Science of the Service

April 20-21, 2016
Portland, Oregon

Title: Science of the Service Symposium

Overview: The mission of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Service) is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. Sound science and relevant data are essential to inform the Service's management decisions. Excellence in science is thus critical to the mission and is a hallmark of the Service as a science-based organization. A primary goal of the Service is to strengthen the agency's tradition of scientific excellence in the conservation of fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats. To accomplish this goal, the Service has committed to:

- Expanding its capacity to acquire, apply, and communicate scientific information;
- Promoting active involvement of the Service and its employees in the scientific community;
- Encouraging strengthened partnerships between the Service and other scientific organizations; and
- Growing the next generation of Service scientists.

In the spirit of the agency mission and to strengthen our conservation efforts through scientific excellence, the Service's Pacific Region (Region 1) will host a symposium focused on the science of the Service. The symposium will emphasize where and how the Service incorporates science into its decision making. The purpose of the symposium is to enhance the awareness and understanding of the scientific information, findings, techniques, and approaches in Region 1 of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. This will, in turn, highlight the role of science in decisions made by the Service, promote efficiency and effectiveness in Service activities, improve the quality of outcomes and products for the Service, increase the appreciation of what and how science is being used by the Service, as well as help justify a continued commitment to and investment in the science of the Service. The essence of who we are and all that we do is based on science guiding the actions of the Service. The symposium will focus on scientific activities being

conducted or produced, as well as those applied in management decisions, by Service employees. During 2016, there may be up to 20 oral presentations offered (no competing presentations) over a two-day period. Abstracts will be selected for inclusion in the symposium as full presentations, based on criteria that include: 1) how well the activity reflects science being produced, conducted or applied by the Service, 2) the timeliness or current significance of the topic, and 3) the balance of geography and disciplines. Co-presenters (including students) from other agencies or organizations may also be included, especially when the Service is applying our partner's science. The option exists for presenters and attendees to participate remotely through video/computer technology.

Target audience: With the understanding that presentations will be technical in nature, anyone (including NGOs, State Agencies, the general public and other partners) who would like to learn more about science-based efforts of the Service is welcome to attend.

Timing and Venue:

- *Abstracts due* – received no later than February 29, 2016
- *Start* – April 20 at 1:00 PM PT (Introduction by Robyn Thorson, RD)
- *End* – April 21 at 12:00 PM PT (Closing remarks by Terry Rabot, DRD)
- Regional Office Auditorium; Portland, Oregon

Proposed Lodging: The Double Tree Hotel, located adjacent to the Regional Office http://www.doubletreeportland.com/ or 503-281-6111

EXAMPLE

Abstract Template (limit to 300 words) :

Title
(*Primary Author/Presenter) **FName LName***

The fishes of Antarctica display profoundly cold-adapted physiologies, having evolved for millions of years in near freezing waters. Many possess the lowest upper thermal lethal thresholds of any vertebrate species. Among their many adaptations to life in the extreme cold is the ability to produce antifreeze glycoproteins to prevent their body fluids from freezing. Some species have lost hemoglobin and some have lost myoglobin. Other species lack the ability to induce a classic heat shock response when subjected to thermal challenge. However, these fish produce heat shock proteins constitutively perhaps to deal with problems folding protein in the cold. Despite their remote location, anthropogenic effects on the biology and ecology of the Antarctic fishes can be observed. We have measured mercury and PCBs in the tissues of some species. Over the last two decades, fishing pressure on commercially viable species has steadily increased. This pressure has coincided with an alteration in the species composition of some areas in the Southern Ocean, including McMurdo Sound in the Ross Sea, the world's southernmost and perhaps most pristine marine ecosystem. These environmentally sensitive fishes may provide essential information on how a changing climate and human activities affect the unique Antarctic ecosystem.

(Primary Author/Presenter)
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