

Call for Bids to Host 3rd IMBeR Open Science Conference in 2024

IMBeR (Integrated Marine Biosphere Research) is seeking a host for its next Open Science Conference – Future Oceans3 – which will be held in 2024. The five-day conference will be preceded by two days of workshops and will provide a focus for the integration and synthesis of IMBeR research activities with the goal of providing new understanding and quantification of the past, present and future structure and functioning of linked ocean and human systems in order to develop options for securing or transitioning towards ocean sustainability. The conference is expected to attract between 500 to 750 delegates from around the world.

Except for the enhanced capacity to incorporate virtual participation, Future Oceans3 is likely to follow a similar format as [Future Oceans2](#), which was held in Brest, France, in 2019. Future Oceans2 had over 600 participants engaged in 27 oral sessions, 12 workshops, a poster session, an early career day, and social events including a banquet (see [conference booklet](#) for further details).

Future Oceans2 brought approximately € ¼ million to the local economy.

Bids to host Future Oceans3 should include the following details:

Local Hosts and Local Organising Committee

- Scientists and organisations who will serve as local hosts
- Expertise and experience of local organising committee members
- Expected level of local support and associated funding (e.g., potential to secure sponsorship, ability to provide services or facilities at no cost)

Suitability of Location

- To attract leading scientists
- To provide outreach opportunities
- To link with policymakers and industry

Travel and Accommodation

- Expense of international air travel, road and rail links and environmentally-friendly transport options (such as minimising connections)
- Distance of meeting and accommodation facilities from major airport(s) or rail links and cost of transportation between airport and meeting and accommodation facilities
- Visa or other entry requirements to host country, and assistance that will be provided by local organising committee / host institutions
- Availability of accommodation at a range of costs, including the number of rooms, distance from the meeting venue, and costs of rooms for high and low season



Conference Venue

- Description of the meeting venue and details of how it meets the following requirements:
 - Access for disabled attendees
 - Capacity for 500 to 750 delegates
 - Plenary room – suitable to accommodate all attendees for presentations
 - 8-10 breakout rooms – suitable to accommodate conference sessions and workshops (with a range of capacities from 50 to >150 people)
 - 2-3 small meeting rooms (for 15 to 20 people)
 - Room dedicated for conference organisers
 - Space for exhibitor / sponsor booths
 - Area for poster sessions – space to exhibit posters and space to serve drinks and snacks while delegates view posters
 - Areas for coffee breaks and lunch which are suitable for networking
 - Reception area – suitable for registration (preferably with space where delegates can leave coats and bags)
 - Audio-visual equipment for all rooms hosting presentations: plenaries, conference sessions, and workshops
 - Equipment and capacity to live-stream sessions and engage virtual participants
 - WIFI – High-speed able to accommodate all delegates and organisers
 - IT/audio-visual support
- Details of additional facilities (if required) for evening social events, final banquet, etc.
- Ability to host a ‘public lecture’, not limited to the conference delegates but open to local non-scientific attendees
- Dates when facilities are available in 2024
- Options to accommodate non-English speakers

Meals and Refreshment

- Details of local catering options and expected costs (morning coffee break, lunch, afternoon coffee break, snacks and drinks for evening poster sessions, final banquet)
- Availability of water fountains

Entertainment

- Local entertainment and tourism possibilities

Environmental Footprint

- Specify the steps that will be taken to minimize the environmental footprint of the conference

Bids to host Future Oceans3 should be submitted to John Claydon (imber@dal.ca) by **1 May 2022** and limited to about 10 pages. Please include all relevant details.

