

2nd International Marine Conservation Congress

The official Congress website will be up soon, through which submissions can be made.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR SYMPOSIA, WORKSHOPS, AND FOCUS GROUPS

The 2nd International Marine Conservation Congress, *Making Marine Science Matter*, will be held from 14-18 May 2011 at the Victoria Convention Centre, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

All proposals must be submitted online by 5pm (GMT) on 31 August 2010. Decisions will be made by 30 September. Complete instructions for submitting proposals are available at the meeting Web site, www.conbio.org/IMCC2011. The selection process is highly competitive. Please read and follow the information below carefully.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

We encourage proposals from individuals or groups involved in cutting edge marine conservation science or practice that can demonstrate an alignment with the themes of the Congress, which are:

- Innovative techniques and technology for marine conservation
- The human dimension of marine conservation
- International treaties and marine conservation
- The changing Arctic
- Marine conservation awareness and outreach
- Climate change and the oceans
- Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture
- Conservation at the land/sea interface
- Marine Protected Area effectiveness and Marine Spatial Planning

Limits on number of presentations per presenter: Individuals may not be first author on more than one proposal, and, as a general rule, no individual may physically give more than one presentation in the following categories: symposium, contributed paper, contributed poster.

Reviews

Reviewers have access to all information contained in the proposal. Proposals will be blind reviewed by at least two reviewers. To increase the probability that your proposal will be selected for presentation, please consider the following criteria carefully:

- Relevance to the meeting themes

- Application to marine conservation / Clear connection to conservation science, policy, management, practice
- Financial support for speaker attendance at the meeting (external support or self-funded participants)
- Novelty of the topic (i.e., not covered at the previous IMCC or other meetings)
- Cutting-edge / emerging issue

MOST IMPORTANTLY – proposals should clearly denote the proposed output for the focus group or symposium (e.g., whether it is a published action plan, workshop report, white paper, proposal, journal article/ special collection of articles). Focus groups and symposium organizers will be requested to commit to producing a tangible output and will not be approved without such commitment. Moreover, focus group/symposium organizers will likewise commit to keeping the IMCC2 program committee informed of publications or actions arising from their focus group or symposium.

When reviewing the focus group and symposium proposals, preference will be given to proposals that fit within the IMCC2 themes; that involve real-world application; that deal with hot-topics in conservation science; which involve cutting-edge techniques or methods; and, most importantly, that will have tangible and actionable outputs.

Author registration rule: All organizers of accepted proposals and their invited speakers and attendees must register and be paid in full by the early deadline of 1 February 2011. Authors failing to comply with this rule will not be included in the Congress.

Financial support: It is the responsibility of organizers of symposia, workshops, and discussion groups to obtain funding for their own expenses and those of their invited speakers or invited participants. SCB and the Local Organizing Committee are not responsible for obtaining funds to support speaker travel to the meeting and cannot guarantee that any support will be available. Preference may be given to proposals for which organizers can demonstrate that funds are likely to be available.

CHOOSING THE CATEGORY OF YOUR PROPOSAL

Please think carefully about the category that best meets your goals. Your proposal will only be considered for the category you choose. If your proposal is accepted, all symposium speakers will be required to submit an abstract during the call for abstracts; please coordinate with your authors, according to the call for abstracts deadlines. Instructions on how to submit will be provided in the notice of acceptance of your symposium proposal. It is the responsibility of the symposium organizer to make sure that all speakers submit their abstract and register according to the author registration rule.

Symposia present information to an audience, with opportunity for interaction. Symposia will be scheduled during the primary days of the meeting (main scientific program). Symposia will be 2 hours in length with the last 15 minutes left open for discussion.

Workshops, whether geared toward students or professionals, are more interactive than symposia and often have an educational / technical component. There will be two types of workshops – short workshops during the Congress itself during lunchtimes. Workshops held during lunch will be 1.5 hours in length.

Longer workshops will be held before the Congress at the University of Victoria. Workshops held before the scientific program can be on any length, up to 8 hours. These times have been allocated to minimize conflict with symposia and contributed paper sessions. Workshops can be held for up to 2 consecutive days.

Focus Groups will bring together people with diverse expertise to develop tangible and actionable outputs, such as a list of recommendations, publication, policy briefing or white paper, on a specific marine conservation issue. Focus groups can be held for up to 2 consecutive days for 2 hours or longer in duration. To minimize conflict with symposia and contributed paper sessions, focus groups of greater than 2 hours (max. 8 hours) will be scheduled before the main scientific program begins; Focus groups of 2 hours in duration will be scheduled during dedicated time periods that do not conflict with symposia and contributed paper sessions. Focus groups typically have a smaller number of participants (10-30 maximum) than workshops.

SYMPOSIUM PROPOSALS

Symposia will be two hours in length. Presentation length must be 15 minutes (12 minutes for presentation and 3 minutes for questions) so that the timing of symposium presentations can be coordinated with contributed paper sessions. Time for discussion must be included in each presentation and the last 15 minutes of the symposium must be left open for discussion, therefore the maximum number of speakers is seven.

Proposals must be submitted online (see link at end) and must contain the following information:

1. Symposium title (limit to 150 characters incl. spaces).
2. Description and justification (why the topic is appropriate and significant for *Making Marine Science Matter*)
3. Appropriate Congress theme(s)
4. Session organizers
5. Expected outcomes and plans for communication of results
6. Tentative list of participants
7. Whether any necessary funding for organizer and speaker expenses has been secured (for example, are funds available for speaker travel?)
8. A tentative list of speakers, presentation titles, and whether each speaker has agreed to participate
9. Organizer(s) name, affiliation, and complete contact information, including email address
10. Expected attendance (this will be used to allocate a suitable sized room).

WORKSHOP PROPOSAL

Workshops will be scheduled before the main scientific program begins (13-14 May 2011) or during lunch breaks. Lunch break workshops will be limited and competitive. Workshops can be held for up to two consecutive days. Workshops before the main scientific program might incur some costs. Please contact the conference chair for further details (imcc2chair@gmail.com).

Proposals must be submitted online (see link at end) and must contain the following information:

1. Workshop title
2. Description and justification (why the topic is appropriate and significant for *Making Marine Science Matter*)
3. Appropriate Congress theme(s)
4. Session organizers
5. Length, number of days, and preferred position in program (pre-meeting or lunch). Pre-meeting workshops may be proposed for a maximum of eight hours. Lunch sessions may be a proposed for a maximum of 1.5 hours.
6. Maximum number of participants that can be accommodated/ Expected attendance (this will be used to allocate a suitable sized room).
7. Format of workshop and any special logistic requirements (e.g., a room with internet access, information on catering for lunch-time workshops)
8. Tentative list of speakers
9. Method of selecting attendees (invited, open registration, or a combination).
10. Whether any necessary funding for organizer and speaker expenses has been secured (for example, are funds available for speaker travel?)

FOCUS GROUP PROPOSAL

Focus groups can be scheduled during or before the scientific meeting, depending on length. Focus groups before the main scientific program might incur some costs. Please contact the conference chair for further details (imcc2chair@gmail.com).

1. Focus group title
2. Description and justification (why the topic is appropriate and significant for *Making Marine Science Matter*)
3. Session organizers
4. Length, number of days, and preferred position in program (pre-meeting or meeting). Pre-meeting focus groups may be proposed for a maximum of eight hours. Lunch sessions may be a proposed for a maximum of 2 hours.
5. Maximum number of participants that can be accommodated/ Expected attendance (this will be used to allocate a suitable sized room).

6. Expected outcomes and plans for communication of results
7. Format of focus group and any special logistic requirements (e.g., a room with internet access)
8. Tentative list of speakers
9. Method of selecting attendees (invited, open registration, or a combination). If any attendees will be invited, include a tentative list of individuals and indicate whether each has agreed to participate.
10. Whether any necessary funding for organizer and speaker expenses has been secured (for example, are funds available for speaker travel?)