



66th Tuna Conference

Lake Arrowhead, California
May 18-21, 2015

*Putting the Pieces Together: Integrating Methods
for Understanding Large Pelagic Species*

First Announcement

October 16, 2014

You are cordially invited to the 66th 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, 2015. 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. 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 "*Putting the Pieces Together: Integrating Methods for Understanding Large Pelagic Species.*" There are a host of challenges to the study of large pelagic species. Despite those often formidable obstacles, our knowledge of the biology, ecology and population dynamics of these animals has increased greatly over the past several decades. More recently, the combined and integrated use of different methodologies has provided new perspectives into the biology of large pelagic species- insights that have had important ramifications for the assessment and management of these species. Slowly, but surely, the pieces of the puzzle are coming together. At this year's Tuna Conference we encourage presentations that consider how different methodologies have and can be integrated to better understand and manage large pelagic species. However, as always, we welcome presentations on tuna and tuna-like species whether they conform to the theme or not!

Presentations and Posters

Oral presentation are allotted 15 minutes and 5 minutes for questions and discussion. 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.

Preliminary titles of presentations and posters must be submitted with complete registration forms by **January 13, 2015**. Guidelines for the required one-page, single-spaced abstract are also enclosed. The final abstracts must be received by **March 13, 2015**.

Scholarships and Awards

The Tuna Conference provides scholarships in support of students doing oral presentation. Only one abstract per student can be submitted for all available scholarships; students are not eligible to receive multiple scholarships. Students that 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 with the exception of those applying to the Automatic Differentiation Model Builder (ADMB) award, applicants must be currently enrolled in an accredited university in order to qualify. Students seeking consideration for any scholarship, except for the ADMB Award, must read and complete the Student Scholarship Information and

Application Form. The ADMB Award requires its own information and application form, which is also enclosed.

The application deadline for a student scholarship and ADMB award is **January 13, 2015**. 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.

We are pleased to announce the availability of the following scholarships and awards for the 66th Tuna Conference:

- The ADMB Award, established by the Automatic Differentiation Model Builder Foundation (<http://admb-foundation.org/>) is awarded to recognize outstanding achievement (of **student or non-student**) in the application of statistical modeling in fisheries. The ADMB Foundation supports the AD Model Builder user and developers community. ADMB is programming framework based on automatic differentiation, aimed at highly nonlinear models with a large number of parameters, such as the state-of-the-art fisheries stock assessment models. The ADMB Award requires its own information and application form, which is also enclosed.
- 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.
- The Desert Star student scholarship (**student only**) is available to support student presenting research examining the ecology of tunas or tuna-like species. Desert Star Systems (<http://www.desertstar.com/>) is an electronic tag manufacture specializing in the development of new sensor systems, technologies, and pushing the envelope of tag design.
- We are delighted to announce the availability of the Margarita Tomlinson scholarship (**student only**). This scholarship was established in the loving memory of Margarita Tomlinson and supports students presenting research on tuna or tuna-like species to foster their interaction with experts in their field. The Margarita Tomlinson will be awarded preferably to female students and students from developing countries.

All scholarship recipients will automatically be considered for travel scholarships generously provided by the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF)(<http://iss-foundation.org/>). No additional application is necessary. The ISSF was launched in 2009 by a group of scientists, industry leaders and environmentalists with the mission to undertake science-based initiatives for the long-term conservation and sustainable use of tuna stocks, reducing bycatch and promoting ecosystem health. ISSF undertakes a diverse set of actions ranging from data collection to cooperation with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) in order to fulfill its mission.

Registration

The enclosed registration form and **non-refundable** deposit of \$401 (except for students applying for scholarships) must be returned by **January 13, 2015** 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 **January 13, 2015**. Reservations may be transmitted using any of the following options:

- Fax to (858) 546-7133
- Email to info@tunaconference.org or
- Mail to Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

Attn: Ms. JoyDeLee Marrow
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 www.tunaconference.org instruction found under current information – look for the document titled “Payment options”.
- Wire transfer: please contact JoyDeLee Marrow directly
- Government Purchase Order

The remaining balance must be paid in full by **March 13, 2015**. Please note that both the remaining balance and the deposit are **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 only 21 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 options for rooms, please contact JoyDeLee Marrow directly for more information and 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. 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 \$60 to \$150 (round-trip ride, taxes and tip). A required **non-refundable** deposit of \$50 will be collected on or before **March 13, 2015**. Please note your interest in riding the shuttle on your registration form; and provide the additional deposit to reserve your spot. The remaining balance will be due at the time of departure on May 18, 2015.

General Notes:

1. The Conference will begin on Monday (May 18th), with the first session starting at 1:00 p.m. and ending around 4:30 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 Lakeview Room. 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.
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 \$110 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 \$85.
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

January 13, 2015 – Student scholarship applications, registration form, **non-refundable** deposit fee, and preliminary poster and presentation titles are all due.

March 13, 2015 – **Non-refundable** Final payment, abstract, and shuttle **non-refundable** are due

Carolina Minte-Vera and John Graves, Co-Chairs of the 66th Tuna Conference

JoyDeLee Marrow, Tuna Conference Coordinator

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

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