

<b>No. 50</b>	<b>Program Committee</b>	<b>Steve Lochmann</b>
---------------	--------------------------	-----------------------

## **Program Committee Chair**

To: John Boreman, President

From: Steve Lochmann, Program Committee Chair

Date: July 23, 2013

### **I. Motion Report (2 pages max)**

A. Recommended Motion: NA

B. Minority View:

C. Background for Motion:

### **II. Activity Report (5 pages max)**

A. Summary of Outcomes and Accomplishments Organized by Focus Area in Strategic Plan.

#### **A.1. Goal 1: Global Fisheries Leadership**

**(a)** The Program Committee has essentially completed the program for the 2013 AFS meeting in Little Rock. We have finalized 24 symposia on a wide range of subjects. Those sessions have a total of 423 abstracts. We have organized 22 oral contributed sessions with a total of 287 abstracts. The poster session should include approximately 114 posters. There is little doubt that the federal sequestration has influenced participation in this meeting. Re-opening the abstract submission process abated some of the negative consequences of the sequestration, and added approximately 85-90 new abstracts to the meeting. Allowing late abstract submissions will likely prove to be popular, but it was too late and too complicated to attempt to assimilate late submissions into similar themed sessions. Putting late submission into general "Fisheries and Natural Resources" sessions will likely receive criticism. The Plenary Session looks to be tied closely to the meeting's theme and should provide a nice kick-off.

**(b)** The use of Confex software has made meeting management considerably easier, despite a change in personnel on the side of Confex (Richelle Topping left Confex and was replaced by Josh Andrews). I strongly urge AFS and future Program Committees to continue use of this software.

**(c)** The option of speed presentations was not utilized widely. We have only one speed presentation in the 2013 Program. The success or failure of adopting the convention used at meetings of the International Fisheries Congress (12-min talks, with 3 min of questions and 5 min to change rooms) remains to be seen. This success will largely depend on the control exercised by moderators.

**A.2. Goal 2: Education/Continuing Education**

**A.3. Goal 3: Value of Membership**

**A.4. Other**