



# International Fisheries Observer Conference

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[www.fisheriesobserverconference.com](http://www.fisheriesobserverconference.com)



## Overview

- History of conference series
- Gearing up for IFOC07
- 2007 Conference in brief
- Thoughts toward IFOC09

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## Conference History

- Galveston, USA 1993
- Seattle, USA 1998
- St. John's, Canada 2000
- New Orleans, USA 2002
- Sydney Australia 2004
- Victoria Canada 2007

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## My role as conference chair

- Lead steering committee
- Design conference themes
- Organize facilities
- Fundraising
- Call for abstracts
- Review abstracts/develop program
- Logistics

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## Steering committee

- Australia (Kennelly, wallner)
- Canada (McElderry, Gilchrist, Showell, Workman)
- USA (Tork, Turk, Nance, Cornish, La Fargue)

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## The IFOC Vision

*To enable the development of effective fishery monitoring programs, where necessary, to ensure sustainable resource management throughout the world's oceans.*

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## IFOC Mission Statement

*The International Fisheries Observer Conference series was established and has been maintained to share and develop best practices within fishery monitoring programs and promote their implementation globally, and establish dialog between those responsible for monitoring fisheries and those who rely upon the data they collect.*

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## IFOC Goals #1

- Provide a broad focus on fishery monitoring methodologies including fisheries observer programs, emerging technologies, and other fishery dependent data collection approaches.
- Target the international community of those involved in the collection and analysis of fishery-dependent data, including observers, observer program staff, scientists, fisheries managers, monitoring contractors, fishing industry and ENGO's.
- Provide a linkage between effective fishery monitoring programs, sustainable resource management, and public acceptability of fisheries.
- Develop results oriented sessions that include a broad range of fisheries monitoring topics, addressing the diversity of the field, and emphasizing leading edge areas.

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## IFOC Goals #2

- Provide a participatory process to address conference themes, using panel presentations and discussion fora.
- Provide a forum for delegates to share up-to-date information on fishery monitoring programs in their region.
- Provide a forum for scientists, managers, policy makers and others who work with fishery-dependent data. Promote a better understanding of their needs and the characteristics of the data sources available to them.
- Publish conference proceedings and disseminate broadly among the international fisheries community.

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## IFOC07 Highlights

- Continued Processes
  - Panel format/open discussions
  - Workshops
  - Strong social program
- New for IFOC07
  - Concurrent sessions
  - Expanded poster program
  - Workgroups
  - Expanded International involvement
  - Expanded proceedings
  - Safety room

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## IFOC07 Delegation Profile

- Participants – 280
- Nationalities – 45 (US, Canada, Aus, NZ)
- Disciplines
  - Govt (60%)
  - Observers and Obs companies (22%)
  - NGO (8%)
  - Fishermen (3%)
  - Other (8%)

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## Keynote Speaker Martin Hall

- 25+ years with tuna dolphin program  
IATTC
- Spoke of cooperative work with fishers,  
observers, NGO's and govt on sea turtle  
bycatch in pelagic longline fisheries

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## Panel Sessions #1

- P1 – What are the reasons and objectives for monitoring a fishery?
- P2 – What are the important elements and considerations in the design of fishery monitoring programs?
- Industry Panel – What are the commercial fishing industry's perspectives on fishery monitoring programs and how can they be improved.
- P4 – How can industry play a role in monitoring fisheries?

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## Panel Sessions #2

- P5 – What is the role of NGO's in fishery monitoring programs
- P6 – How are fishery monitoring data analysed and used by government, industry, academics and NGO's?
- P7 – What can be shared between fishery monitoring programs throughout the world.

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## Breakout Sessions #1

- B1 – What can advance technologies offer fishery monitoring programs
- B2 – How to achieve fishery monitoring by integrating multiple data collection tools.
- B3 – How to address information requirements for fisheries that are difficult to monitor.

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## Breakout Sessions #2

- WG1 – Observer Training
- WG2 – Observer Safety
- WG3 – Observer Professionalism

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## Where to Next#1

- New Steering Committee
  - US (Desfossee, Van Atten, La Fargue, Nance, Cornish)
  - Canada (McElderry, Workman, Showell)
  - Australia (Gray, Begg)
  - Europe (Borges)
  - Peru (Van Oort)

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## Where to Next #2

- Updated name
  - IFOC is now IFOMC (International Fisheries Observer and Monitoring Conference)
- Next Conference
  - Likely Fall 2009 in New England USA
- Conference Themes
  - Under development

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## How Can You Help?

- Attend the conference
- Encourage others to attend
- Consider sponsorship

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