



NOMINATION APPLICATION FORM

Section 1: Applicant Details:

Name: George Lewis Shillinger

Date: 23/11/2023 08:44:41

Email address: george@upwell.org

Nominated position: Board of Directors (2 x Positions)

Professional affiliations: Upwell Turtles, Executive Director and Co-Founder
MigraMar, Founding Board member/Treasurer
Member of IUCN-SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group
Member of LAUDOPO and ICAPO

Country of residence: United States of America

Geographic area of work: Worldwide

Section 2: Applicant Response:

How would you describe your work with sea turtles?

Sea turtle conservation non-profit founder and director
Lead researcher
Conservation planner
Educator

Policy and management advice/interventions with domestic and international natural resource management agencies

How many years have you worked with sea turtles?

I've worked with sea turtles for over 20 years.

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

41st Annual Symposium (Cartagena, Colombia, 2023)
40th Annual Symposium (Virtual and Perth, Australia, 2022)
39th Annual Symposium (Charleston, USA, 2019)
38th Annual Symposium (Kobe, Japan, 2018)
36th Annual Symposium (Lima, Peru, 2016)
35th Annual Symposium (Dalaman, Turkey, 2015)
34th Annual Symposium (New Orleans, USA, 2014)
31st Annual Symposium (San Diego, USA, 2011)
30th Annual Symposium (Goa, India, 2010)
29th Annual Symposium (Brisbane, Australia, 2009)
28th Annual Symposium (Loreto, Mexico, 2008)
26th Annual Symposium (Crete, Greece, 2006)
24th Annual Symposium (San Jose, Costa Rica, 2004)

Have you been involved with any Symposium activities?

I've served as a Co-Chair for the following sessions: In-Water Biology and Conservation, Management and Policy, and Education, Outreach, and Advocacy during several previous symposia.

Regularly attend regional symposia (e.g. RETOMALA, LAUDOPO, RASTOMA, Asia, Oceania/Pacific) and specialist groups (IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group) meetings.

I've assisted with judging student presentations at previous conferences.

I routinely serve as lead author or coauthor on presentations and posters at the Symposium.

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 committed to elevating the scope and impact of the Symposium/ International Sea Turtle Society within and beyond our existing community of stakeholders to further sea turtle research and conservation objectives. I hope to assist with identifying and generating resources to support the Symposium/ International Sea Turtle Society, through private and public funding sources, cause-related marketing and corporate partnerships, and in-kind contributions. I will work to increase engagement and participation of early career researchers and conservationists worldwide and will assist with developing scientific programs and expanding participation from the international sea turtle research and conservation community.

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

I will work to increase the scope and impact of the Symposium/ International Sea Turtle Society within and beyond our community of stakeholders to address sea turtle research gaps and conservation priorities and will leverage the profile and visibility of the Symposium as a vehicle for increasing awareness among stakeholders and decision makers about sea turtle conservation and management needs. I would like to help to develop and convene task forces of topical experts to provide advice or expertise on specific sea turtle conservation issues. We have the great opportunity to leverage the Symposium's reach and visibility to generate resources that will support and sustain the International Sea Turtle Society by expanding its membership, increasing its visibility and efficacy, and catalyzing research efforts in the context of conservation priorities and management needs.

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 have been involved with the ISTS for over twenty years and have developed many close and meaningful friendships and professional relationships within the ISTS community throughout my career. The ISTS has served as an amazing repository of sea turtle knowledge for me, and as a wonderful and congenial place to meet and connect with like-minded sea turtle researchers and conservationists. The ISTS is an umbrella organization, involving networks of sea turtle researchers and conservation practitioners. As such, it provides a necessary and appropriate global context for examining the myriad shared challenges facing sea turtle populations worldwide and for exploring potential opportunities to counter threats and advance the recovery and

conservation of imperiled sea turtle populations.

My vision is to increase the scope and impact of the Symposium/ International Sea Turtle

Society and its work to increase the field of knowledge about sea turtle biology and conservation and to achieve its vision of “insuring globally robust populations of sea turtles fulfilling their ecological roles within a healthy environment, in harmonious coexistence with all Peoples.” I would like to leverage the profile and visibility of the Symposium to increase awareness among stakeholders and decision makers about sea turtle conservation and management needs and to promote actions for achieving these objectives. By expanding the Symposium’s reach and visibility, I hope to generate increased resources for supporting and sustaining the International Sea Turtle Society and the Symposium for years to come.

Please include a 250-word bio

Dr. Shillinger is the Executive Director, co-founder and lead scientist for Upwell Turtles. He is also a founding board member and Treasurer for MigraMar. As Upwell’s lead scientist he develops research partnerships and leverages data to set conservation priorities, build support in key constituencies and advance protections for turtles at sea. George has worked in various capacities for different international environmental organizations since 1986. He has considerable experience researching the movement ecology of sea turtles and other large pelagic marine species, including sharks, billfish, and tuna and supporting related conservation efforts.

As a co-founder of the first-ever Great Turtle Race in 2007, he used satellite-tracking data to raise global awareness for critically endangered leatherbacks. Dr. Shillinger has great expertise in the deployment of satellite and acoustic tags on several sea turtle species and has been working to refine the development of novel micro-satellite tags for use on early stage juvenile sea turtles.

George holds a PhD in Marine Biology from Stanford University, an MS in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Stanford University, an MBA from the Yale University School of Management, and a BA in the Biological Basis of Behavior from the University of Pennsylvania. He currently serves on the advisory and supervisory committees of doctoral students at the University of Western Australia, Florida Atlantic University, and Florida Atlantic University Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, and University of Toulouse, France, and has previously served as an advisor to doctoral and masters

students at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Studies.

Photo:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1S3iOTkVunz-_AFoq8UjE5Dk6Gv_I2WQI

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.

GLS