



## NOMINATION APPLICATION FORM

### Section 1: Applicant Details:

**Name:** Ryan Welsh

**Nominated position:** Awards Committee (2 x Positions)

**Professional affiliations:** Inwater Research Group

**Country of residence:** USA

**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

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

Savannah (25th), Myrtle Beach (27th), Loreto (28th), Brisbane (29th), San Diego (31st), Turkey (35th), Lima (36th), Kobe (38th), Charleston (39th), Perth (40th), Cartagena (41st)

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

Auction Planning Committee with Larry Wood (Charleston 39th)  
ISTS Nominations Committee 2021-2024

**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?**

As a candidate for the Career Awards Committee, I am eager to contribute to leading the International Sea Turtle Society (ISTS) forward. My experience includes over two decades of active participation in symposiums, which I admire for their blend of professional rigor and a welcoming, community-oriented atmosphere. These elements are vital for attracting new talent and retaining experienced professionals in the field. The ISTS's role in facilitating the exchange of ideas and promoting sea turtle biology and conservation has been pivotal, contributing significantly to broader ocean initiatives.

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

See above

**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?**

Professionally and personally, the ISTS has been instrumental in my career since 2003. It has been a cornerstone for networking, fostering connections with colleagues, advisors, and funders. Now, I wish to give back to the organization that has enriched my professional journey. My vision for ISTS over the next 5 to 10 years involves continuing its mission of connecting scientists and managers worldwide, fostering dialogue, learning, and social interactions. Strengthening these connections is crucial for collaborative success in sea turtle research, conservation, and education globally.

**Please include a 250-word bio**

Ryan Welsh, began his journey in 2003 after earning a BA in Biology from Earlham College. He furthered his studies with a Master's in Biology at the University of Central Florida, where he is currently pursuing a PhD with the Marine Turtle Research Group.

Ryan has been part of Inwater Research Group since 2012 and holds a United States Coast Guard Master Captain's license. His work has spanned the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean, having collaborated with various organizations such as the National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy, Mote Marine Laboratory, and Sea Turtle, Inc. Ryan's research primarily focuses on in-water mark-recapture projects, vessel-based transect surveys, and spatial modeling.

**Photo:**

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1ZuaxaFXpvnSd0rvFWv6BaStzMYIJ647>

### **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.***