Call for Session Proposals

May 30 – June 1, 2018 | New Orleans, LA

Session Proposals Due: September 11, 2017

SOC18 looks to the science and restoration community to assist with developing the conference agenda, and we invite you to propose a session related to your expertise. Conference topics of focus are provided on the Session Themes and Topics but don't feel limited to these areas. We seek to capture all emerging issues and new ideas.

Proposals will be evaluated for proposed content, structure, and overall relevance to the overarching goals of the conference. Preference will be given to sessions that are integrative, cross-system, and/or promote the transfer of current and new knowledge to a broad audience. Additional criteria for evaluation include the session's potential for generating useful results/dialogue among conference attendees, and expected level of interest in the topic. We encourage you to consider involving at least one student in your session in order to help build the next generation of coastal leaders.

Session Format Options

SOC18 features three session formats. **All sessions are 90-minutes long.**

1. Standard Format: This format consists of a 5-minute session introduction and overview by the moderator, followed by four consecutive 20-minute talks (17 minutes per talk plus 3 minutes Q&A), with speakers using PowerPoint slides to display graphics emphasizing key elements, supporting details and in-depth information. The session ends with a 5-minute discussion period among all session presenters.

2. Panel Session: This format entail a maximum of four panelists. Sessions begin with an introduction by the moderator followed by panelist introducing themselves, and describing their personal experience and perspective on the topic. The moderator then facilitates interactive dialogue amongst panelists to obtain different viewpoints using pre-determined questions, before engaging the audience in Q&A. The session ends with a closing summary and panel recognition. Use of PowerPoint should be limited to no more than a few key slides to help the audience visualize the panel concept. NOTE: Having a skilled facilitator, securing DEEP panelists *(Diverse, Experienced, Eloquent and Prepared)*, and dedicating sufficient time for advance planning and communication is essential for success.

3. Film Presentation: This format entails the viewing of an ecologically minded film presentation, which if you so choose, may be followed by a moderated discussed or panel session upon conclusion of the film.

Session Organizer Responsibilities

Organizing a session requires a significant time commitment Organizers are responsible for coordinating advance communications with session presenters and for assuring talks are relevant and reflect the published session theme.

Additional responsibilities include:

- confirming four presenters from diverse organizations to give talks relevant to a cohesive session theme
- ensuring session presenters submit abstracts by the deadline **(January 5, 2018)**
- providing organizers with a completed agenda grid for the session using the provided template
- identifying a replacement speaker in case someone cancels
- adhering to published deadlines
- communicating logistical instructions to presenters and having advance dialogue with presenters
- confirming a moderator who is proficient at managing speaker timing and facilitating interactive dialogue

REGISTRATION REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE: Session organizers, speakers, moderators and panelists are expected to register for the conference by March 2, 2018 and pay the applicable registration fee to confirm participation on the program agenda. *Organizers reserve the right to cancel any session if deadlines are missed by the organizer.*

CLICK HERE to open a Proposal TEMPLATE as a Word file. *Please follow all instructions carefully.*

CLICK HERE to SUBMIT the Proposal ONLINE BY September 11, 2017.

QUESTIONS? Contact: Beth Miller-Tipton (bmt@ufl.edu)