2026 SUMMER FISHTRAP
Participant Packet

Welcome to the 39th Summer Fishtrap Gathering of Writers!

What is your American story?

Our individual roots and lived experiences as Americans are as rich, diverse, and complex as the landscapes that surround us. We hope you'll use this year's Summer Fishtrap Gathering to explore your individual history and understanding of what it means to be "American" — while listening to and learning from the experiences of others. Together, we'll begin to uncover our inclusive, collective American story.

We've created this packet to provide you with essential information to help you plan your week at Summer Fishtrap. Inside, you'll find an early preview of the schedule, packing suggestions, details about travel and lodging, and more about Wallowa County. I encourage you to take the time to review everything included so that you can arrive feeling prepared to write, explore, and fully immerse yourself at your own pace.

As a reminder, your Summer Fishtrap registration includes your chosen weeklong workshop, along with special events such as craft talks, faculty readings, panel discussions, open mics, and breakout sessions—all within the supportive Fishtrap community on the shores of Wallowa Lake.

Watch for an email a few weeks before Summer Fishtrap which will include a more detailed event schedule and more information on our plans for the week. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. Our whole team is happy and ready to help.

See you in June!

Shannon McNerney
Fishtrap Executive Director

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Important Notes

Summer Fishtrap takes place at the historic Wallowa Lake Lodge. This location provides many benefits to our writers and guests including its close proximity to Wallowa Lake, hiking trails, camping sites at the State Park, and local attractions. You will have full access to the outdoor deck, lawn, and 24-hour access to the lobby. Rooms and cabins are also available for participants to reserve for the week by calling the Lodge directly at 541-432-9821.

Afternoon panels, craft talks, and evening events all take place in the large tent set up on the beautiful back lawn. Morning writing workshops take place at faculty cabins and/or sites within walking distance of the Lodge.

Local bookstore, The Bookloft, will be on site in the Lodge and will have faculty books and merchandise for sale. Contact The Bookloft if you would like your publications available during Summer Fishtrap.

Meals, Lodging, and Travel

LODGING

Wallowa Lake is a popular summer tourist destination and accommodations fill up quickly. We recommend reserving your lodging early.

Wallowa Lake Lodge
Rooms and cabins are available at Wallowa Lake Lodge. Rooms can only be reserved for Summer Fishtrap week by calling the Lodge directly at 541-432-9821.

Cabins, B&Bs, and More
The Wallowa Lake area offers many other lodging options to fit most any budget from cabin rentals at the lake to motels and B&Bs in the nearby town of Joseph. Contact the Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce for more information. Be sure to tell them you're going to Summer Fishtrap!

Tent Camping and other Affordable Options
You can reserve tent camping at Wallowa Lake State Park through the Wallowa Lake State Park reservation system.

MEALS

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are available from Wallowa Lake Lodge's two restaurants. There are also several nearby stores, food carts, and restaurants. Look for more information on meal options in the weeks leading up to Summer Fishtrap.

TRAVEL AND CONNECTIONS

Need a ride to Wallowa Lake? Have extra room in your cabin? Want to connect with other Summer Fishtrap folks early? Join the Summer Fishtrap Room and Rideshare Facebook group to get in touch with attendees and make arrangements. Don't use Facebook? Just send us a note at info@fishtrap.org with your request and availability. We'll post your message.

2026 Summer Fishtrap Schedule

**subject to change*

Check-in: Summer Fishtrap Check-In takes place from 4:00-6:00pm, Monday, June 22, and from 8:00–8:50am, Tuesday, June 23. You'll receive a Summer Fishtrap Program that elaborates on the schedule and provides additional maps and information on activities. Unless otherwise noted, please meet at **Wallowa Lake Lodge** for all events, off-camp departures, and other scheduled programming.

Morning Writing Workshops: Your Summer Fishtrap Workshops run from 9:00am-12:00pm Tuesday through Saturday. **Morning Workshops are held in your instructor's cabin or another mutually agreed upon location.** Let us know if you have accessibility requirements or other mobility concerns.

Afternoon Events: Every afternoon we offer a craft talk, breakout session, or a panel discussion. There is also time for hiking, napping, a dip in Wallowa Lake, and plenty of time to write. You'll receive a detailed schedule in the spring. Daily schedules will be posted each morning in the Lodge lobby.

Open Mic: The open mic is an opportunity to gather and share excerpts of your work-in-progress in a comfortable and supportive atmosphere. Join us Tuesday through Friday from 4:30–5:30pm. All are encouraged to participate and attend. Look for sign-ups each morning—they fill quickly.

Evening Events: Each evening we feature our Summer Fishtrap faculty in readings and presentations. Invite your friends and family to attend; all nights are free and open to the public save for Saturday night's Keynote address which is a ticketed event.

Weekend Highlights: Join us Saturday, June 27, in celebration of Summer Fishtrap's theme of "Our American Story" with a keynote address by Oregon Poet Laureate, Ellen Waterston. Your registration includes this. Guests may buy tickets at fishtrap.org. There are many other events during the weekend including the Fishtrap Fellowship and Yearlong Writers Workshop readings. We'll have a full schedule for you in the spring.

The following is a brief look at the schedule and Summer Fishtrap event locations throughout the week. Visit fishtrap.org for the latest updates to the schedule.

Monday, June 22

Travel day to Wallowa Lake

4:00pm	Early Check-In begins
5:00-7:00pm	Gathering reception (optional)

Tuesday, June 23 – Friday, June 26

7:30-9:00am	Breakfast
8:00-8:50am	Check-In
9:00am-Noon	Writing Workshops
Noon-1:30pm	Lunch
1:30-3:00pm	Presentations & Discussions
4:30-5:30pm	Open Mic
5:30-7:00pm	Dinner
7:30-9:00pm	Featured Readings and Presentations
9:00pm	Book Signings

Saturday, June 27

7:30-9:00am	Breakfast
9:00am-Noon	Final Writing Workshop
Noon-1:30pm	Lunch
1:30-3:00pm	Presentations & Discussions
4:30-5:30pm	Showcases
5:00-6:00pm	Happy Hour
5:30-7:00pm	Dinner
7:30-9:00pm	Summer Fishtrap Finale
9:00pm	Book Signings

Sunday, June 28

7:30-9:00am	Breakfast
9:00am	Readings
11:00 am	Farewell

What to Pack

Clothes: Wallowa County weather is unpredictable. June will likely be warm, but you should be prepared for any weather from hot to freezing. Walking shoes or hiking boots, a good warm cap, and rain gear are strongly encouraged. Dressing in layers is often the best option. Evening events take place outdoors under the Big Tent. When the sun goes down, temperatures drop quickly. Be sure to bring a jacket or even a blanket. Summer Fishtrap is nestled on the forested south end of Wallowa Lake, so bring your suit if you like to swim!

Altitude and Sun: Wallowa Lake rests at 4,372 feet. Those of you coming from sea level may feel the effects of the altitude change for the first 24-48 hours. Most likely, you'll feel it when climbing up trails, or just feel a little tired. The antidote is to hydrate: drink water and lots of it. Sunscreen is also key!

Digital devices: A laptop or tablet can come in handy, but many of our participants and faculty choose to go back to the old days and hand write in a notebook. It's a wonderful opportunity to slow down and be low-tech. WiFi is available at Wallowa Lake Lodge, however cell service is often unreliable. If you do work best on a keyboard, pack a flash drive or external hard drive to save, share, and print files and have a plan for storing your device when not in use. The Lodge does not have storage lockers and power outlets are limited.

Copy Machine/Printer: Fishtrap will have a self-service copy machine/printer available for use with limited hours of operation and minimal tech support. Additional printing services are available at Central Copy & Shipping in Enterprise.

Lodge Facilities & Guidelines

Accessibility: Wallowa Lake Lodge's main room and backyard are ADA accessible. Because of the rustic nature of the Wallowa Lake area, not all workshop cabins are ADA accessible. If you have mobility or other disability concerns, please contact us. We'll do our best to make sure you are able to fully participate in all Summer Fishtrap programming.

It's a short walk on a paved path from the Lodge to the shores of Wallowa Lake. The Wallowa Mountains offer miles of hiking trails and the lake community offers many attractions from the Wallowa Lake Tramway to mini golf. Shopping, restaurants, museums, and art galleries can also be found six miles down the road in the town of Joseph or 12 miles to Enterprise.

Alcohol: Wallowa Lake Lodge will open their bar from lunch until 9:00pm each evening. Please remember that this is an all-ages gathering with minors on site. Outside alcohol is not allowed on Wallowa Lake Lodge grounds.

Smoking: Smoking or vaping of any substance is not allowed at Wallowa Lake Lodge. You can puff in public places off property but please keep Wallowa Lake beautiful and discard cigarette butts properly.

Pets: We love our pets but they are not allowed at the Lodge. Some of the nearby cabin rentals do allow dogs. Check with them for their pet policies. Service animals are allowed at Wallowa Lake Lodge but may not be allowed in your workshop cabin. Please get in touch if you plan to have a service animal accompanying you to Summer Fishtrap.

Books: Have you published a book you want to make available at Summer Fishtrap? Our local bookstore, The Bookloft, will have a table featuring titles by faculty, guests, and participants. Contact Becky Wyland for details at manager@bookloft.org.

Music: What would Fishtrap be without music? Bring your instruments. We hope sunny afternoons are filled with melodious voices on the Lodge's beautiful grounds.

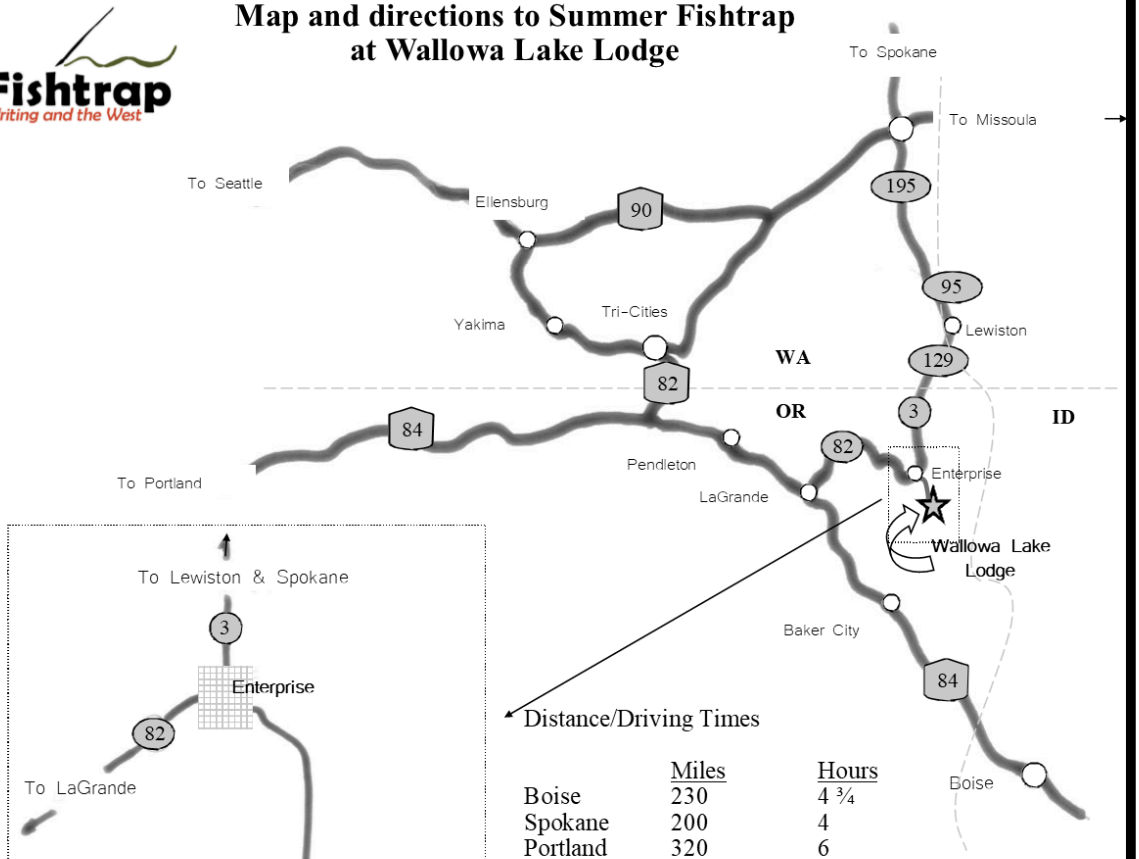
About this Place

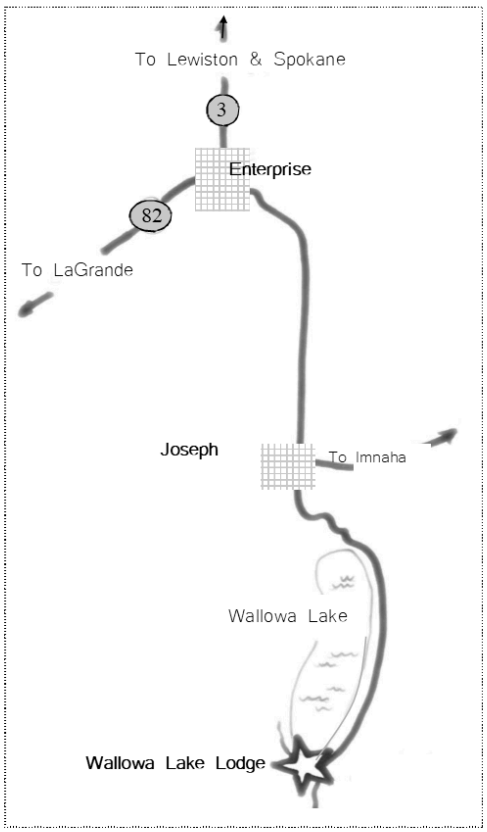
Fishtrap is nestled in Wallowa County, Oregon, the ancestral homeland of the Nimíipuu (Nez Perce) people. The land's spirit and beauty are deeply intertwined with Fishtrap's mission, inspiring generations of writers who have found creativity and connection in this remarkable place.

Wallowa County's rich, complex history makes it the place it is today. From the dynamic natural history of the landscape to the thousands of years of indigenous stewardship and colonial history of the Nimiipuu (Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland) to the multi-faceted contemporary community of foresters, ranchers, educators, doctors, artists, and many more, Wallowa County's stories run deep. This is the charmed and challenging place we call home.

Getting to Wallowa Lake

Map and directions to Summer Fishtrap at Wallowa Lake Lodge





Distance/Driving Times

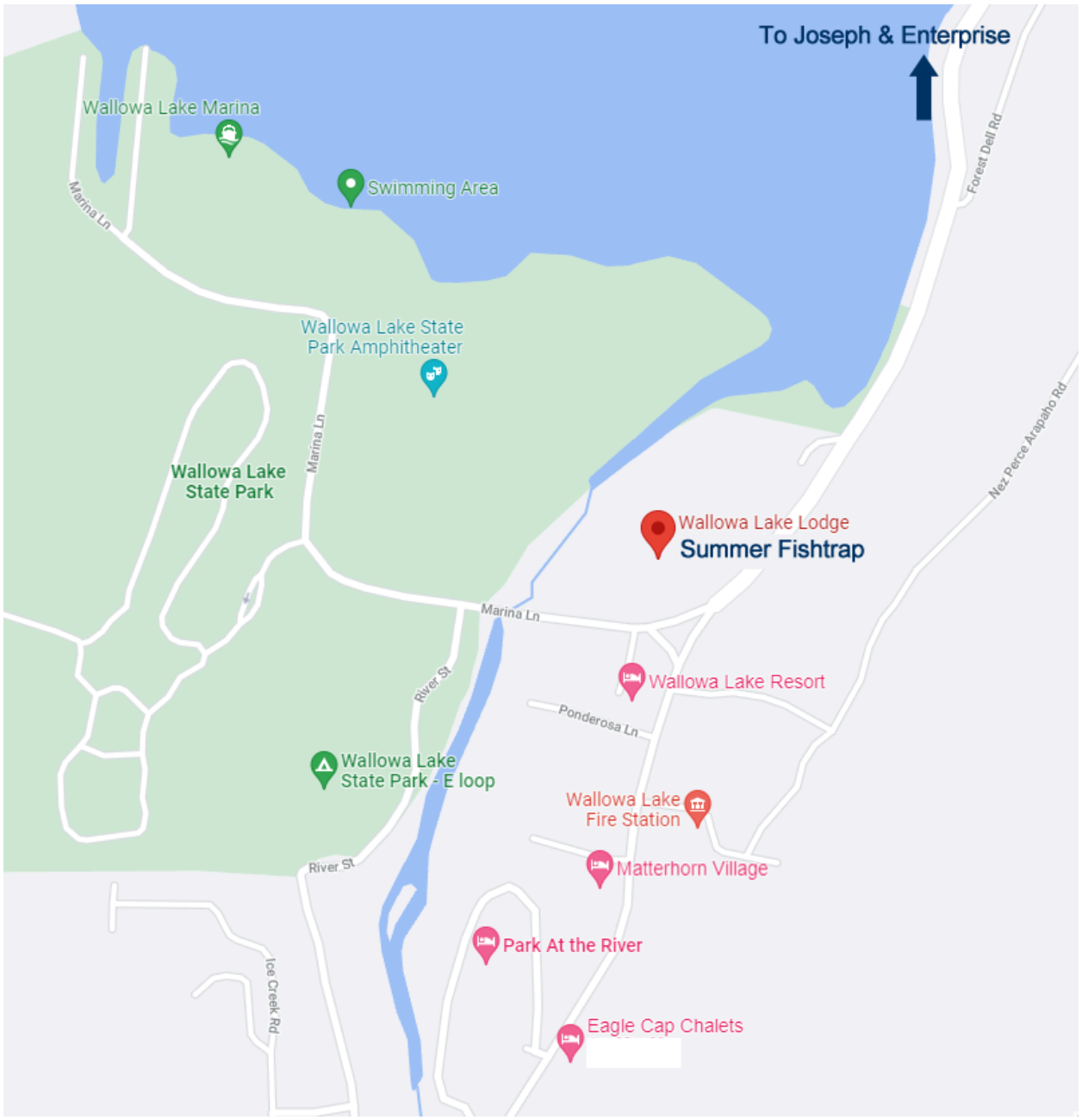
	Miles	Hours
Boise	230	4 ¾
Spokane	200	4
Portland	320	6
Seattle	365	7
Lewiston	85	2
Pendleton	115	2 ¾
Tri-Cities	155	3 ½
La Grande	75	2

Directions:

If you are using I-84, you leave the freeway at La Grande and take Route 82 to Wallowa Lake. From Lewiston or Spokane, Route 3 gets you to Enterprise where you pick up 82 to the lake.

Wallowa Lake Lodge is located at the head of Wallowa Lake, approximately 6 miles from Joseph. Follow the highway through Joseph, continue along the shore of the lake. Watch for our sign on the right.

Map of Wallowa Lake Community



Fishtrap Code of Conduct

Why a Code of Conduct is Important

Thank you for being a respectful member of the Fishtrap community. Fishtrap is committed to maintaining a welcoming and accountable environment for all who interact with Fishtrap and our programs as we carry out our mission to cultivate clear thinking and good writing in and about the West. Our staff is dedicated to serving our community near and far with integrity and kindness. We believe all people deserve to participate in our programs free from harm, harassment, and abuse. We invite you to create the Fishtrap community with us, sharing the understanding that we are all responsible for ourselves and must work together to thrive.

Join Us

We ask that you join our efforts to foster a healthy community both online and offline by practicing the following: respect self and others, adhere to applicable laws, embrace anti-harassment*, prohibit sexual misconduct**, and maintain honesty in communications.

Please acknowledge harassment does not include respectful disagreement or critique in good faith. Reading, writing, and other creative pursuits inherently involve risk and exposure to controversial, challenging, and sometimes offensive language.

How to Respond

If you are the witness or recipient of any harmful behavior, please report your experience to any member of the Fishtrap staff, an instructor, or a member of the Fishtrap Board. Whether or not you feel personally affected by harmful or disruptive behavior, reporting your experience and observations helps others who may be affected differently. Reports will be directed to Fishtrap's Executive Director, who will follow up on the issue with further conversations, requests to stop the behavior, discipline and possible removal of the perpetrator from the situation. Fishtrap staff, instructors, and Board will maintain confidentiality for all parties involved.

If you are asked to stop harmful behavior by a member of the Fishtrap staff, faculty, or Board of Directors, you are expected to comply immediately. Violating these expectations may be considered retaliation and result in expulsion from the event and/or future programs without a refund, reimbursement or pay. Fishtrap may involve the police or other resources when necessary or requested.

If it is determined that harassment has occurred as defined by applicable law, Fishtrap may hold the perpetrator legally liable for their actions under state or federal anti-discrimination laws or in separate legal actions.

If the Executive Director is the recipient, perpetrator or witness of harmful behavior, the report will be directed to the Board President.

***Harassment** can be based on age, gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, culture, national origin, religion, body type, personal appearance, physical or mental ability, socioeconomic status, marital status, political activities or affiliation, or any other basis proscribed by local, state, provincial, national, and federal laws and regulations.

Harassment can occur to any person, either in person or through online activities now known or unknown, and involve tactics such as trolling, stalking, using hate speech, threatening, intimidating, falsely accusing, reporting of false grievances, manipulating, or other means.

****Sexual misconduct** can be verbal or physical in nature, and involve behavior such as unwelcome advances, commentary, displays, gestures, inquiries or discussion of sexual activities, orientation or gender identity.

Terms and Conditions

Summer Fishtrap
Terms and Conditions - Refund and Cancellation Policy

These Terms and Conditions are valid for each attendee registering for the 2026 Summer Fishtrap Gathering of Writers conference.

Summer Fishtrap is held in an outdoor setting with inherent risks, hazards, and dangers. All registrants agree to follow the rules and policies and sign a waiver. No pets are allowed.

Summer Fishtrap Gathering of Writers Cancellation and Refund Policy:

Fishtrap registration includes a $150 nonrefundable deposit. If you need to cancel your registration for any reason, the following schedule applies:

- 60 days or more prior to the first day of the program, you will be issued a full refund minus the $150 deposit.
- 30-59 days prior to the first day of the program, you will be issued a 50% refund of the total registration fee.
- Less than 30 days prior to the first day of the program, no refunds will be issued.
- Installment plan participants: Fishtrap will follow the same cancellation policy noted above. Your 5% administrative fee will not be refunded.

Requests for refunds must be submitted in writing to Mike Midlo, mike@fishtrap.org.

In the unlikely event that Fishtrap cancels Summer Fishtrap, you will have the option of receiving a full refund, including deposit, or receiving registration credit that can be applied toward registration fees for any Fishtrap workshops within 24 months. Fishtrap is not responsible for any nonrefundable travel costs.

We encourage all participants to look into a Travel Insurance policy in the case that you are not able to attend due to circumstances beyond your control.

Fishtrap reserves the right to refuse to admit or remove any participant or refuse registration to any participant who may violate the Fishtrap Code of Conduct Policy or may be disruptive to the event. This policy exists to ensure the safety of all participants, instructors, and staff. Registrants refused admittance at registration will receive a full refund.

This refund policy covers all fees paid to Fishtrap for registration.

Notice of Non-Discrimination

Fishtrap prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, gender, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, or age. Fishtrap will make reasonable modifications to policies and procedures to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy programs, services, and activities. This policy applies to all Fishtrap administration, activities, and events and will be enforced for all employees, contractors, volunteers, and participants.

Photographs/Video/Audio Recordings

Participants are reminded that material presented at Summer Fishtrap is the intellectual property of Fishtrap. As a result, participants are prohibited from recording presentations in their entirety with the intent to distribute to others. The use of personal smart phones, cameras or video devices should be limited to recording snapshots or snippets for personal use, such as taking snapshots throughout the conference venue to support Fishtrap's efforts to convey the excitement of the event through posting on social media.

You'll receive a detailed schedule of Summer Fishtrap events in June.

Questions? Get in touch with Fishtrap Program Director, Mike Midlo
mike@fishtrap.org