



NOMINATION APPLICATION FORM

Section 1: Applicant Details:

Name: Michael Liles
Date: 01/12/2024 05:31:04
Email address: mliles@gmail.com
Nominated position: Awards Committee (1 x Position)
Professional affiliations: NOAA Fisheries, USA
Country of residence: USA
Geographic area of work: Global

Section 2: Applicant Response:

How would you describe your work with sea turtles?

Policy, resource manager, researcher

How many years have you worked with sea turtles?

17 years

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

2008, 2011, 2012, 2019, 2024

Have you been involved with any Symposium activities?

Yes, in 2024 I was a session co-chair and in all other years I was a presenter and a volunteer (I received travel grant support).

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 a profound respect for the dedication and hard work of individuals and organizations in the sea turtle community. Through my involvement in sea turtle research and conservation, I have seen firsthand the incredible impact that tireless individuals, teams, and initiatives can have on sea turtle populations and habitats. As a member of the Awards Committee, I will do everything I can to make sure these efforts are celebrated and that their contributions are recognized on a global stage.

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

I see the International Symposium as a unique opportunity to bring together the global sea turtle conservation community and drive impactful change. By fostering cross-disciplinary collaboration, knowledge sharing, and promoting global conservation efforts, I envision using the Symposium as a catalyst for advancing both the science and practice of sea turtle conservation. Above all, the Symposium must remain a forum for open exchange, inclusivity, and actionable outcomes that empower the global community to work together to protect sea turtles and their habitats.

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 generally, and the Symposium in particular, has been an essential part of my professional and personal life, providing a platform for networking, collaboration, and meaningful action in sea turtle conservation. Looking ahead, I am excited about the opportunity to help shape the future of the organization, particularly by expanding its global reach and building capacity for emerging leaders.

Please include a 250-word bio

Ever since I was a child, my life has centered around turtles. Growing up in Minnesota, I would spend my waking hours during the summer in the lake behind our house searching for any and all freshwater turtles that I could find. I was fascinated by their

movements, feeding and nesting behavior, and the growing human-induced threats that I observed impacting them. It was during these water-logged years that my passion for conservation was formed. In 2008, I had the opportunity to attend my first International Sea Turtle Symposium---which took place in Loretto, Mexico---and present the results of a sea turtle project I was working on in El Salvador. It was this symposium that set the wheels in motion along a path that has brought me to where I am today. I have spent the last 17 years working to advance coastal biodiversity and habitat conservation, endangered species protection, and sustainable fisheries, with a focus on international sea turtle programs, through positions with NGOs, government, academia, and private sector. During this time, I earned a PhD in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M on sea turtle nesting ecology and human dimensions of natural resource management. Through my involvement in sea turtle research and conservation, I have seen first-hand the incredible impact that tireless individuals, teams, and initiatives can have on conserving sea turtle populations and habitats around the world. If I am elected as a member of the Awards Committee, I will do everything I can to make sure these efforts are celebrated and that their contributions are recognized on a global stage.

Photo:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1h7rDbz2eUkvgIqX4nUglwVa_jOooy62U

Section 3: Declaration

Circle your response to the below statements:

- | | |
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| 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: | No |

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 a Board member physically attending a minimum of three mid year retreats during their 4-year Board term, attending online Board meetings consistently, serving annually on multiple Committees, completing assigned tasks, and being responsive to online communications and requests.

The 2025 Board retreat is 10th to 15th August 2025 in Washington DC.

ML