



## NOMINATION APPLICATION FORM

### Section 1: Applicant Details:

**Name:** Joseph Pfaller

**Date:** 08/11/2022 00:58:58

**Email address:** joseph.pfaller@noaa.gov

**Nominated position:** Board of Directors (2 x Positions)

**Professional affiliations:** NOAA/NMFS, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, Marine Mammal and Turtle Division

**Country of residence:** United States

**Geographic area of work:** Northwest Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Wider Caribbean

### Section 2: Applicant Response:

**How would you describe your work with sea turtles?**

Researcher and Research Coordinator

**How many years have you worked with sea turtles?**

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

2004, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2011, 2013-2019

**Have you been involved with any Symposium activities?**

Volunteer Chair (2013, 2019), Exhibitor/Vendor Chair (2014, 2017), Archie Carr Student Award Judge (2019, 2022), Presenter (2005, 2007, 2008, 2011, 2013-2018), Abstract Compiler (2019), Workshop Co-Chair (2023)

**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 have been an ISTS member and attended meetings since I was an undergraduate student in 2004. Starting in 2013, I began serving in various Chair duties to aid in the success of our annual meeting. Working closely with Donna Broadbent and various past Presidents, I have gained valuable experience in understanding how our meeting operates, where cost-cutting measures may exist, and how to interact successfully with chairs and participants. I plan to contribute time and ideas to not only help with decisions related the Symposium (e.g., whether or not to host the meeting every year or not), but also general Society operations, programmatic goals, budget issue, and DEIA initiatives.

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

The Symposium will continue to be a platform for sharing ... sharing ideas, sharing perspectives, sharing scientific results, sharing conservation and management ideas, sharing beverages, and sharing time and space. This collaborative approach has and will continue to play an integral role in stabilizing and recovering many sea turtle populations around the world, expanding our knowledge, fortifying friendships, and fostering communication. The next step in using the Symposium to advance sea turtle biology and promote conversation is to develop initiatives to increase DEIA at our meeting. Developing a virtual component to every meeting will be paramount in this regard, but the Society will need to be open and creative with other ways to increase the breadth of our sharing.

**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?**

I grew-up attending the ISTS meetings. From undergrad, to masters, to PhD, to professional scientist. Early on, attending these meetings allowed me to learn about sea

turtle science and meet many of the researchers who's research papers I was reading. These opportunities fostered my desires to become a scientist and humanized the researchers, which showed me that a career in sea turtles science was attainable. Over time, I have developed many strong relationships and my love for the Society has played an important role in my desire to serve the sea turtle community for the rest of my career. Over the next 5 to 10 years, I envision ISTS making important strides towards increasing DEIA, especially at our annual meeting. Developing a virtual component to every meeting will be paramount for reaching and involving more people and we may decide to have some meetings entirely virtual (which would also decrease our carbon footprint). However, because in-person interactions were so critical to my development and the development of my international connections, I think we should remain open and creative when considering the possibilities for increasing DEIA at in-person meetings. I envision ISTS finding a financial and social balance that will allow our society and meetings to continue responsibly, efficiently, and equitably.

**Please include a 250-word bio**

I started working with sea turtles at the age of 15 while volunteering on the Caretta Research Project (CRP), a non-profit organization decided to studying and protecting loggerhead turtles nesting on the Wassaw National Wildlife Refuge (near Savannah, GA). I completed my B.S. and Ph.D. at the University of Florida and my M.S. at Florida State University, while serving as an intern and Research Director of CRP and a Research Associate of the Queensland EPA in Australia. I served as CRP's Research Director for 12 years before joining the NOAA SEFSC as the Sea Turtle Branch Chief in Aug. 2022. My research on sea turtles has ranged from evaluating methodological biases associated with estimating population demographic rates to understanding the ecological roles that sea turtles play as hosts to epibiota to testing the sensory mechanisms that attract sea turtles to ocean plastics. Within the sea turtle community, I have graciously worked with academics, state and federal wildlife managers, NGO and non-profit researchers, and private consultants from both national and international organizations.

**Photo:**

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1ix09uwsFSDALKm0QiugBizj1gi0du-Tt>

### **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.*

JBP