



## **NOMINATION APPLICATION FORM**

### **Section 1: Applicant Details:**

**Name:** Richard Reina

**Date:** 27/11/2023 09:04:49

**Email address:** richard.reina@monash.edu

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

**Professional affiliations:** Monash University, Australia

**Country of residence:** Australia

**Geographic area of work:** Australia, Western Pacific, Central America

### **Section 2: Applicant Response:**

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

I'm primarily a researcher, but I have also worked as a volunteer, conservationist and educator.

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

About 30 years

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

I have only missed 6 symposia since 1994

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

I was program co-chair in 2000, have been session chair many times, plenary speaker in 2015 and student volunteer all of the years that I was a student.

**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 served on the Board before, from 2018 to 2022. During that time I took an active role and am particularly interested in seeing the governance of the Society change so that the President and Board can focus more on the strategic development of the Society. I think that the Society should be able to have a more public voice and to influence decisions that affect sea turtles globally. I have extensive experience both as a sea turtle researcher and also as a leader in my professional role. I will bring these skills and experience to the Board if elected.

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

The symposium is the main pathway for the ISTS to engage with the wider community and it is important that it caters to a wide range of participants and spectators. Greater and more effective use of social media is an area I would like to see more of, including a greater mainstream media presence. Many of the conservation issues faced by sea turtles need to be addressed by grass-roots activities and therefore promoting social change is vital. The standard of research work at the symposium is usually very high and this should continue, with a wide range of topics. The inclusion of the more societal aspects of sea turtle conservation has been a great step to broadening the appeal of the symposium to a non-scientific audience. I envision the symposium increasing its contract with the broader community while still attracting the best sea turtle scientists and researchers from around the world.

**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?**

The ISTS is important to me because it embodies many of the broad views I have on the integration of research and conservation action. I have made many great friends and collaborators through the society and each time I attend I feel further energized in the work that I do. My goal is that within the Board of the ISTS I can increase the

opportunities for others to experience the same. I think that I can make a valuable contribution to the financial stability, good governance, global inclusion and public outreach of the society to achieve this goal. I would like to see the ISTS engage more fully with experts in other areas of marine science and conservation science, particularly in the area of fisheries and fisheries impacts. There have been some great conservation and research advances by the marine mammal and fish communities that I would like to see more turtle people exposed to and learn from. I also hope that a restructuring of the governance of the society can result in more continuity in leadership and more focus on advancement of the goals of the ISTS, rather than the President's and Board's focus being dominated by the symposium.

**Please include a 250-word bio**

I began working with sea turtles in 1993, for my PhD investigating sea turtle physiology on the Great Barrier Reef. I attended my first sea turtle symposium in 1994. That experience inspired me to continue sea turtle research and protection, so I moved to Costa Rica in 1996 to lead the research team at Las Baulas National Park, working primarily with leatherbacks. I was actively involved in promotion of sea turtle conservation to the local community and liaised with researchers, management officials, students, guides, tourists and local school kids. I returned to Australia in 2002 to join Monash University in Melbourne, where I am now Professor and Deputy Dean in the Faculty of Science. My research interests are in the ecophysiology of turtles, sharks and penguins and how we can use biological knowledge to design better management and protection programs. I work closely with the Australian government in these areas, am a member of the Marine Turtle Specialist Group and have published over 130 scientific papers on these topics. I have been an active member of the sea turtle community and have attended most symposia since 1994 and served on the Board of Directors from 2018 to 2022. During that time I led several initiatives to restructure the Board's operations, improve governance and support to members. If re-elected I would bring talent, enthusiasm and experience to the Board of Directors role to continue these reforms.

**Photo:**

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1oadcygFie6v51qC6e2hTY4sbhr2-Pt-O>

### **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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