



Sixth International Marine Debris Conference



The Sixth International Marine Debris Conference (6IMDC) organizers are currently soliciting session proposals for the conference, which will be held 12-16 March 2018 in San Diego, California, USA.

The 6IMDC will bring together international marine debris researchers, natural resource managers, policy makers, industry representatives, and the nongovernmental community. The impetus for this international marine debris conference is the pressing need to address and reduce the impacts of marine debris to vital natural resources, human health and safety, and the economy.

Objectives of this international conference include sharing lessons learned and best practices to reduce and prevent marine debris and its impacts; promoting international co-learning; exchanging innovative ideas such as market incentives and communication strategies; and sharing the latest research initiatives, methods, and results.

This conference is structured to be action, solution, and change-oriented. Sessions should consider the following themes: engaging the global community, implementing effective laws and regulations, private sector inclusion and investment, improving cross-sectoral partnerships and collaboration, research on microplastics and microfibers in marine environments, and best practices in information sharing.

We are soliciting sessions for a variety of marine debris-related topics including but not limited to the following:

- Monitoring
- Citizen Science
- Microplastics & microfibers
- Technology & innovation
- Private sector collaboration
- Implementing effective law, regulations, & policy
- Prevention
- Education & communication
- Economics & financing
- Removal
- Research
- Other (i.e., a session that does not fall into the above topics)

Evaluation Criteria

Session proposals will be evaluated on technical merit; interest from the greater marine debris community; ability to engage scientists, policymakers, natural resource managers, and industry representatives; and the ability to show a breadth of engagement across disciplines. We are seeking high-quality submissions that are not skewed by sector representation or gender. We encourage innovative session proposal submissions from persons at all stages of their careers, interest, or engagement in the marine debris problem.

English is the official language of the conference. We encourage proposal submissions for sessions in English to ensure the session attains the broadest possible audience. However, proposals for sessions in other languages will be considered if the goal is to reach a target audience.

Proposals should be submitted by individuals prepared to serve as a session chair or co-chair. Chair and/or co-chair responsibilities will include supporting abstract review, moderating their session, and submitting a session summary afterwards to be included in the conference proceedings. Sessions may be combined at the organizers' discretion if there is sufficient overlap in proposals.

[DOWNLOAD SESSION PROPOSAL FORM HERE](#) (Portable Document File (PDF))

The proposal form is also available at www.internationalmarinedebrisconference.org

Completed proposals should be sent to info@6IMDC.org

Proposals are due no later than Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) 23:59 on Friday, June 2, 2017. Selection/non-selection will be announced **no later than Monday, July 10, 2017.**

Important Dates

Call for Technical Sessions: Monday, March 20, 2017

Session Submissions Due: Friday, June 2, 2017

Session Notification: Monday, July 10, 2017

Call for Abstracts/Posters: Monday, July 17, 2017

Abstract/Poster Submissions Due: Friday, September 15, 2017

Abstract Review Period: Friday, September 15, 2017 through Monday, October 30, 2017

Poster Review Period: Monday, October 30, 2017 through Monday, December 04, 2017

Final Conference Program Announced: Monday, January 29, 2018

Contact info@6IMDC.org with any problems or questions regarding proposal submission. Please include "6IMDC – SESSION PROPOSAL QUESTION" in the email subject line.

For more information about the Sixth International Marine Debris Conference, visit the website at www.internationalmarinedebrisconference.org.

