

**Subject:** Habitat Science-Management Symposia for AFS Annual Meeting and RAE-TCS Summit

NOAA Fisheries Offices of Habitat Conservation and Science and Technology are organizing two symposia at upcoming conferences for which we are soliciting abstracts and presentations. Our dual symposia will be exploring the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) science-management link, focusing on sharing key elements that enable habitat science to be translated into successful management actions, and how managers voice their EFH information needs to scientists in order to fill knowledge gaps.

We are excited to have the opportunity to further explore these topics, and ask that you consider contributing abstracts and participating in the sessions listed below. Please also share this information with colleagues who may be interested.

**\*American Fisheries Society (AFS) 146th Annual Meeting\* - Abstract Deadline is March 13th**  
Meeting Dates: August 21-25, 2016 in Kansas City, Missouri

Session Title: Translating Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Science into Fishery Management Decisions.

Participation: Please submit your name and presentation title to [Heather.Garrison@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Heather.Garrison@mdc.mo.gov) in a WORD document by 11:59pm Sunday March 6, 2016.

Abstracts are due 11:59pm Sunday March 13, 2016 to <https://afs.confex.com/afs/2016/cfp.cgi>

Session Brief Abstract: A description of this accepted symposium can be found at <https://afs.confex.com/afs/2016/webprogrampreliminary/Session4377.html>

**\*Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) and The Coastal Society (TCS) 2016 Summit\* - Symposia proposals are due May 2. Please contact the NOAA organizers by March 25th**

Meeting Dates: December 10-15, 2016 in New Orleans, Louisiana

Proposed Session Title: Bridging the Gap: Communicating Fishery Management Needs to Habitat Scientists.

Participation: If you are interested in participating in this symposium or have ideas for a panel discussion, please contact [Lauren.Latchford@noaa.gov](mailto:Lauren.Latchford@noaa.gov) and [Tony.Marshak@noaa.gov](mailto:Tony.Marshak@noaa.gov) by COB Friday March 25, 2016.

Proposed Session Abstract: The most basic fishery interaction is the relationship between fish and their habitats. Habitat is an essential requirement for reproduction, growth, migration and persistence of fish populations. By understanding which habitats fish use, why they

use them, and the value of a given habitat to a certain species, it will be possible to make more informed decisions for successful management. There are ever-increasing demands being placed on marine habitats across many sectors of the U.S. economy. Since 1996,

NOAA Fisheries and the Fishery Management Councils have used the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) authorities of the Magnuson-Stevens Act to protect more than 800 million acres of habitat, supporting efforts to rebuild federally managed stocks, create jobs, and increase

economic activity. Of key importance to these efforts is using the best available science to ensure the most comprehensive management strategies. Ongoing communication between habitat managers and habitat scientists is critical to guarantee that

the most robust EFH information is incorporated into managerial frameworks. Identifying management needs, and undertaking scientific studies that best assist in addressing their knowledge gaps, is necessary for the most effective conservation strategies. In this symposium, we will highlight

collaborations between managers and habitat scientists in framing scientific priorities for the refinement of EFH, and discuss ways to move forward in aligning habitat science investigations with the needs of habitat and fishery managers.

AFS/RAE Symposia Organizers: Lauren Latchford, Tony Marshak, Kirsten Larsen, Terra Lederhouse, and Christopher Meaney

--

Tony Marshak  
Ph.D. Candidate  
Department of Marine Sciences  
University of South Alabama

-----  
Contractor  
ECS Federal, Inc.  
*In support of*  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Office of Science and Technology  
1315 East-West Hwy, F/ST4  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
Phone: [+1-301-427-8208](tel:+1-301-427-8208)  
<http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/>