

January 2, 2014

Dear Colleague,

We are writing to formally invite you to participate in a symposium at this year's annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society titled ***The Next Generation of Fish Stock Assessments***. The meeting will be held in Quebec City, Canada during the week of 17-21 August, 2014. With this symposium, we are hoping for stimulating and visionary discussions on the future of stock assessment science that will help identify key areas for stock assessment research and development. We have confirmed two keynote presentations by Drs. Richard Methot and Jason Link, and we have secured sponsorship for this symposium from the Marine Fisheries Section of AFS. If there is sufficient interest from the presenters we are willing to pursue either publishing the proceedings in an AFS journal, or preparing a review-style manuscript that synthesizes our discussions. Given the complex and multidimensional nature of fisheries management, we are hoping for contributions from participants representing diverse backgrounds and areas of expertise. You are an expert in one or more facets of fish stock assessment, and we would sincerely appreciate your participation, perspective, and insight.

Please see the attached draft symposium proposal. If you are interested in participating, please **provide a tentative presentation title** to Patrick Lynch (Patrick.Lynch@NOAA.GOV) and/or Tara Dolan (Tara.Dolan@NOAA.GOV) **before January 10, 2014**. This initial deadline is to ensure that we have at least 10 presenters in line when our proposal is submitted to AFS. Your abstracts can then be submitted on the meeting website (<http://afs2014.org/>) between Jan. 31 and March 14, 2014.

We anticipate an interesting and informative symposium with broad appeal, and we sincerely hope that you are willing and able to participate. If you have any questions about the symposium, please do not hesitate to ask, and feel free to forward the invitation to your colleagues. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Patrick Lynch and Tara Dolan, Symposium Organizers
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