS Fisheries Worker of the Year Award in 2011, the AFS Distinguished Service Award in 2013, the 2017 Oregon Chapter AFS Lifetime Achievement Award and was named an AFS Fellow in 2016. The Society for Freshwater Science (SFS) honored him with the Environmental Stewardship Award in 2006 and he was a member of the inaugural class of SFS fellows in 2017. He was the recipient of two Fulbright Scholarships (2007, 2010) and he received numerous scientific and technological achievement awards from the USEPA throughout his career.

Dr. Hughes will be remembered as a giant in his field—a mentor who inspired countless students and colleagues, a scientist whose work provided a blueprint for environmental protection, and a leader who strengthened the professional community. His profound impact will continue to be felt by those who strive to understand and protect our planet's vital freshwater resources.

For many of us who worked with Bob as a colleague and friend, he was a beacon of principle, was measuredly optimistic for the future, and he was always willing to provide encouragement and advice when sought. Bob took pride in skiing Grand Targhee powder in the winter; kayak fishing in Canada's Georgian Bay and whitewater boating Oregon

rivers; being a world traveler; and a loving husband, father, and grandparent. He was a respected soccer referee on the pitches of Corvallis and he always chose bike over car. Dr. Hughes was an institution in many ways, he will be missed by many, and will continue to influence and inspire work in fisheries.

The following remembrances were provided by colleagues and former students of Bob's:

Chris O. Yoder (Columbus, OH):

I first met Bob when I was with the Ohio EPA in 1983. Ohio was invited to participate in the Stream Regionalization Project (SRP) which was focused on Jim Omernik's early work on ecoregions and the parallel development led by Bob of using biological measures of the aquatic life goals of the Clean Water Act. Besides getting to work with Bob and his colleagues, Phil Larsen and Thom Whittier of the Western Ecology Lab at Corvallis, OR on the SRP, a lifelong friendship developed that endured until his recent passing. I was always impressed with Bob's ability to translate complex scientific principles so that others who were not ecologists could understand the promise of what was the nascent emergence of aquatic biology in CWA standards and policy that was at that time based solely on water chemistry. He was a rarity in being able to translate science to policy, something that the EPA of that day actually discouraged.

The SRP project in Ohio laid the foundation for the eventual adoption of numerical biological criteria in the Ohio water quality standards in 1990 that have endured to the present day. Bob's original concepts about regional reference conditions first published in 1986 and his embrace of Jim Karr's Index of Biotic Integrity were the principal ingredients that are essential for developing regionally relevant biological criteria. Through the 1990s and 2000s, as Bob's attention was increasingly focused on the U.S. EPA EMAP and later NARS programs, he still managed to participate in the implementation of biological criteria and the underlying Biological Condition Gradient (BCG) first put forth by Susan Jackson and Susan Davies in 1996. As the BCG was being presented to the states by EPA, Bob was a voice of reason and wisdom in a process that was at times awash in competing and even contradictory

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ideas. Bob also introduced me to raft electrofishing in 1999 in Oregon, which inspired our own project to survey the non-wadeable rivers of Maine and New England. We emulated the concepts of the fish IBI for the species depauperate, cold water rivers of the Pacific Northwest that was published by Bob and his colleagues in 2003. Bob's ingenuity and rare talents were on full display with this effort as he overcame what many others had concluded was not feasible or even possible.

More recently, Bob was a trusted confidant when the first attempts to undermine CWA implementation emerged at the state level beginning in 2010 and which is still gaining momentum yet today, much of it going virtually unnoticed. We had frequent policy discussions, some of which made it into various publications during the past few years. I was always amazed at his ability to generate quality publications while achieving a high level of collaboration with his co-authors both nationally and internationally. Simply put, Bob's passing leaves a vacuum that will not be easy to fill and he will certainly be missed. While we have lost one of the truly great people in our science, we also lost a dear friend. I take comfort in knowing that we will always have his legacy and example to follow.

Rafaela Schinegger (Vienna, Austria):

I first met Bob in 2006 as a young PhD student, and his mentorship has stayed with me ever since. From him I learned not only the essentials of fish ecology and scientific rigor, but also what it means to make science matter — to root it in relevance, humility, and human connection. Bob embodied international collaboration and generosity of spirit; he guided so many of us, from all corners of the world, with wisdom, clarity, and deep kindness. His influence shaped my thinking and my path, and I carry his lessons with me in my professional but also private life. Bob's legacy lives far beyond his publications — in the people and perspectives he helped shape. I am deeply grateful to have known him.

Hossein Mostafavi (From Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran, Iran):

I met Bob when I was doing my PhD at the University of BOKU in Vienna, Austria. In addition to learning a lot of scientific issues in his class, the comments he made on my PhD thesis were very informative for me as a referee. After that, my scientific collaborations with him continued and I have published some joint articles about Iran with him. I extremely respect him as my mentor like Prof. Dr. Stefan Schmutz. In my opinion, one of his masterpieces was to bring together researchers and scientists from all over the world so that with this network he could serve in relation to protecting and saving the planet. I have learned a lot of moral and scientific things from Bob and God willing, I hope I can be worthy for the planet like him and continue his path. I wish that God blesses him and may his soul rest in eternal peace. Such people will never be forgotten and will always be in our minds and memories. Getting to know him has been one of the unforgettable honors of my life.

Mahdi BadriFariman (From Birjand University, Birjand, Iran):

I have known Dr. Prof. Robert (Bob) since 2021 through my doctoral advisor, Dr. Hossein Mostafavi. From the beginning, I found Bob to be both inspiring and compassionate. He was deeply committed to supporting and mentoring those in pursuit of knowledge and growth. His generosity and kindness transcended geographical borders and the political world. What struck me most was how someone of such high academic and social standing would willingly dedicate his time and energy to assist a student in Iran whom he had never met. It has truly been an honor to know him. In the brief time I had the privilege of interacting with him, I saw that he genuinely believed researchers across the globe are part of one unified community. I have lost a highly respected individual in Bob, and I believe the world—especially in our time—needs more people like him. I am profoundly thankful for the chance to have known him, and I wish him eternal peace.

Robert L. Vadas, Jr. (WDFAS collaborator):

Here are six online products that I collaborated with Bob Hughes for, 1st joining his special sessions at the Portland and Reno meetings for

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IN MEMORIUM—CONT'D

AFS (afs.confex.com/afs/2015/webprogram/Session3503.html & <https://afs.confex.com/afs/2019/meetingapp.cgi/Session/7980>), then joining his RPECC work in late 2020 (<https://wdafs.org/about-us/committees/resource-policy-and-environmental-concerns-committee>), then successfully nominating Bob for this AFS award (<https://fisheries.org/2022/09/robert-hughes-receives-the-award-of-excellence-from-the-american-fisheries-society>), then both of us winning this WDAFS award for our Snake River dam work (<https://unitslargefs.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/virtuallearn/wp-content/uploads/filebase/archive/newsletters/2023/Vol47No2.pdf>), and finally inviting him to join me as guest editor for this special issue on aquatic biomonitoring (https://www.mdpi.com/journal/fishes/special_issues/NP2H4ZZFBF), for which he solicited many of the papers. So I've known Bob for a decade. He "discovered" me as a good, but under-recognized and neurodivergent, scientist to advance my career. I'll miss him greatly, as he was also my good friend.

Lizhu Wang (Michigan, USA):

Bob is a prominent figure in the field of aquatic landscape ecology and environmental assessment, known for his pioneering work in river ecology, biomonitoring, and the development of rigorous ecological indicators for freshwater systems. His career has been marked by a dedication to improving the scientific basis for water resource management, with particular emphasis on the condition and integrity of aquatic ecosystems. The most obvious contribution of Bob on the topics is the two symposium volumes that I have worked with him – "Landscape Influences on Stream Habitats and Biological Assemblages" (2006) and "Advances in Understanding Landscape Influences on Freshwater Habitats and Biological Assemblages" (2019). These two volumes provided timely needs to facilitate communication and knowledge sharing among researchers, resource managers, and policy makers. Additionally, Bob has written many articles that have advanced the understanding of how land use/cover influences the structure and function of aquatic ecosystems, particularly streams and rivers. Bob has played a central role in developing and refining biological indicators used to assess water quality and ecosystem health. Bob has mentored many students and professionals in the field and served on nu-

merous scientific panels and advisory boards, contributing to environmental policy and conservation efforts globally. Overall, Bob's work has significantly shaped how scientists and environmental managers understand, assess, and protect freshwater ecosystems at multiple spatial scales. His passing away is a significant loss to the scientist community in this field and he will be deeply missed.

Kai Chen (Nanjing, China):

Bob was more than just an advisor to me — he was a life mentor and a dear friend. I first met Bob in 2010 when I was a master student. I often felt uncertain as I began my scientific career, but Bob constantly encouraged me to think big and act boldly. He helped bring me as a visiting student to the United States, supported me throughout my academic journey, and shared so much wisdom from his life experiences. Over the past decade and a half, we worked closely together on manuscripts and projects focused on riverine bioassessment and stream ecology in China. Bob also collaborated extensively with colleagues across China and made significant contributions to the fields of aquatic bioassessment, freshwater ecology, and the conservation of aquatic ecosystems in the country. He was full of enthusiasm for life, fish, rivers, and nature. Bob was a remarkable person who brought out the best in everyone around him, and I feel incredibly fortunate to have had his friendship and mentorship. I will always remember his wisdom, his humor, and his unwavering commitment to both people and the planet.

Dana Infante (East Lansing, MI):

I met Bob in person when I was a PhD student presenting at an American Fisheries Society (AFS) meeting in Madison, Wisconsin. I knew who Bob was from the beginning of my graduate program, reading and learning from his many papers describing landscape influences on stream fish, aquatic insects, and habitat. I was excited to have a conversation with Bob after my presentation. He offered thoughtful criticisms, but he was supportive of my project. That meant so much at the time, and Bob continued his encouragement and mentorship through my

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career. He linked me into networks of colleagues studying impacts of mining, reduced protection for headwater streams, and different approaches for bio-assessment, enriching my own research but also benefitting post docs, graduate students, and researchers working in my lab. Bob was a brilliant thinker, a prolific writer, and an advocate (especially in recent years), but his skill as a connector served to amplify the impact of his science while also benefiting me and so many others. I think that to work like Bob – building teams of colleagues from around the world with different backgrounds and skill levels – requires an appreciation for people and friendships as well as a genuine sense of caring for others. That was a strength of Bob's that I'll miss most.

Christine Moffitt, AFS Past President 1999-2000:

I had the privilege to work with Bob over many years, particularly in the past 2 decades, most of which within the American Fisheries Society at the leadership level, and in the water quality and international sections through policy work. In the past decade I actively engaged with Bob in the Oregon Chapter policy work. I learned of the incredible influence Bob had on science generated in Oregon and transmitted across the globe. His contributions are many, and each with focus on relevant metrics that can be used to measure and understand aquatic systems, the biota and physical attributes of water quality. His partnership with others stands as a key attribute of his legacy. He authored more than 150 publications, with most if not all of these with coauthors. These scientific interactions and efforts in collaborative learning and analysis stand as the outstanding contribution and are key to his recognizing his influence.

His personal depth of understanding of freshwater ecosystems was extraordinary, and through partnerships with key scientists Bob drafting key guidance documents for EPA survey work of non-fish bearing and fish bearing systems. These standardized guidance documents are incredibly thorough and important to standardize metrics, and data collection. These were efforts not only across the country but extended into impressive collaborations with international partners. Data were incredibly important to Bob. Not only in his science but in interactions with our professional society. He asked for economic data, and helped others understand the challenges to the economic viability of American Fisheries Society. He

asked questions, and often was considered abrasive in his asks, but the genuine care and concern for data driven analysis was key to his understanding all systems, biological or economics of professional society organizations.

Bob's passion for science and sharing science was unstoppable. He worked with his national and international colleagues to help them in many ways through mentoring individual scientists and students and helped connect them to key partners internationally. He was unique, a great leader and a close friend and colleague.

Submitted by –
Tony Siniscal
Troy Brandt
Chris O. Yoder
Hal A. Beecher
Rafaela Schinegger
Hossein Mostafavi
Mahdi BadriFariman
Robert L. Vadas, Jr.
Kai Chen
Dana Infante
Christine Moffitt
Susan A. R. Colvin

Joint AFS Western Division & ORAFS 62nd Annual Meeting

HOLIDAY INN PORTLAND – COLUMBIA RIVERFRONT
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



Joint AFS Western Division & ORAFS 62nd Annual Meeting

HOLIDAY INN PORTLAND – COLUMBIA RIVERFRONT
MAY 4 – 7, 2026

Call for Proposals – Symposia and Continuing Education Workshops

Deadline: 11/30/2025 Submit Proposals [Here](#)

The AFS Western Division and the Oregon Chapter are excited to host a joint annual meeting in Portland, Oregon, from May 4 to 7, 2026.

The theme of the meeting is **“The Power of Perspective.”** The field of fisheries is a web of connections among humans, fish, and aquatic habitats, and no matter how you participate, you have a point of view. That view is shaped by the species and habitats you study, where you work, who you work with, your career stage, your personal background, and so much more. As we face unprecedented ecological, social, political, and economic stresses on our profession, how do we harness the power of our unique perspectives to move the field forward? What relationships can we learn from, what knowledge can we provide, and what technologies have the potential to be transformative in building resilience, relevance, and respect in fisheries? For their 2026 joint annual meeting, the Oregon Chapter and Western Division AFS invite you to share your work and your perspective, because it matters.

The Portland Program Committee invites proposals for symposia, workshops or continuing education courses that support the meeting theme or advance the fisheries profession. Submitters should prepare a descriptive title and an explanatory abstract of up to 300 words. Those with questions should contact the Program Chairs, Kelcee Smith (presidentelect@orafs.org) and Amber Steed (president-elect@wdafs.org).

Symposium Proposals

An organized symposium will contain a series of integrated presentations organized around a single topic or theme. These sessions provide a forum for focused discussions on new and emerging topics or innovative applications of established approaches. Although not required, symposia proposals are encouraged to address the meeting theme. Proposals should explain if sessions will include panel discussions, speed presentations, or other interactive aspects. Sessions can be half day or full day. Organizers planning a multi-day symposium should explain under Special Needs or Accommodations.

Workshop/Continuing Education Course Proposals

Pre-conference workshops and continuing education courses will be offered onsite as half-day or full-day sessions on May 4th, 2026. Courses should be designed to offer in-depth professional development to students, professionals, or specific audiences.

Please Submit Symposia, Innovative Sessions, and Continuing Education/Workshop Proposals [Here](#)
Before November 30th, 2025!



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



*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 Amy Unthank at externaldirector@orafs.org.

ORAFS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS!

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

- ◆ **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, \$2,000)

*Applications for above due to Jen Bayer at (scholarships@orafs.org) by 12/31/2025.

- ◆ **Albert G. Lassuy Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Scholarship** (undergrad students, \$2000): To promote the education and development of future fisheries professionals who are from marginalized communities or are commonly under-represented in the fisheries field.

*Applications for above due to Amy Unthank (externaldirector@orafs.org) by 1/31/2026.

For more information on these scholarships as well as information on other exciting Scholarship and Award opportunities for students, please visit: <http://orafs.org/student-scholarships/>

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

How do I become a Student Member of AFS? Go to www.fisheries.org and apply online. Be sure to check the Oregon Chapter box (\$40 total cost for combined annual and chapter membership).

FIRST CALL FOR OR AFS AWARD NOMINATIONS

CELEBRATE A COLLEAGUE TODAY!

You know who these people are...the hardworking peer, the inspirational mentor, the energetic teacher, the partner from another agency, the private landowner who worked so hard to do that great habitat work, or the team who overcame great obstacles to accomplish something unique. Now is a great time to start putting your thoughts on paper so you will have plenty of time to refine your nomination before the due date of **January 31st, 2026**.

For all awards except Broken Oar, you should indicate how the nominee's efforts are above and beyond their regular job. All awards are discretionary - none are required to be given each year.

To submit a nomination, please submit a completed nomination form [online](#) or [via email](#) to Awards Chairs Brian Bangs at Brian_Bangs@fws.gov or Dylan O'Keefe at Dylan.J.OKEEFE@odfw.oregon.gov.

Descriptions of the criteria of each award are listed below.

Lifetime Achievement Award

For those people who go above and beyond year after year. This highly prestigious award should go to an individual who has made a substantial lifetime contribution to fisheries. Substantial lifetime contributions to the American Fisheries Society and/or Oregon Chapter are also recommended. This individual should have actively participated in other conservation, professional, or social organizations that promote sound fisheries and resource management practices. They must be a member of the AFS Parent Society as well as the Oregon Chapter. This award will be presented to a maximum of one person per year.

Fishery Worker of the Year

This is one of the Chapter's highest individual awards for fisheries professionals. Nominees must be AFS members in good standing who are responsible for substantial single or sustained accomplishments above and beyond their regular job, often spanning many years. Nominations should indicate how efforts are related to the goals of guiding and influencing sound resource practices.

Fishery Team of the Year

This award recognizes outstanding teams that merit acknowledgement for excellent work beyond an Award of Merit. The stringent award criteria are similar to the Fishery Worker of the Year, but for team efforts. This award recognizes the collaborative efforts to understand and manage fisheries resources, and that these efforts frequently cross geographic, disciplinary, and socioeconomic boundaries. At least one nominee of the team must be an AFS member in good standing. The team or group must have been re-

sponsible for substantial single or sustained accomplishments. Each member of the team nominated must have produced a substantial portion of the work. Nominations should indicate how they are related to the goals of guiding or influencing sound resource practices. To demonstrate equivalent contributions, describe substantive contributions of each member of the team.

Award of Merit

This award recognizes individuals, groups, or organizations that have made special contributions, above and beyond normal job requirements, to fisheries science, or the American Fisheries Society over one or more years. Successful nominees display evidence of creativity, cooperation, and results. Nominees do not need to be AFS members.

Bill Wingfield Memorial Award in Fish Culture

Nominees should be **individuals or groups** that have contributed significantly to advancing fish culture (including fish health) in Oregon. AFS members or non-members may be nominated.

Broken Oar Award

Everyone's favorite award, and just for fun, the Broken Oar Award is presented for "outstanding display of field technique and coordination." No doubt you already have some nominees in mind from this year's field season! AFS members or non-members may be nominated.

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS January 31, 2026.



WANT TO GIVE BACK AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

IT'S TIME TO STEP UP AND VOLUNTEER TO BE PART OF THE 2026-2027 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ORAFS is an award winning, example setting, and overall fantastic Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Serving on the ORAFS ExCom is a great way to give back to the Chapter that gives so much to the fisheries profession. Everyone who has participated in ORAFS activities benefits. Stepping up and serving on the ExCom is not only a meaningful way to give back to Chapter, it also is a great resume booster, highlighting your leadership and dedication to the profession. Not to mention the connections you make by being part of a diverse team and enjoyable group of natural resource professionals.

Descriptions for the positions open to election for the 2026-2027 term are:

- **President-elect:** Serves 1 year each as **President-elect** (manage annual meeting), **President** (manage ExCom and lead Chapter activities), and **Past President** (provide mentorship and promote consistency with ExCom and Chapter activities).
- **Vice President:** Responsible for resolutions and bylaws, student coordination, and overseeing the raffle-auction for the annual meeting.
- **Internal Director:** Manage the internal committees and coordinates logistical elements of the annual meeting.
- **External Director:** Manage and motivate external committees including the development of work plans and budgets.
- **Secretary:** Keep the official records of the Chapter. Responsible for meeting minutes, annual meeting registration management, and maintaining accurate membership information.
- **Treasurer:** Responsible for maintaining the Chapter's finances, overseeing annual meeting registration, and managing all financial transactions.

Terms are 1 year for most officers, 2 years for treasurer, and 3 years for president-elect.

If you are interested in a position, want to nominate someone for a position, or want to discuss options, contact Michele Weaver at pastpresident@orafs.org. Nominations are due **Friday, December 19, 2025**. For detailed information on positions and duties, see the Chapter's [Administrative Handbook](#). Now is the time to be part of the legacy!

1980 ExCom: Pat Keeley (Secretary-Treasurer), Jim Graybill (External Director), Kay Brown (Vice-President), Gary Chapman (Internal Director), Art Oakley (President), Jim Fessler (President Elect), Fred Everest (Past President)



2024 ExCom: Alex Harrison (External Director), Chris Hirsch (Past President), Emma Schaffers (MHCC Student Rep), Gary Vonderohe (President), Michele Weaver (President Elect), Joe Lemanski (Internal Director), Kate Self (Vice President), Tjaden Archer (OSU Student Rep), Jorden Smith (Treasurer), Sarah Abbott (Secretary)

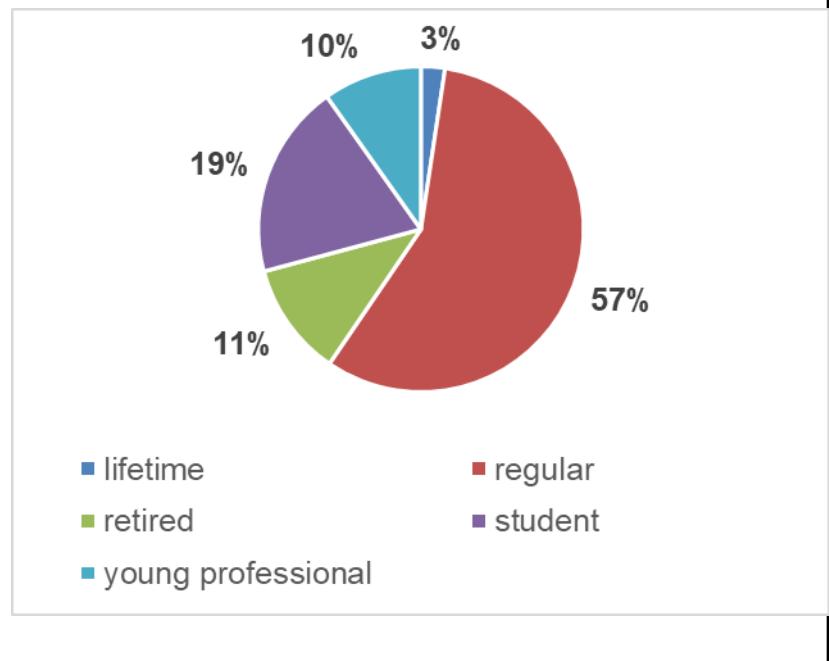
MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

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 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. Members have other benefits such as access to travel awards through the Western Division, access to AFS journals, and reduced registration fees. Please be sure to check your membership status to ensure you qualify for the reduced rates associated with membership categories other than "Regular member". Also before registering for the Annual Meeting, be sure to join and save on the registration fees.

As of September 2025, ORAFS membership included 336 members with a membership breakout included in the adjacent figure. ORAFS members hail from 16 states and provinces! If you have any questions about membership or ideas on how to reach more fisheries professionals, please contact [Katie Woodside](mailto:Katie.Woodside@orafs.org).



Katie Woodside, Secretary
Secretary@orafs.org



Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society membership breakout. As of September 2025, there were 336 members, of which were made up of 57% regular members, 19% students, 10% early career professionals, 11% retired, and 3% lifetime members.

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 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) 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. **Submission deadlines** for news items are: October 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.

**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: Karah Roof, vicepresident@orafs.org

Secretary: Katie Woodside,
secretary@orafs.org

Treasurer: Jorden Smith, treasurer@orafs.org

External Director: Amy Unthank,
externaldirector@orafs.org

Internal Director: Gina Maag-Klobas,
internaldirector@orafs.org

OSU Student Rep: Adel Bordas,
osustudentrep@orafs.org

MHCC Student Rep: Bianca Wiens,
mhcc.orafs.subunit@gmail.com

EXTERNAL COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Climate Adaptation: Vacant

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Guillermo Giannico,
giannico@oregonstate.edu and Nilanjana Das,
dasni@oregonstate.edu

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: Natalie Odonato,
donatona@oregonstate.edu and
Eric Anderson, Eric.s.anderson@odfw.oregon.gov

Native Fish: Brian Bangs,
Brian_Bangs@fws.gov

Natural Production: Ian Tattam,
ian.A.Tattam@odfw.oregon.gov

Social Media: Vacant

INTERNAL COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Awards: Brian Bangs, Brian_Bangs@fws.gov and Dylan O'Keefe, dylan.j.okeefe@odfw.oregon.gov

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

Scholarships: Jen Bayer, scholarships@orafs.org

Resolutions and Bylaws: Karah Roof,
vicepresident@orafs.org

AFS / TWS Liaison: Derek Broman,
derek.j.broman@odfw.oregon.gov

EXTERNAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL

Webmaster: Ashley Sanders,
webmaster@orafs.org

INTERNAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL

Historian: Mike Gauvin,
michael.w.gauvin@odfw.oregon.gov

Newsletter Editor: Stacy Strickland,
541-325-5343; stacy.a.strickland@odfw.oregon.gov

Additional contact information for all officers, committee chairs, and support personnel are available at: <https://orafs.org> under "About".

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.

