

Principles of Organization for the Annual IEP Workshop

These are not hard and fast rules but are general principles that have been followed during the organization of previous workshops.

1. The Workshop should concentrate on topics of general interest to IEP agencies and stakeholders. Topics for the meeting are selected by the organizing committee based on importance to the IEP mission and availability of appropriate research results and speakers.
2. The Workshop focuses on new research results and technical analyses that advance understanding of scientific topics important to the IEP. Presentations and panels regarding policy matters are certainly appropriate at the discretion of the organizing committee, but should include the wide range of viewpoints within the IEP community.
3. Organization of the Workshop with regard to number of concurrent sessions is at the discretion of the organizing committee. In the past, there has generally been a single session for topics of general importance and concurrent sessions for more technical topics of interest to specialists. Workshop attendees tend to prefer single sessions.
4. The Workshop has generally served as an opportunity for junior staff of agencies and other IEP associated groups to present their work in a supportive, less stressful and less formal atmosphere than a larger professional meeting (e.g. the Delta Science Conference or conferences held by professional societies). The goal has been to have at least half of the speakers from the IEP agencies' junior staff.
5. Because of the many topics that IEP covers, speaking slots are always limited. IEP has traditionally addressed this issue by actively varying the speakers among year, and by organizing a substantial poster session. Similarly, the organizers tend to emphasize presentations that are not duplicated at related meetings such as American Fisheries Society conferences or the Delta Science Conference. Priority is also given to presentations that are required as "deliverables" in IEP contracts.
6. The format and site location of the IEP Workshop is deliberately intended to be less formal than that of other science conferences. The more informal nature of the Workshop environment provides an encouraging and supportive forum for young scientists and others to present scientific results and engage in formal and informal discussions with their peers. The "off-site" location allows for networking and discussions outside of the workshop sessions and helps establish a sense of community among the attendees.