

# CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

## **2020 Columbia River Estuary Conference:** *Status of the Estuary and Nearshore Ocean – Implications for the Future*

April 28-30, 2020 at the Liberty Theater  
in Astoria, Oregon

**Abstracts Due: February 7, 2020**

It has been 25 years since the lower Columbia River was designated an “estuary of national significance” and roughly the same since NOAA’s Pacific Ocean transect monitoring and indicators system was established. What have we done since then and what have we accomplished? What is the present status of the lower Columbia and nearshore ocean and how has this shifted? How have we integrated shifting environmental conditions (e.g., warming water temperatures, ocean acidification and hypoxia, earlier growing season, more intense storms) into our research and restoration? Do we see results from these shifts? How do we better link the estuary and nearshore ocean research and management together in the future?

**Call for Papers and Posters:** Presentations that provide new scientific findings, contribute to a better understanding, describe innovative techniques or discuss emerging issues, with management implications for lower Columbia, plume and nearshore ocean ecosystems or listed species are welcome. Findings from outside this focal area are welcome if they provide context or a better understanding of ecosystem processes, restoration or species recovery within the focal area. All presentations should include a synthesis and interpretation of results and a discussion of the application of these findings to management. Abstracts that address the suggested topics below are encouraged:

### **Suggested Topics:**

- Status of the lower Columbia River and nearshore ocean over the last 25 years – What is the present status of the lower Columbia and nearshore ocean and how have these ecosystems shifted?
  - What have we accomplished? What remains to be accomplished over the next 25 years?
  - How have we integrated shifting environmental conditions (e.g., warming water temperatures, ocean acidification and hypoxia, earlier growing seasons, more intense storms) into our research and restoration?
  - Are we detecting these environmental shifts (food web, vegetation communities, hydrology) with our research and monitoring? How? What are the implications?
  - How do we better link the estuary and nearshore ocean research and management together in the future?
- Changing environmental conditions – how have we adapted our work to shifting conditions?
  - What specific steps have we taken to help species adapt or reduce impacts from predicted changes? How do we change our work to help species survive or recover?
  - How have we integrated climate change into restoration project design? How do we continue to integrate predicted impacts (more intense storms, warming temperatures, changes in flow, rising sea levels) into our work? Are we explicitly identifying and designing projects that

- restore thermal conditions of watersheds, or reduce further loss of floodplain habitats by keeping up with sea level rise?
- New understanding of ecosystem condition and function: What are new findings to provide us with a better basic understanding of the lower Columbia, plume and nearshore ocean? How does this information help us in designing ecosystem restoration or listed species recovery actions?
  - Linking science to policy effectively: What are good examples of transferring our research and monitoring results to management and policy decisions? How can we do this better? How do we better involve local communities in our work?
  - Multi-species management and ESA listed species recovery: How do we integrate multi-species conservation within restoration projects? Are we managing for change with shifting conditions?
  - Innovative technologies and new data products: What are innovative technologies or data products and how have they been applied? How do these improve our understanding or management activities?
  - Columbia Basin issues, including Columbia River Treaty, toxic contaminants, invasive species: What are the implications of these issues on the lower Columbia, plume and nearshore ocean?

**Abstracts should be submitted to Catherine Corbett by February 7, 2020 via email:**  
[ccorbett@estuarypartnership.org](mailto:ccorbett@estuarypartnership.org).

**Abstract Format:**

Please list presentation title, author (s) and contact information, including email for primary author.

***Please denote presenting author with Italics font and asterisk (\*)***. Please keep text description of abstract to one paragraph and no more than 500 words. Please indicate whether you prefer to make an oral or poster presentation. Depending on time constraints, some presenters may be requested to modify their format from oral to poster presentation format.

***NEW:*** We will be holding a ***lightning round session!*** For this session, there will be multiple presenters and each presenter will have no more than 5 minutes to present their topic. We then will open the session up for audience questions and participation with the presenters. Please consider submitting an abstract for this session.

***Please submit no more than one abstract as a lead presenter for an oral presentation (can co-author multiple presentations or be lead presenter on a poster or lightning round talk in addition to an oral).***

Example abstract format:

**Results of Multi-Year Coordinated Fish, Food Web and Habitat  
Data Collection under the Ecosystem Monitoring Program**

*\*Lyndal Johnson<sup>1</sup>, Amy Borde<sup>2</sup>, Jennifer Morace<sup>3</sup>, and Jina Sagar<sup>4</sup>*

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Since 2007, this most excellent monitoring program has provided key baseline information of the tidal freshwater section of the lower Columbia River. Results from this monitoring will be provided...

Oral presentation preferred. Lightning round presentation is our second choice.

**Conference Format:** The conference will be a three day event with invited and contributed presentations. Oral presentations will be allocated 20 minutes total, including audience questions. There will be a poster session during an evening social.