**Guidelines for preparing proposals for Symposia and Special Paper Sessions**.

Have fun organizing a **Special Paper Session**! Sessions are a coherent set of papers not designed to be published. The session could involve 6-18 speakers depending on the scope of the topic and be scheduled for half or full day of the conference. They can include a series of relevant studies with an overview presentation to bring together experts in a particular field (e.g. species-specific such as “Ashy Storm-petrel Rangewide Science and Conservation”, or broader topics such as “Can seabirds be used to predict impending climatic events in the Pacific?” (both PSG 2015)). They could also be comprised of mainly student papers on a specific topic to highlight student research or increase student participation at PSG.

Create a vehicle to get those papers published! A **Symposium** is a coherent set of papers designed to be published, thus everyone contributing to the Symposium also needs to prepare for publication afterwards. Symposiums have a synthetic overview or broad topical coverage, and typically have invited speakers to advance a particular topic (e.g., Seabirds as Indicators of Marine Ecosystems, PSG 2006).

Please do your best to complete the form with all the names, contact info and presentation titles. Contact me if you have questions, need help, or want feedback. You will likely not have all of the Special Paper Session speakers and Symposium participants confirmed in August, and that's okay. Once your proposal is accepted, you will need to provide me with a short description of the session or symposia for the PSG website and the scientific program and your contact information.

Sessions or symposia may be open to all members (Open) or invitation only (Invited), and this will be noted on RegOnline in the abstract submission page. If your session is Open or includes a small percentage of invited speakers, it will be listed in the dropdown menu and include the word “Open”. Interested presenters will need to contact you to confirm that their talk is consistent with the purpose of your session or symposia. Once confirmed, presenters will then submit their abstract to this session.

If your session features only invited speakers, it will be noted in the selection choice as “Invited”. You will invite each speaker and they will submit their abstracts during the call for abstracts. In both cases, I will work with you to confirm participation and assist with abstract submission.

These guidelines are based on those used to decide on funding of publication of Symposia. The following sections must be addressed; additional information or narratives may be provided, if relevant. Requests should not exceed 4 pages single-spaced.

NOTE: A separate proposal is required for requesting funds for publication. Much of the required information is identical, with some additional information needed for target journal, etc. Please see the PSG web site for Guidelines on Requesting Funds for Publishing Symposia or Special Papers Sessions.

Title: List the title of the session.

Type of session: Symposium, Special Paper Session, plenary, other.

Session coordinator and affiliation: provide all relevant contact information. Is the coordinator a member of PSG?

Has this person convened a similar session in the past? If so, please provide details (where, when, topic).

Was this session published? Is the coordinator or another participant willing to serve in an Associate Editor role if requested to do so by the editor of the journal?

List of participants: Please list all participants (authors and co-authors); note if they have been invited or selected from submitted abstracts, and note if invitees have committed, are tentative, or are suggested. Include session coordinator if also presenting. Are the participants members of PSG?

Title of papers: List all known titles. If titles are not available for some participants, list subject matter of the presentation.

Significance of the Special Paper Session or Symposium and papers within it: How might this session best be described? For example, is it a methodology session (e.g., monitoring seabirds with radar), does it focus on a specific type of event (e.g., oil spills and seabirds), is it taxon-specific, or is it a revisit of a prior Symposium topic? How would this publication benefit the management or conservation of Pacific seabirds? This section should be prepared as a narrative and is similar to the 'justification' section required in most scientific proposals.

Publication Plan for Symposium: What journal is being targeted? Have you already contacted the journal or received an agreement to publish from the journal? Why was this journal chosen? Are all participants aware that this is the targeted journal? Has the journal set a page limit and, if so, what is it? Is there an anticipated publication date? Will the Symposia be published as part of a regular issue or as a separate issue? How will PSG's contribution be recognized in the journal (e.g., an introductory overview where PSGs contribution can be explicitly acknowledged)?

Outside (i.e., not from PSG) funding sources for publication: If targeted for publication, have you sought matching funds? If so, how much is guaranteed? From whom have funds been sought? Have you sought complete funding from an outside source? Will you seek funds from PSG? If so, how much?

Please provide any additional information that may assist in the funding decision.

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