

Guidelines for Poster Presentations – Texas Chapter American Fisheries Society

The purpose of the poster should be to convey highlights of a study or project in an attractive format that can be easily read and comprehended in a short period of time, i.e., 3 to 5 minutes.

Poster Content

- Authors should minimize the amount of text in the poster and using bulleted phrases rather than complete sentences is recommended.
- The body of the poster should have 300 to 400 words.
- The contents should contain Title, Abstract (optional), Introduction, Methods or Experimental Design, Results, and Conclusions or Implications. References and Acknowledgements may be included if desired.
 - i) Title - the title should be short and fit across top of poster on one line. Authors' names and affiliations should appear below the title.
 - ii) Abstract - this section is optional. Abstracts will be printed separately in the meeting program.
 - iii) Introduction - this section should be limited to a few statements that clearly state the objectives.
 - iv) Methods or Experimental Design - text should be kept to a minimum and graphics should be used where possible.
 - v) Results - this section should take up most of the space. Simple graphs or figures are preferred over tables. Include captions with graphics and credits on photographs taken by someone other than the authors. As a general guideline, tables should not exceed four columns.
 - vi) Conclusions or Implications: limit this section to a few bulleted statements.
 - vii) References: this section is rarely included on posters.
 - viii) Acknowledgments: include this section when appropriate.
 - ix) Authors should consider including a black and white (or color) reproduction of the poster as a separate handout.

Poster Design Suggestions

- Easels and poster boards (91 cm x 122 cm, 48" x 48") will be provided. Please consider these dimensions as the maximum size of your poster.
- Materials required to hang your poster (e.g., tape, push pins, etc.) are the responsibility of the presenter.
- Posters may be presented in a landscape (preferred) or portrait format.

- A 3-column format works well for posters in landscape format. The flow of material should be from top to bottom of each column and left to right among columns. Leave 3.8 cm (1.5") between columns.
- Use thin-lined borders around sections or blocks of subsections to emphasize grouping. Light-colored background fill can also be used to highlight different sections.
- Use of photographs as backgrounds is not recommended because legibility is usually compromised. Text boxes with a background fill can be superimposed on photographs. Text printed directly on photographs should be avoided.
- Light pastel backgrounds are attractive and allow use of contrasting font colors, such as black, dark blue, and red. White backgrounds are acceptable, though they are less attractive than colored ones.
- Certain color combinations should be avoided including red and green, orange and blue, and red and blue
- Sans serif typeface such as Arial is best for good visibility at a distance and the same font type should be used throughout. The following guidelines for different font sizes are recommended:
 - i) Title - 72 point or larger, kept short (not more than 80 characters including spaces).
 - ii) Authors' names and affiliations - 48 point.
 - iii) Section headings - 36 point, bold.
 - iv) Text - 28 point.
 - v) Graphs and tables - all numbers and labels 28 point or larger.
 - vi) Graph bars and symbols – use colors; avoid cross hatching.
 - vii) Acknowledgments – 20 to 24 point

Setting Up Your Poster

The authors are responsible for setting up and removal of their poster. Posters need to be displayed by 8:00 am Friday, January 22nd and can be taken down any time after 10:00 am on Saturday, January 23rd. Posters **MUST** be removed by noon on Saturday the 19th. Poster set-up is scheduled for 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm Thursday the 17th. Posters will be hung on poster boards (approximately 4' X 4') supported by individual easels, both of which will be provided for your use. **You will be responsible for push pins or other attachment devises to hang your poster.** Posters should be a single printed sheet and will need to fit on one of the provided poster boards.