



71st Tuna Conference

Lake Arrowhead, California

May 18-21, 2020

First Announcement

October 29, 2019

You are cordially invited to the 71st Tuna Conference (<http://www.tunaconference.org/>) at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Lake Arrowhead Conference Center (<http://uclaconferencecenter.com/>), Monday through Thursday, **May 18-21, 2020**. Please share this announcement with any other interested parties.

The annual Tuna Conference is sponsored by the NOAA Fisheries and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, and it attracts an international community of scientists and participants interested in research on tunas and tuna-like species and their associated fisheries and ecosystems. The Tuna Conference provides an informal forum for the presentation of ongoing research and developing theories, and unique opportunities for stimulating exchanges of views and opinions.

The theme for this year's Tuna Conference will be **"Using new technologies to update and validate life history studies: The times they are a changin'."** Technologies, fisheries, and marine environments are constantly undergoing change. Subtle changes in life history characteristics and data collection methods can have large impacts on stock assessments that are reliant on accurate and current data. In addition, the dynamics of our marine environments are under constant change from both anthropogenic and natural influences. Despite living in an ever-changing world, many important fisheries management institutions rely on biological or genetic information that may be outdated because they do not account for recent changes or rely on older methods that can now be validated, and/or require time-intensive data collection methods that could benefit from application of improved technologies. Validation of basic life history parameters is important if we strive to provide and produce sound, undeniable, and unbiased science that is incorporated into stock assessment and management decisions. This conference will explore the application of new methods and technologies to collect, update, and validate biological and genetic information on large pelagics who now live in an ever-changing marine environment.

For the 2020 Tuna Conference presentations are invited that address key challenges faced by researchers, managers and policy makers with regards to the conservation and management of large pelagic animals and their supporting ecosystems. However, as always, we welcome presentations on tuna and tuna-like species whether they conform to the theme or not.

Presentations and Posters

Oral presentations are allotted around 15 minutes and 5 minutes for questions and discussion depending on the number of talks being presented. Audio-visual equipment such as projectors, DVD players, and laptops will be available for participants making oral presentations. We will also offer an author-attended poster session, providing a less-structured opportunity for attendees to interact with their colleagues on topics of mutual interest.

Guidelines for the required one-page, single-spaced abstract are also enclosed. The abstracts must be received by **February 26, 2020** with your complete registration form and full payment.

Scholarships and Awards

The Tuna Conference provides several scholarships in support of students delivering an oral presentation. Only one abstract per student can be submitted for all available scholarships; students are not permitted to receive multiple scholarships. **Current staff and students of Tuna Conference sponsors are ineligible to apply, pursuant to Article IV, Section 11 of the “Tuna Conference Articles of Organization.” Students who have previously won scholarships are eligible to apply in subsequent years, provided that a different research topic is being presented.** A limited number of scholarships are available, and applicants must be currently enrolled in an accredited university in order to qualify. Students seeking consideration for any scholarship must read and complete the Student Scholarship Information and Application Form(s).

The application deadline for a student scholarship is **February 4, 2020**. Students who apply for a scholarship will be allowed to register no later than one week after notification of awards. Please do not send any payment with your scholarship application. Any required fees will be billed at a later date.

At present, we are pleased to announce the availability of the following three scholarships and awards for the 71st Tuna Conference, with the possibility of further scholarships being offered in the second conference announcement:

- Tuna Conference Scholarship (**student only**).
- Manuel Caboz Memorial Scholarship (**student only**).
- The Wildlife Computers Scholarship (**student only**) was established to encourage students in their research efforts, promote good science, and provide an opportunity for students to share their research within the community. Wildlife Computers (<http://www.wildlifecomputers.com/>) produces tags for many diverse species, with a broad range of shapes and technologies that meet most research needs, while maintaining data consistency, as well as custom made designs. The Wildlife Computers Scholarship is awarded preferably to a student that will present the results of research that made use of electronic tagging technology.

Registration

The enclosed registration form and **full payment** (except for students applying for scholarships) must be returned by **February 26, 2020** in order to secure your room. All meals are included in the room rates. Buffets with a variety of selections are available for breakfast and lunch, and a four-course meal is served for dinner. It is recommended that reservations be made as soon as possible as the number of rooms available will be based upon responses received by **February 26, 2020**. Reservations may be transmitted using any of the following options:

- Fax to (858) 546-5652
- Email to info@tunaconference.org or
- Mail to Southwest Fisheries Science Center, NOAA/NMFS
71st Tuna Conference
Attn: Stephanie Flores
8901 La Jolla Shores Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037-1509

Payments may be made as follows (in US dollars):

- Check/Money Order: Made payable through a US Bank to the **Tuna Conference**
- Credit Card through Paypal: go to <https://www.tunaconference.org/current-information> – look for the document titled “Credit Card Reference Sheet” for fees. (note service fees are included in the amounts given) and push “**Buy Now**” button on the same page to pay thru Paypal.
- Wire transfer: please contact us directly and we will send instruction
- Government Purchase Order for NMFS employees only

Please note that **full payment** is **non-refundable**, due to contractual obligations assumed by the Tuna Conference with the Lake Arrowhead Conference Center.

Rooms

There are two main options for lodging: shared or private rooms. The **shared rooms** are in a two-story cabins with shared living room area and a wood-burning fireplace. All rooms have private baths and queen size beds. The upstairs room is a loft opens to the living room and the downstairs “room” is a bed as part of the living room. The **private rooms** offer a queen size bed with a private bath. Please note there are a very limited number of private rooms available and these will be offered on a first-come, first-serve basis. We encourage the students to choose shared rooms, for more opportunities to connect! There are also a few other limited options for rooms see registration form for pricing, if interested.

Shuttle

A round-trip shuttle service will be available to those attending all four days of the conference. The shuttle leaves from SWFSC/IATTC facility in La Jolla on **Monday, May 18th, at 9:00 a.m. sharp** and will return from Lake Arrowhead on **Thursday, May 21st**, arriving back in La Jolla around 6:00 p.m. This service is chartered by a private company and pricing will depend on the number of participants riding the shuttle; the more people that ride the shuttle, the cheaper the cost. We estimate the cost per person will range from \$30 to \$175 (round-trip ride, taxes and tip). A required **non-refundable** deposit of \$30 will be collected on or before **February 26, 2020**. Please note your interest in riding the shuttle on your registration form; and provide the deposit to your full payment to reserve your spot. The remaining balance will be due at the time of arrival on **May 18, 2020** during check-in.

General Notes:

1. The Conference will begin on Monday, May 18th, with the first session starting at 1:00 p.m.
2. You may not check into your room until Monday at 4:00 p.m. (no early ‘check-in’) – this is Conference Center management policy. Please **do not** bring any pets (unless it is a service animal).
3. **No** smoking is allowed anywhere within the UCLA Conference facilities.
4. Conference registration will be open starting at 11 a.m. on Monday in the Library. Conference registration will also be available throughout the week for late-arriving individuals in the same location.
5. Long-distance travelers should plan to book accommodations in La Jolla/San Diego or surroundings for Sunday night and ride the shuttle (or drive) to the Conference on Monday, arriving in time for the first session that begins at 1:00 p.m. Those wishing to spend additional nights at Lake Arrowhead either before or after the Conference, must arrange accommodations independently or can work with the Tuna Conference Coordinator.
6. The Conference will finish at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 21st, after lunch, which will be served at 12:00 p.m.
7. Individuals who choose to attend any Conference-related event, but do not wish to stay overnight at the Conference Center itself, will be charged **\$165 per full day** (referred to as a ‘Commuter Attendee’ guest charge). This daily charge includes all meals served that day (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) and the use of facilities and services – this is Conference Center management policy. Please note that Commuter Attendance may not be available, depending on the overall level of bookings at the Conference Center. Keep in mind that ‘commuters’ must also pay the one-time Conference registration fee of \$100.
8. Whether you attend or not - please return the registration form or notify us if you wish to update your current information. Please include your e-mail address and/or fax number as we would like to send you information about future Tuna Conferences. Also, information is always available on our website www.tunaconference.org

IMPORTANT DATES

February 4, 2020 – Student scholarship application and required documentation are due.

February 26, 2020 – **Non-refundable** Full payment, registration form, abstract, and shuttle **non-refundable** deposit are due.

Owyn Snodgrass, Chair of the 71st Tuna Conference

Stephanie Flores, Tuna Conference Coordinator

Southwest Fisheries Science Center, NOAA/NMFS

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Visit the Tuna Conference's home page at: www.tunaconference.org