

The Tuna Conference

Articles of Organization

and

Declaration of Trust

The Tuna Conference is an annual international educational meeting of scientists and others interested in tuna and billfish fisheries and research established in 1949. There have been various sponsors of the Conference since its inception: it is currently sponsored by the Southwest Fisheries Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, U.S. Department of Commerce; and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, an International Treaty Organization created by the "Convention Between the United States of America and the Republic of Costa Rica for the Establishment of an Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission," which Treaty was signed 31 May 1949. The following nations currently adhere to said Treaty and contribute funds via their respective Department of State for operation of the Commission: Costa Rica, the United States of America, Panama, Japan, France and Nicaragua. The purpose of these Articles is to formalize the organization of the Tuna Conference and its student scholarship fund.

Article I

Objectives and Organization

1. This conference is organized exclusively for educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (hereafter Section 501(c)(3)), or corresponding section of any future tax code.

2. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, this conference may not undertake any activity that would cause it to lose its exemption from United States federal taxation as provided by Section 501(c)(3).

3. Upon the dissolution of this organization, assets shall be distributed to the graduate student education fund, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California at San Diego (UCSD), as long as it remains exempt within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3). If it is dissolved or not exempt within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) upon dissolution of this organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3), or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, or for public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

4. The objectives of the conference are:

- a. to provide a forum for presentation of current and proposed research on tunas, billfishes, and related species, and on fisheries impacting these species;
- b. to encourage teaching of fisheries science and practice, and the continuing professional development of fisheries researchers and workers.

Article II

Names and Activities

1. The sponsors of the conference are the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and the Southwest Fisheries Center, National Marine Fisheries Service,

NOAA, Department of Commerce, and such other Sponsors as may be admitted under Article II.2.a below.

- a. Sponsors are responsible to provide administrative, financial and logistic support to the chairperson sufficient that the Chairperson may accomplish all items necessary to the conference during their tenure.
- b. Sponsors name chairpersons from the members of their professional scientific and research staff.
- c. Sponsors may resign at any time, except during the nine (9) months immediately prior to a conference for which they have appointed the chairperson, by forwarding notice to each member of the conference committee.

2. The Conference Committee is composed of the Director of the Southwest Fisheries Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, La Jolla Laboratory, and the Director of Investigations, Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission. The committee serves as principal officers and trustees of the conference.

- a. The conference committee may admit universities, and national and international fisheries agencies to sponsorship of the conference on unanimous conference committee agreement to such action. Sponsors so admitted do not automatically become members of the conference committee (see Art. II.2.b). Sponsors so admitted may be removed from sponsorship at the discretion of either member of the conference committee. No sponsor admitted under this provision shall have power to admit or remove sponsors from the conference.
- b. Notwithstanding Article II.2.a, sponsors may be admitted to full membership on the conference committee by unanimous agreement of the committee, following at least one year during which the sponsor seeking admittance to the conference committee named a committee

chairperson and sponsored a conference. Sponsors so admitted are not subject to removal under Article II.2.a.

- c. The conference committee may receive and accept monies from any individual person, firm, trust, or corporation to be held, administered, and disposed of in accordance with and pursuant to the provisions of these Articles.
- d. The conference committee may undertake any lawful activity to administer its affairs, except as proscribed in Article I.2.

3. The Conference Chairperson is responsible for administration and convening of the annual conference.

- a. The chairperson will be a scientist or researcher on a sponsor's professional staff, or other similarly qualified individual designated by the conference committee after consultation with other sponsors.
- b. Sponsors should provide the name of the chairperson-elect to the conference committee at least four (4) weeks prior to the conference business meeting at which the advisory vote for the chairperson-elect (Art. II.3.d) will be held.
- c. Appointment of the chairperson will rotate among the sponsors, except when an alternate chairperson is appointed under Article II.3.a above. Appointment of an alternate chairperson will delay the rotation one conference without changing rotational order, unless otherwise agreed by the conference committee after consultation with other sponsors.
- d. The chairperson of the proximate conference will be appointed by the conference committee following an advisory vote of conference participants present at the business meeting of the conference held immediately prior to the conference which they will chair.

- e. The chairperson appoints a scholarship committee of at least six (6) scientists (in total) from the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and the National Marine Fisheries Service (with equal number from each each agency) for the purpose of evaluating requests for financial assistance to attend and present research results at the conference (see Art. IV). The chairperson is the seventh (odd number) member of and chairs the scholarship committee.
 - f. The chairperson is responsible for all arrangements and administration of the conference, including but not limited to preparation and distribution of announcements, reservation of space and support for the conference, and preparation and distribution of the proceedings.
4. Conference Participants are those individuals that register for a conference, pay all fees, and attend part or all of the conference.
 5. The Tuna Conference Scholarship is a scholarship provided to graduate, and post-graduate, student researchers to help defray the cost of attending and presenting their research results at a conference.
 6. The conference may not hire staff, or reimburse any trustee, committee member or sponsor for activities undertaken or expenses incurred in support of the conference.

Article III

Business and Finances

1. The conference will be held once each calendar year, unless agreed otherwise by the conference committee.
2. The location and dates of the proximate conference will be determined by the conference committee in consultation with other sponsors following an

advisory vote by conference participants present at the conference business meeting.

3. The principal and income of all monies received and accepted by the Conference Committee shall be held in trust by them.

a. The Conference Committee may make payments or distributions from income or principal, or both.

b. All monies received with designation for the scholarship fund must be placed in scholarship accounts (see Art. III.5).

4. The principal and income of all monies received shall be maintained in fully insured interest bearing accounts or certificates of deposit, except that business accounts may be non-interest bearing if necessary.

5. The conference may maintain two categories of accounts, business and scholarship.

a. Business accounts will be used by the conference to pay deposits, registration fees and other such expenses associated with scheduling and convening the conference. After meeting all obligations of the conference, and following review of the annual financial report, the amount of funds held over in business accounts as working capital for the proximate conference will be determined by the conference committee. All funds in excess of this amount will accrue to the scholarship fund.

b. Scholarship accounts will be used solely to fund scholarships to graduate and post-graduate student researchers in accordance with Article IV.

6. Conference attendees are required to forward to the conference, on a schedule to be set by the chairperson, all deposits and conference registration fees.

- a. The conference registration fee is used to defray miscellaneous expenses incurred in scheduling and holding the Conference.
 - b. The registration fee for the proximate conference will be determined by the conference committee, in consultation with other sponsors, following a review of the annual conference financial statement and an advisory vote by conference participants in attendance at the business meeting.
 - c. The conference may act as depository for monies to be used for payment of conference participants' lodging and board. All such monies will be held in business accounts, and all interest earned on such monies will accrue to the scholarship fund.
7. A business meeting will be held following the final session of each conference. That meeting will include:
- a. the advisory vote for the chairperson-elect;
 - b. the advisory vote on the location and time of the proximate conference;
 - c. presentation of the annual financial report, including all conference business and scholarship account balances, a summary of expenses incurred and scholarships awarded during the last year, and a summary of outstanding obligations.

Article IV

Scholarships

1. The Tuna Conference will provide financial aid in the form of scholarships to graduate and post-graduate student researchers for the purpose of wholly or

partially defraying the costs of attending and presenting results of their research at a conference.

2. The scholarship program will be publicized by the conference in all conference announcements and in mailings to universities and fisheries agencies. Announcements will include the information noted in Article IV.3 and .4, as well as dates for receipt of applications by the conference.

3. Scholarships are awarded from scholarship fund accounts.

a. In no case will the amount of the scholarship exceed available funds on the date of notification to the applicant that they have been awarded a scholarship.

b. The amount of the scholarship will be determined by the conference committee.

4. Each student may submit only one research paper for consideration of a scholarship per conference year. Applications must include:

a. verification of graduate or post-graduate student standing at a university or college;

b. a description of the student's research goals;

c. an outline and discussion of the research being proposed for presentation at the conference;

d. a list, including addresses and phone numbers, of at least three (3) professional/educational references that have knowledge of the applicant's educational and research background;

e. a statement of the applicant's expected benefit to be derived from participating in the conference.

5. Requests for scholarships will be compiled by the chairperson.
6. The chairperson will contact references for each applicant to discuss the applicant's work and application for scholarship. A summary of each such discussion should be placed in the applicant's file for reference by scholarship committee members during their review of applications.
7. Applications for scholarships will be evaluated by the scholarship committee (see Art. II.3.e) for the following:
 - a. graduate or post-graduate student standing;
 - b. research topic relevant to the conference;
 - c. recommendations;
 - d. quality of proposal.
8. Each member of the committee will rank the acceptable proposals.
9. The chairperson compiles the recommendations of the committee members, and recommends applicants to the conference committee for award of scholarships.
10. The number and value of scholarships to be awarded are determined by the conference committee based on the recommendations of the scholarship committee. Funds for scholarships are disbursed at the direction of the conference committee.
11. Regardless of student status, staff of sponsors are not eligible to receive scholarships.
12. The scholarship and conference committees will have the responsibility to evaluate and select applicants for any and all scholarships awarded by the conference, including those funded by other agencies, companies, trusts and memorial funds.

Article V

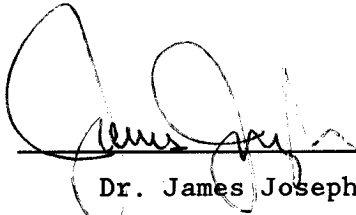
These articles may be amended by unanimous agreement of the conference committee.

Trustees/Principal Officers of the Tuna Conference:



Dr. Izadore Barrett, Director
Southwest Fisheries Center

4/13/90



Dr. James Joseph, Director
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

4/16/90