



73rd Tuna Conference

Lake Arrowhead, California

May 22-25, 2023

First Announcement

October 20, 2022

You are cordially invited to the 73rd 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 22-25, 2023**. 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 and their associated fisheries and ecosystems. 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.

This year's theme will be "**The Diet Renaissance: Shedding Light on Ecosystem Function**". The need "to eat" is a primary driver that has shaped the ecology and evolution of all animals, including tunas and other pelagic predators. Consequently, characterizing diets is key to understanding many basic biological traits including migrations, fine-scale behaviors, and aspects of physiology such as condition and growth. At an ecosystem level, diets are the foundation of food webs. There is a long history of diet studies across habitats and taxa with references dating back to Aristotle. Some of the first approaches, still used today, employed observation and stomach content analyses. Over the past few decades, the tools to study diets have expanded to include chemical analyses of tissues (e.g., stable isotopes and fatty acid analyses), genetic barcoding and even the use of electronic tags to identify foraging events. In the past decade or so, as both our questions and analytical abilities have become more complex, new light has been shone on the value of understanding diets. Diet data are now used more broadly in species distribution models of predators, analyses assessing vulnerability to climate change, and ecosystem models like Atlantis. For highly migratory species that move large distances between nursery, foraging, and spawning grounds, diets are key to understanding shifts in abundance and distribution over short and long temporal and spatial scales. At this year's Tuna Conference, we will encourage presentations on the trophic ecology of large pelagic predators and their application to sustainable fisheries, climate readiness and ecosystem function.

Presentations that address key challenges faced by researchers, managers and policy makers with regards to the conservation and management of large pelagic animals and their supporting ecosystems are encouraged for the 2023 Tuna Conference. However, as always, we welcome presentations on tuna and tuna-like species whether they conform to the theme or not.

Presentations and Posters

Oral presentations are allotted around 15 minutes and 5 minutes for questions and discussion depending on the number of talks being presented. 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.

Guidelines for the required one-page, single-spaced abstract are also enclosed. The abstracts must be received by **February 28, 2023** with your complete registration form and full payment.

Scholarships and Awards

The Tuna Conference provides several scholarships in support of students delivering an oral presentation. Only one abstract per student can be submitted for all available scholarships; students are not permitted to receive multiple scholarships. **Current staff and students of Tuna Conference sponsors are ineligible to apply, pursuant to Article IV, Section 11 of the “Tuna Conference Articles of Organization.” Students who 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 applicants must be currently enrolled in an accredited university in order to qualify. Students seeking consideration for any scholarship must read and complete the Student Scholarship Information and Application Form(s).

The application deadline for a student scholarship is **February 3, 2023**. 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.

At present, we are pleased to announce the availability of the following four scholarships and awards for the 73rd Tuna Conference, with the possibility of further scholarships being offered in the second conference announcement:

In addition to our traditional scholarships:

- Tuna Conference scholarship (**student only**)
- Manuel Caboz scholarship (**student only**)

the following scholarships and awards are also available for the 73rd Tuna Conference:

- 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.
- AFRF Scholarship (**student only**) was established to aid, encourage, promote, and support science and education in the field of albacore and related fish species. AFRF has been the only research group founded by the fishing industry to promote sound science and research on a particular species in order to remain sustainable and provide a healthful food source to the consumer. AFRF is a fishery research foundation funded entirely by the U.S. West Coast albacore troll-and-pole fishery. This scholarship conforms to the mission of AFRF to support students in their research and education of albacore and related species.

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 [Tuna Conference Registration Form](#) and **full payment** (except for students applying for scholarships) must be returned by **February 28, 2023**, 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 on responses received by **February 28, 2023**.

Reservations must be transmitted using the [Tuna Conference Registration Form](#).

Payments may be made as follows (in U.S. dollars):

- Check/Money Order: Made payable through a U.S. Bank to the **Tuna Conference with the name of the registrant listed in the Memo section**.
- [Credit Card through Paypal](#): **Please list the name of the registrant in the notes section. Please also note that this method will incur an additional fee and should be included in the initial payment.** Look for the document titled “Credit Card Reference Sheet” for fees on the linked page (service fees are included in the amounts given) and push the “**Buy Now**” button on the same page to pay through Paypal.
- Wire transfer: Please contact us directly and we will send instructions
- Government Purchase Order: NMFS employees only

Please note that **full payment** is **non-refundable**, due to contractual obligations assumed by the Tuna Conference with the Lake Arrowhead Conference Center.

Rooms

The main option for lodging is **shared rooms** set in a two-story cabin with a shared living room area and a wood-burning fireplace. All rooms have private baths and queen size beds. The upstairs room is a loft open to the living room and the downstairs “room” is a bed as part of the living room. There are also a few other limited options for rooms. See the registration form for 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 22nd at 9:00 a.m. sharp** and will return from Lake Arrowhead on **Thursday, May 25th** 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 \$30 to \$175 (round-trip ride, taxes, and tip). A required **non-refundable** deposit of \$30 will be collected on or before **February 28, 2023**. Please note your interest in riding the shuttle on your registration form; and provide the deposit to your full payment to reserve your spot. The remaining balance will be due at the time of arrival on **May 22, 2023**, during check-in.

General Notes:

1. The Conference will begin on Monday (May 22nd), with the first session starting at 1:00 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 Library. 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 or can work with the Tuna Conference Coordinator.

6. The Conference will finish at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 25th, 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 **\$121 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 \$100.
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

February 3, 2023 – Student scholarship application and required documentation are due.

February 28, 2023 – **Non-refundable** Full payment, registration form, abstract, and shuttle **non-refundable** deposit are due.

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