



NOMINATION APPLICATION FORM

Section 1: Applicant Details:

Name: Itzel Sifuentes Romero
Date: 31/10/2022 03:31:13
Email address: itzelsifuentes923@gmail.com
Nominated position: Board of Directors (2 x Positions)
Professional affiliations: Iowa State University
Country of residence: United States
Geographic area of work: United States

Section 2: Applicant Response:

How would you describe your work with sea turtles?

Researcher

How many years have you worked with sea turtles?

20 years

Which Annual Sea Turtle Symposia, or Annual Workshops have you attended?

2010, 2012-2019, 2022

Have you been involved with any Symposium activities?

ISTS Student Committee chair 2012-2018. Co-organizing the TSD workshop for 5 years.

What would you like the Nominating Committee, Board of Directors, and membership to know about you as a candidate for your nominated position? In what ways would you like to contribute to the Symposium/ International Sea Turtle Society?

I am a passionate advocate for the study and conservation of sea turtles. I have 20 years of experience working with sea turtles in both the field and the lab. My experience ranges from my enrollment in a sea turtle monitoring program in the state of Baja California Sur, Mexico, where I had the opportunity to work directly with fishing communities encouraging conservation activities; to my work in the lab, developing innovative tools to address critical questions in sea turtle biology. A main component throughout my career, has been undoubtedly, my attendance and participation in numerous Sea Turtle Symposiums. Starting in 2010, I have attended 10 different meetings and I have benefitted from the opportunities the symposium and the society offers to students and professionals. Opportunities such as, travel grants and the invaluable experience of meeting inspiring and amazing people that have guided the course of my career. I have also been directly involved in the International Sea Turtle Society by leading the Student Committee for 8 years, seeking to promote knowledge exchange, and provide a centralized communication base for students. Throughout those years, more than 200 students from over 15 countries have participated in the Student Committee activities and we have received many positive comments from various ISTS participants on how they found very useful the activities we organized. As a member of the BoD, I would like to continue providing a platform for students (and non-traditional students) to find guidance, inspiration, and opportunities to build a foundation for their career. I also envision to strengthen the voice of science on conservation matters. As a molecular developmental biologist, I strongly believe that a scientific perspective can help conservation biologists to develop better management practices.

How do you envision using the Symposium to advance sea turtle biology and promote conservation?

I believe the key to advancing sea turtle biology and conservation is by giving students and professionals a centralized base to find and build collaborative networks. Providing a platform where students and professionals can interchange experiences and needs stimulates creativity, leading to better and different ideas to study the biology of sea

turtles. Therefore, networking activities during the symposium should continue and strengthen. Even more, bringing back tools, like the Job board that once existed, could also facilitate this networking activities throughout the year. The annual symposium could also be an opportunity to bring together sea turtle experts (academics, conservationists, educators, policy makers) with the general public. With the itinerant nature of the symposium, we can organize events for local audiences where they can learn about sea turtles, the sea turtle society, the amazing work the turtle community does around the world, and how they can participate in a global conservation effort.

Why is the ISTS as an organization important to you, professionally and personally? What is your vision for the ISTS over the next 5 to 10 years?

Over the course of my career, I have attended and participated in many different conferences from various scientific societies. My experience with ISTS, however, has always separated itself from other societies; ISTS makes me feel at home and the members are family. The ISTS has always demonstrated a relatable enthusiasm and commitment to sea turtle conservation. Through attending the ISTS each year, my passion and advocacy for sea turtle research and conservation is always reaffirmed. ISTS has been a source of inspiration, providing a platform to share my own work, and to network with professionals in different disciplines that has resulted in wonderful and productive collaborations. Therefore, my vision for ISTS for the next 5-10 years is a strong interdisciplinary society in which each member has a voice and opportunity to contribute using their specific knowledge and expertise, strengthening every aspect of the conservation of sea turtles. A society with a compassionate and unified voice that recognizes many disciplines, from academic and conservation, to policy making and education, will ultimately raise awareness of the importance of the study and conservation of sea turtles.

Please include a 250-word bio

I am a molecular developmental biologist with 20 years of experience working with sea turtles, from nesting beaches and feeding grounds to my bench in the lab. My research focuses in studying how changes in the environment, from natural or anthropogenic sources, affect the development of sea turtles. Particularly, I am interested in studying the molecular mechanisms through which environmental factors, such as temperature, determines the sex of the hatchlings. I have participated in numerous collaborative research projects that combined expertise from different labs in Mexico, France, Australia, and the US, resulting in the publication of a variety of peer reviewed papers, book chapters, outreach notes, and the development of innovative tools to study the biology of sea turtles. Over the course of my career, I have received different

recognitions and awards, such as the Archie Carr Best Poster Award in Biology and the Fulbright-Garcia Robles Fellowship. I have also been an active member of the Sea Turtle Society co-organizing the Temperature Dependent Sex Determination Workshop for 4 years and leading the Student Committee for 8 consecutive years. My passion for both science and sea turtles has driven my career and continues encouraging me to bring basic science and conservation closer together to develop better and innovative conservation strategies.

Photo:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1WzLdKFxRmBlmifh90NOF936tHvjcesVU>

Section 3: Declaration

Circle your response to the below statements:

I am a current member of ISTS Yes

I have read and understand the ISTS by-laws and constitution Yes

I have read and understand the terms of reference for the position which I am nominating for: Yes

For Board of Directors nominees, I understand that the Annual Board Retreat is usually in the 3rd week of August: Yes

For Board of Directors nominees: Please read the following statement and add your initials below to confirm you understand the workload involved:

The Board is a working Board. All members of the Board are expected to carry the workload, share the responsibility of assigned tasks, and respond to written communications – this can typically be 40+ hours per year in addition to the Board meeting at the Symposium and the Board Retreat. If a Board member does not maintain their ISTS membership and demonstrate a high level of commitment to the ISTS as described in the Board members' TORs, they will be asked to resign from the Board. High level of commitment is defined as not missing two consecutive mid-year meetings, except under extenuating circumstances, and annually serving on 1-2 Board task forces, leadership roles, Committees, etc.

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