WHALES &US
THE NEXT GENERATION
AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY
16th International Conference
Newport Beach, California – November 2-4, 2018
Hyatt Regency Newport Beach

Call for Poster Abstracts

Poster Session and Student Research Presentation Session Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in the Poster Presentation Session at the 16th International Conference of the American Cetacean Society (ACS). Please read this sheet for session information, poster design and construction guidelines.

The poster session will showcase posters from those participating in the student poster contest as well as others as detailed below:

1. **Poster Presentation Session Display** - This session will showcase a variety of programs and projects based out of educational institutions, agencies, and non-profit organizations. It is intended to encourage discussion and facilitate the exchange of current information pertaining to cetacean research, conservation, policy, and education.

2. **Student Poster Contest** - We invite graduate and undergraduate students to present their work in the ACS Conference Student Contest. The contest is for poster presenters, with a $250 First-Place prize for the top presenter, a $150 Second-Place prize, and a $100 Third-Place prize. First-, second- and third-place winners will be recognized at the conference Sunday morning and will be featured in an upcoming issue of the ACS Spyhopper newsletter.

A small team of scientists that will be attending the conference will visit and judge each poster to determine the winners. The student contest provides an opportunity for students at universities and institutions to gain presentation experience in a professional environment, and provides a forum in which existing professionals may meet their rising peers. Abstract submissions will be accepted from current undergraduate or graduate students, student interns, and recently graduated students (within the past year) who conducted their work prior to graduation. Student authors must be from accredited institutions of higher education.

Please submit your poster abstract electronically as described in these guidelines by **August 5th, 2018** for entry consideration. Entries will be judged on the quality of the research, presentation, and responses to questions asked by judges. All presenters will receive feedback from the judges after the conference.

SESSION INFORMATION

Poster Session Time and Location
Poster presentations will be displayed for the duration of the conference. A designated poster session will be held the evening of Saturday, November 3rd in the designated space. Poster presenters should be stationed by their exhibits throughout the entire poster session.

Set-Up Times
Easels and foam mounting board will be provided for poster set-up and display. Poster authors will erect their displays prior to the beginning of the session. Posters may be set up at either of the following times:

- Friday, November 2nd between 1:00 and 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, November 3rd between 7:00 and 8:00 a.m.

Take-Down Time
Posters should be removed from the designated space no later than 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 4th.
Posters remaining unclaimed after this time will be discarded.

Please note that requests for A/V or electrical power cannot be accommodated for the poster session.

POSTER DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION GUIDELINES

These guidelines are provided to assist you with the design and production of your poster presentation. Poster size restrictions are mandatory; however, all other guidelines listed below are suggestions rather than mandatory restrictions.

Content
Posters are intended to showcase a single program, project, or scientific paper in a graphic format. The best posters usually make up to three main points comprising the "take-home" message you want to get across. Clarity and brevity are paramount. Save details for handouts or oral discussion. Clear scientific communication should be used for poster content.

Components

- Abstract title, author name(s), and author affiliation(s) should appear at the top of the poster.
- Title - Choose a sans-serif, easy-to-read typeface, 1" minimum. in height.
- Headings - Use bold-faced lettering, about ½" high.
- Text - Use at least 18-point type for all paragraph text. Keep paragraph length and complex sentences to an absolute minimum.
- Graphics - Photos, diagrams, plans, sketches, or charts with limited explanatory text can be used. Make sure all graphics can be clearly viewed from 3-6 feet away.

Design:

- Posters must be no larger than 36" high by 48" wide.
- Plan the layout of your components carefully, considering both the flow of information as well as the visual balance of graphics, text and blank space.
- Color can be used effectively to add interest and to lead the viewer's eye through the organization of your poster. Color can be added in the backing, in colored pictures, or as multi-colored graphs/diagrams.

Additional Presentation Materials

You are welcome to display materials such as business cards, printed abstracts, or research reports. If you are planning on distributing such materials, please bear in mind that conference registration ranges from 250 to 350 attendees.

Supplies

We can provide a display board, easel, and fasteners for mounting your poster. Display boards will likely be 30" x 40" foam core; your poster may be larger than this but be aware that it will hang over the board. You may also bring your own foam core if you choose.

SUBMITTING ABSTRACTS - Deadline Sunday, August 5th, 2018

- Please send your abstract in a Word file.
- Name your abstract file with the presenter's last name followed by their first name (e.g., SmithJohn.abstract.doc) and e-mail to posters@acsonline.org) by the deadline.
- Format your abstract following the sample shown below. Abstract text should be no greater than 250 words.
- Place an asterisk (*) by the name of the presenter. If all authors belong to the same organization or department, please list the address only once.
- Please include an e-mail and phone number for the presenter.

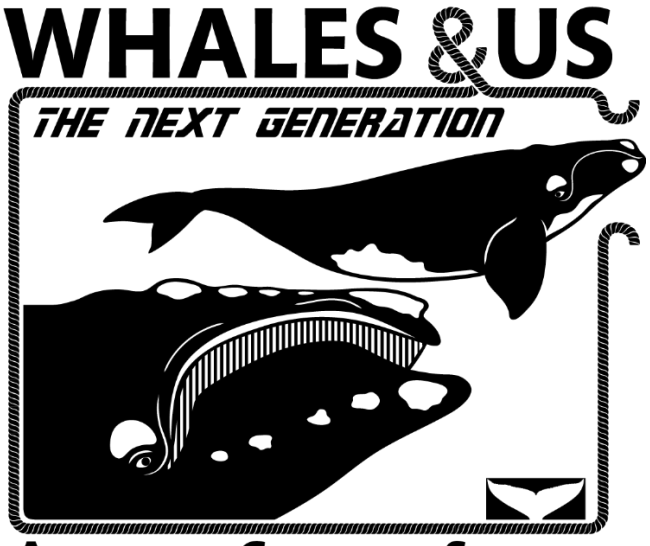
We will notify you by August 12th if your abstract has been accepted or not.

We look forward to seeing your entries and appreciate the contribution they will make to this exciting conference. Good luck to our student entrants!

If you have any questions, please email: posters@acsonline.org

Abstract Sample:

Collisions between whales and ferry boats are known to have taken place for decades. Concern about these incidents, however, has grown with the increased use of high-speed ferries (those that typically cruise at over 25 knots) in many areas. One common suggestion to reduce collision risk has been to place dedicated spotters on those vessels in order to increase the chance of a whale being detected, with appropriate avoidance maneuvers taking place if deemed necessary. We placed an experienced, dedicated observer on a high-speed ferry operating between Boston and Cape Cod, MA from 2002-2006. Whales were sighted on 39.7% of the 2,053 transits. Sightings included three endangered species (humpback, fin, and North Atlantic right whales), all of which are known to be vulnerable to collisions. The dedicated observer was the first to spot the whales in 56.4% of cases, significantly more often than any other crew member (P<0.001). Observers spotted whales at distances of more than 400 m significantly more often than the vessel's captain (P=0.021). There was no significant difference between the observer categories based on the target species or its general size (large vs. small cetaceans). No collisions took place aboard the ferry when observers were present; however, another high-speed ferry that transited the same route but did not have a dedicated observer was seen to collide with a fin whale. Our findings suggest that experienced dedicated observers could play an important role in detecting marine mammals and reducing the risk of collision with them.



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