

2021 Maine Fishermen's Forum Call for Seminar Proposals

Founded in 1976, the mission of the Maine Fishermen's Forum is to provide opportunities on a continuous basis to educate the public and the fishing industry about fisheries and marine resource issues, and to provide a neutral platform for constructive discussion and decision making. At the Forum, **there is a Shellfish Focus Day on Thursday**, and there are two additional full days of seminars open to the public to attend at no cost. There are limited spaces available for seminars, and the size of the seminar rooms varies from small (15-20 attendees) to large (100 attendees). Seminars will be held on Thursday, March 4, Friday, March 5 and Saturday, March 6, 2021 from 9 am to 4 pm each day. Seminars run approximately 90 minutes.

Proposal Requirements:

We welcome proposals that:

- Address new or hot issues facing the wild harvest fishing or aquaculture industry
- Promote information sharing among industry, scientists and managers
- Promote audience engagement and interaction
- Bring contrasting perspectives and encourage respectful dialogue among participants
- Strengthen networks and collaboration
- Provide replicable models for success

The proposal application is attached, and must include the following pieces of information:

1. Applicant Name, Title, Organization (if applicable)
2. Brief Seminar Topic Summary (250 words suggested), to include:
 - a. How the session addresses issues of current interest to the fishing or aquaculture industry;
 - b. How the seminar will engage the audience; and
 - c. Proposed speakers/panelists and organizations, if known.
3. Preference for which day the seminar is scheduled (Thursday, Friday or Saturday) and any relevant information about panelist availability, if limited to one day or the other.

The Forum Board will seek to create an overall seminar schedule which addresses a diversity of both state and federal fisheries, wild caught and aquaculture issues, and reflects participation of a range of organizations and entities. Proposals will be chosen based on the quality of information presented, including:

- Demonstrated interest from and involvement of industry partners in session development and potential to draw a significant audience of industry members
- Degree to which the information is practical in light of the current social, environmental and economic climate
- Association meetings will also be evaluated based on the expected attendance, so please include number of members in an application for an association meeting.

Please note: Proposals containing commercial or promotional content will not be accepted.

Proposal and Poster Deadlines:

- **Proposals must be received no later than November 1, 2020, midnight, EST.** Please email proposals to coordinator@mainefishermensforum.org or you can mail a paper copy to: Maine Fishermen's Forum, PO Box 288, Bath, ME 04530.
- **You will be notified as to the status of your proposal by December 1, 2020.** Your proposal may be 1) accepted as written, 2) tentatively accepted with potential revisions suggested by the Board, or 3) deemed not to have met requirements outlined above. If your proposal is accepted, you will be assigned a Board host, and will have until January 15th to provide all information for the session, including a final description of the session topic, as well as names and contact information for all speakers/panelists.