

CALL FOR VENUE LOCATION PROPOSALS

10th International Symposium of Sturgeon (ISS10) in 2025



The World Sturgeon Conservation Society (WSCS) is requesting proposals from interested institutions to host the 10th International Symposium on Sturgeon (ISS10) in 2025. The ISS is held every four years, beginning with the conferences in 1989 in Bordeaux (France), in 1993 in Moscow (Russia), in 1997 in Piacenza (Italy), in 2001 in Oshkosh (USA), in 2005 in Rasht (Iran), in 2009 in Wuhan (China), in 2013 in Nanaimo BC (Canada), and in 2017 in Vienna (Austria). The ISS9 was canceled due to the pandemic. These Symposia have become the overall platform to exchange recent scientific progress in the fields of biology, physiology, population status, management, and aquaculture of sturgeons. Furthermore, the events have been instrumental to future strategic research and management needs for the conservation of these highly endangered species. Research and management contributions presented at these events are screened by a rigorous peer review evaluation process and published in the proceedings of the Symposia.

These events have historically attracted between 300 and 650 participants. It is unknown how the pandemic will affect future attendance. However, planning to guarantee success is a long-term process. **We are calling for proposals from potential host organizations or institutions for the next ISS to be convened in 2025.**

Letters of intent from proposers who wish to host the next ISS are **due by March 15, 2023**. The letter of intent should include the following:

- Clearly defined scientific and regional focus
- Identification of the host or the hosting consortium (a company cannot be the primary organizer of the symposium)
- Identification of the organizing committee
- Conceptual outline of the conference
 - Thematic suggestions for the conference
 - Relevance of the venue site for sturgeon issues
 - Relevance of the conference for the venue site
 - Regional considerations
- Conference site options
 - Optional alternative conference sites
 - Criteria for the site selection
- Travel and logistic options
- Lodging options
- Pre- or post-conference tour options
- Potential spouse programs
- Draft budget

The conceptual plans will be screened by the WSCS Board of Directors, and all proposers will be contacted within one month after the deadline to inform them as to whether a full proposal is

requested. This should allow for ample time to respond to specific questions which may arise from the review by the Board members.

The full proposal should be received by the home office of WSCS no later than **August 1, 2023**. Proposals should address the issues outlined below. A decision will be made by the WSCS Board of Directors by the beginning of September, and all proposers will be informed about the decision immediately thereafter.

Full Proposals should contain the following information:

- Clearly defined final scientific and regional focus
- Finalized identification of the organizing committee
- Detailed description of the conference program
 - Thematic suggestions for the conference
 - Relevance of the venue site for sturgeon issues
 - Relevance of the conference for the venue site
 - Regional considerations
- Conference site options
 - Identification of the primary location of the conference site with optional alternative conference sites if needed
 - Criteria for the site selection
- Travel and logistic options
 - Description of the accessibility of the venue site (closest airport, etc)
 - Visa requirements
 - Any specific restrictions for participants within the country
 - Local support
 - Public transport
 - Shuttle options
- Lodging options
 - On-site or near site accommodation options (hotels, hostels, dorms)
 - Cost per night
 - Alternative options for accommodations
- Pre- or post-conference tour options
 - Potential sites of interest from a sturgeon perspective
 - Recreational sites
 - Museums and touristic options
 - Spouse programs
- Draft Budget
 - Outline of the Expenditures
 - Venue site
 - Consumables
 - Infrastructure
 - Personnel
 - Travel and lodging for invited speakers, SAC etc.
 - Side programs
 - Other
 - Outline of the income

- Participation fees
- Funding sources to be used
- Alternative funding options
- Potential conference participation funding sources
- Securing funds (commitments by funding and organizing entities)
- Payment types accepted for registration (cash, check, credit card, bank transfer)

The applications will be evaluated by the Board in accordance to the following criteria:

- Relevance of the venue site in relation to sturgeon issues
- Regional importance of the conference
- Plausibility and originality of the concept
- International relevance of the conference outline
- Experience in carrying out international events
- Convincing budget planning (preferably with assured funding sources identified)
- Travel access
- Safety/Security

Responsibilities of Hosting Entity: The selected hosting entity will sign an MOU with the WSCS. The hosting entity is responsible for securing funds needed to plan and conduct the symposium and publish proceedings. The hosting entity will cover all travel, lodging, and conference costs for the WSCS Board members and the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC).

Responsibilities of WSCS: The WSCS Board and the host institution will jointly select experts to serve on the SAC. The WSCS Board members will serve on the SAC, and the SAC will assist with program planning, facilitate contacts and support in advertising the venue, collect and facilitate editing of manuscripts, and prepare and negotiate publication arrangements for proceedings.

The letter of intent and the eventual full proposal, as well as requests for clarifications, must be sent to home@wscs.info.