



February 9, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

The IUCN Horseshoe Crab Specialist Group announces a Special Session entitled, “**Linking Species and Habitat Conservation for Global Horseshoe Crab Populations**,” which has been accepted into the program of the 2017 Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation (CERF) Meeting, which will be held at the **Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence, Rhode Island (USA) from November 5-9, 2017**. Information about the meeting, as well as travel and hotel information is available at the conference web site, <http://www.erf.org/cerf-2017-biennial-conference>

This Special Session will be an ideal opportunity to present the results of new research since the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Workshop on the Science and Conservation of Horseshoe Crabs in 2015, and the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2016. It will have a similar structure to our Special Session at the 2013 CERF conference in San Diego, and will include a mix of invited speakers, contributed oral and poster presentations, as well as less formal small discussion groups.

The main thematic areas for the session will be: 1) defining the habitat and food resources essential to horseshoe crab survival, 2) quantifying current and future threats to habitats and food resources, and 3) identifying global efforts (including citizen science and public outreach) that can protect habitat and species now and into the future. We are especially interested in presentations that address threats to Asian and North American horseshoe crabs imposed by coastal development and land reclamation, including shoreline hardening, aquaculture and fishing activities, as well as threats posed by pollution, global climate change and sea level rise.

We invite you to submit an abstract for inclusion in our session at the 2017 CERF meeting. Please follow the Abstract Guidelines given at <http://www.erf.org/cerf-2017-call-for-abstracts>. To submit an abstract for inclusion in our session, follow this link: <https://cerf.confex.com/cerf/2017/webprogrampreliminary/Session1270.html>. You will be asked for your choice of an alternate session, and whether you prefer to give your presentation as a traditional talk (12 minutes + 3 minute Q&A), “ignite” talk (5 minute talk), or poster. **Depending on the number of abstracts that we receive, it may not be possible to fulfill every request for an oral presentation in our session.**

**Abstracts are now being accepted for CERF 2017. The deadline for abstract submission is 1 May 2017, and the deadline for early registration is 15 May 2017.**

Please note that CERF has a one presentation per person policy. This means that each participant is permitted to be the lead author or presenter on only one poster, oral or ignite presentation. You may be co-author on other presentations. *An exception to this policy is allowed if a second submission is to an Education session.*

The abstract fee will be waived for a second abstract submitted to these sessions. Presenting Authors will receive instructions on how to submit this second abstract in their Confirmation Email. If you intend to submit a second abstract to the Education & Outreach category, please first submit any non-Education category abstracts to our session.

Please feel free to contact any of us if you have questions.

Sincerely,

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