www.iifet-2016.org

Call for Special Session proposals
We are delighted to invite you to submit proposals for Special Sessions that you would organise for IIFET 2016, to be held in Aberdeen, Scotland from 11th – 15th July 2016.

Conference theme
The theme for IIFET 2016 is: Challenging new frontiers in the global seafood sector – a Northern Enlightenment.

We are thinking about new management regimes, new opportunities, new trade routes and markets and new critical thinking, with a hint of the Scottish Enlightenment, in which Adam Smith played a key role. Take a look here for inspiration: http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/scottishenlightenment/

Topics
Our main proposed topic headings are:

• Aquaculture Economics

• Economics of Commercial and Recreational Fisheries

• Seafood Markets, Trade and Consumption

• Seafood Processing and Logistics

• Managing Marine Ecosystems and Competing Uses

• The BIGGER PICTURE

But visit http://www.iifet-2016.org/programme/themes/ for details, sub-topics, and great ideas.

How to propose a Special Session
Individuals with specific expertise and interest in a topic are invited to organise “special sessions” at IIFET’s international conferences. The organiser’s responsibility is to define the session, recruit presentations (or at least some if not all), develop and submit a proposal for scientific review, and then to continue following up and liaising with the special session presenters, all resulting in an excellent session at the conference.

First, develop your concept and contact your proposed speakers to ascertain their ability and willingness to commit to attend the conference and contribute to your session. You don’t need to have enough speakers to fill the whole session at this stage – see below, New for 2016!
You will need to provide a title and a short description of the session including:

- Justification (why the topic is important, links to IIFET 2016 themes)
- Outline of the format (individual speakers, discussion panels, review comments, audience interaction, etc.)
- Time requested (one session block is typically 80-120 minutes). Note that special sessions may continue for a number of consecutive sessions over the conference period.
- A list of the speakers who have agreed to participate and those you intend to invite.

We strongly suggest that you draft this document in a file to be kept on your own computer, and later copy and paste information from this file into the online submission system.

Organisers must either chair the session they propose or arrange another (willing!) chairperson(s).

**Review**

Abstracts submitted to your session will not be reviewed by the scientific committee. Instead, you, as the Special Session organiser, will be assigned as “reviewer” of abstracts submitted for inclusion in your session. You may wish, and would be encouraged, to nominate another person to share this task with you in keeping with the double blind review of all other conference submissions. You will be given online access to the abstracts at the end of the Early Bird period, and make acceptance decisions for any abstracts submitted by that time.

If contributors submit abstracts in time for Early Bird review, that will be useful but is not essential. However the session organiser will be required to review and accept or reject Early Bird abstracts by 16th October so that abstracts rejected for the special session can be reviewed along with the general conference Early Bird submissions.

Your special session proposal, together with abstracts accepted for your session, will be reviewed by a subcommittee of the Scientific Committee who will select the best special session proposals to fit the available time, avoid overlap, and work with selected organisers to refine their proposals as needed.

**New for 2016!**

We are trialling a system that will encourage people to organise special sessions which they have not yet filled with invited contributors and which will therefore be open to incorporate unsolicited submissions.

Once a special session is proposed, it will be listed on the abstract submission site so that individual authors can submit abstracts under that session (though they will also have to select a relevant topic from the conference topic list, even if it is only e.g. “Capture Fisheries Other” or “Aquaculture Other”).

Proposals for special sessions will be considered from 6th November by the Scientific Committee, even if all contributors are not yet identified, and acceptances for sessions will be sent by 4th December 2015.

If a special session is accepted by the Scientific Committee (notified on 4th December) and is not yet full, it will be up to the session organiser to attract contributors or to ask the Scientific Committee to allocate suitable accepted abstracts after the Final Abstract Acceptances are distributed on 26th February 2016.

If a special session is rejected by the Scientific Committee and already has abstracts submitted to it, the abstracts will be moved into the general conference to be reviewed along with others in the topic that was selected by the author.

**What you need to do**

1) If your special session is only for contributions from authors whom you have invited, or intend to invite, please write [CLOSED] after your session title when proposing it online, e.g. *Game theory analysis of conflict between*
*marine space users* [CLOSED]. This title will be visible to authors before they choose to submit abstracts to a special session or to the general conference.

(If your session is designated as [CLOSED], any uninvited submissions will be reallocated by the organisers to the most relevant conference theme currently specified.)

2) Ask each of your invited presenters to submit an abstract describing their own presentation within your session; presenters should submit these to your session through the online system.

If your session is open to uninvited submissions, you will be able to select which of the contributions you wish to include in your specific session. Those you reject for your session will be reviewed under the most relevant normal conference theme. Your rejections will have to be made to the Chair of the Scientific Committee NO LATER than 29th January 2016 (one week after the Final Abstract Submission Deadline, 22nd January 2016), in order to leave enough time for those abstracts to be reviewed with others for the general conference. The Scientific Committee also reserves the right to seek inclusion of presentations in ‘vacant’ special sessions where their inclusion elsewhere would otherwise be less suitable.

**The online system for proposing your Special Session**

Submit your proposal by visiting: [http://www.iifet-2016.org/abstract-submission/](http://www.iifet-2016.org/abstract-submission/). The abstract submission process is provided by Oxford Abstracts - you will be asked to set up a password which you can use to access and update your submission until the closing deadline. **Please also note your session submission number and quote this in all conference correspondence.**

Log in and on the first page, under item 1, select “click here to set up a new special session or edit special session information”. Put in the information required - remembering to add [CLOSED] after your title if you will invite all your intended contributors - and submit your proposal.

As soon as this is done, contact your proposed contributors and ask them to visit the site, register, log in, and submit their abstract to your special session. They will select “Click here to make a new submission” and on the next page, they will find the option of selecting your special session.

**Key dates**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 2015</td>
<td>Call for Abstracts and Abstract submission Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 October 2015</td>
<td>Early Bird Abstract Submission Deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>16 October 2015</strong>:</td>
<td><strong>Special Session organisers to notify acceptances of early bird abstracts to Scientific Committee Chair</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>6 November 2015</strong>:</td>
<td><strong>Special Session Proposal Deadline</strong></td>
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<td>13 November 2015:</td>
<td>Early Bird Abstract Acceptances Notified</td>
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<td><strong>4 December 2015</strong>:</td>
<td><strong>Special Session Acceptances Notified</strong></td>
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<td>22 January 2016:</td>
<td>Final Abstract Submission Deadline</td>
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<td><strong>29 January 2016</strong>:</td>
<td><strong>Special Session Organisers to notify acceptances of abstracts to Scientific Committee Chair</strong></td>
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<td>20 May 2016:</td>
<td>Author Registration Deadline</td>
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**For Questions about Submissions Contact:** cpdservices@abdn.ac.uk

**For questions about the conference contact:**

Hazel Curtis, Seafish: Hazel.Curtis@seafish.co.uk

Jimmy Young, Professor Emeritus, University of Stirling: j.a.young@stir.ac.uk

**For questions about IIFET contact:** Ann Shriver: Ann.L.Shriver@oregonstate.edu