

Florida Chapter, American Fisheries Society
Guidelines on Poster Preparation and Presentation

Every year some details change in the meeting's organization and requirements, so it is important to be updated. Even if you are an "old hand", please be sure to read this guide.

At the Florida Chapter meetings in Ocala, we will have 150 X 100 cm (60" X 40"), panels for you to mount your posters. Posters can be set up either as portrait or landscape format on an easel. Push pins will be provided to mount your posters. Handouts are a nice touch.

Poster setup is from 5:00-7:00 pm on Tuesday, but posters can be set up throughout the Tuesday afternoon session. The official poster viewing period will begin Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm. You should plan to be near your poster to answer questions as long as attendees are present. All (Student and Professional) posters will be judged and awards will be presented Thursday afternoon. We will provide snacks and drinks in the vicinity of the posters to ensure the best possible audience.

The posters should remain mounted for viewing throughout the morning session on Thursday, and should be taken down between 12:00 and 1:10 on Thursday afternoon. If you cannot attend for the entire meeting, please arrange to have someone remove your poster after the meeting, rather than taking it down prematurely.

Helpful Hints:

What sections to include and what to put in them (summarized from Purrington, C.B. 2009. Advice on designing scientific posters.

<http://www.swarthmore.edu/NatSci/cpurrin1/posteradvice.htm>)

Giving a poster presentation is an important event for you and a critical means of providing information to the scientific community. An audience of your peers will view your poster because they are interested in your work and what you have to present. A well-organized and well-presented poster reflects positively on you, your work, and your organization. The quality of your presentation is very important for getting your points across to a large audience and can only be assured by adequate preparation.

Posters are as important as oral presentations as a means of communicating scientific information. Posters will be similarly represented by abstracts on our web site and in the program. Please give due consideration to making your posters informative and attractive. Furthermore, you should spend some time considering the types of questions that are likely to be asked during the principal viewing period.

Title:

Should convey the "issue," the approach, and the system (organism); needs to be catchy in order to "reel in" intoxicated passersby. [Maximum length: 1-2 lines.]

Abstract:

Do not include an abstract on a poster!

If you are presenting your poster at a meeting, you will probably be asked to submit an abstract; this abstract is included in the program.

Introduction:

Get your viewer interested in the issue or question while using the absolute minimum of background information; quickly place your issue in the context of published, primary literature; provide description and justification of general experimental approach, and hint at why your study organism is ideal for such research; give a clear hypothesis. [Maximum length: approximately 200 words.]

Materials and methods:

Briefly describe experimental equipment and methods, but not with the detail used in a manuscript; use figures and tables to illustrate experimental design; include photograph or labeled drawing of organism; mention statistical analyses that were used and how they allowed you to address hypothesis. [Maximum length: approximately 200 words.]

Results:

First, mention whether experiment worked; in same paragraph, briefly describe qualitative and descriptive results, refer to supporting figures; provide extremely engaging figure legends that could stand on their own (i.e., could convey some point to reader if viewer skipped all other sections, which they usually do); place tables with legends, but opt for figures whenever possible. This is always the largest section. [Maximum length: approximately 200 words, not counting figure legends.]

Conclusions:

Remind (without sounding like you are reminding) the reader of hypothesis and result, and quickly state whether your hypothesis was supported; discuss why your results are conclusive and interesting (attempt to convince reader of these points); relevance of your findings to other published work; relevance to real organisms in the real world; future directions. [Maximum length: approximately 200 words.]

Literature cited:

Abbreviated citations are recommended (e.g Smith, J. 2000. J. Fish Bio. 200: 101-103). [Maximum length: approximately 10 citations.]

Acknowledgments:

Thank individuals for specific contributions to project; mention who has provided funding. [Maximum length: approximately 40 words.]

Other information:

Include your e-mail address, your web site address, and perhaps a URL where they can download a PDF version of the poster. [Maximum length: approximately 20 words.]

Further references:

S. Block. 1996. Do's and Don'ts of Poster Presentation. Biophysical Journal 71:3527-3529. (view pdf)

J. Smith, J. Myers, and I. Myers-Smith. 2007. Tips for effective communication in Ecology. Bulletin of Ecological Society of America 88: 206-215.

http://www.indiana.edu/~halllab/GradRes/Smithetal_2007_BESA.pdf