



NOMINATION APPLICATION FORM

Section 1: Applicant Details:

Name: Daniela Freggi

Date: 27/11/2024 17:42:11

Email address: freggidaniela@gmail.com

Nominated position: Board of Directors (3 x Positions)

Professional affiliations: Lampedusa Turtle Rescue - Associazione Caretta caretta

Country of residence: Italy

Geographic area of work: Mediterranean

Section 2: Applicant Response:

How would you describe your work with sea turtles?

researcher and activist on fishery community sensibilization on bycatch; advancing medical care of sea turtles worldwide; mentoring students, young rehabilitators, and fostering collaboration and networking among remote regions to strengthen conservation efforts.

How many years have you worked with sea turtles?

35

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

2002-2003-2004-2006-2007-2008-2009-2010-2011-2012-2013-2014-2015-2016-2017-2018-2019-2021 (turtle-talks)-2022-2023-2024

Have you been involved with any Symposium activities?

Since 2010, I have organized the Sea Turtle Medicine and Rehabilitation Workshops at the Symposia, chaired several sessions, and last year collaborated with the Veterinary Care and Medicine Session. I have also participated in quick chats and student evaluations. Currently, I am concluding my first term as a Member of the Board of Directors (unluckily shorter for the consequence of pandemic restrictions the first 2 years).

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 would like to run again for the ISTS Board of Directors because I am passionate about bringing people together to create a meaningful impact on sea turtle conservation and support those who care for them. The past three years have been both engaging and an incredible opportunity for personal and professional growth. I am also eager to contribute actively to the Society's ongoing restructuring process. My goal is to bring passion, experience, and innovation to the ISTS Board, fostering collaboration among diverse organizations, engaging the next generation in active participation, and working together to support a more inclusive, forward-thinking Society dedicated to global sea turtle conservation.

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

I would welcome the opportunity to collaborate in creating more opportunities for young people to actively engage with the Society. I also would like to promote networking in veterinary care for regions still lacking experience in this field, and ensure that underserved communities have a voice. I am passionate about bringing people together to make a meaningful impact on sea turtles.

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 both professionally and personally as it serves as a global hub for collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and advancing sea turtle conservation. Professionally, it has been instrumental in connecting me with experts and resources, while personally, it fuels my passion and commitment to marine conservation and community engagement.

Over the next 5 to 10 years, I envision ISTS becoming even more inclusive and accessible, amplifying voices from underrepresented regions and fostering innovative, evidence-based conservation strategies. I see it strengthening its role as a bridge between science, policy, and education while expanding its global impact through technology and collaboration.

Please include a 250-word bio

My life's work has been shaped by over three decades of experience in marine animal conservation and an profound commitment to sea turtle welfare. Currently pursuing a PhD in Animal Health and Zoonosis at the Vet Dept of the University of Bari (IT), I also hold a Master's in Conservation Medicine of Aquatic Animals from the University of Padova (IT) and a Marine Biology degree from the University of Rome.

My career has included international internships in Bolivia, Argentina, Somalia, the USA, France, and Italy, managing marine animals such as dolphins, penguins, and sea turtles. As Director of the Sea Turtle Rescue Center in Lampedusa and the Wildlife Rescue Center in Sicily, I oversee operations that rehabilitate over 200 turtles annually, performing 100+ surgeries while engaging thousands of visitors and volunteers.

I prioritize community outreach, sustainable fisheries collaboration, and fostering connections between local communities and global conservation efforts. Through Associazione Caretta caretta – Lampedusa Turtle Rescue, I support innovative approaches to conservation and rehabilitation.

Deeply committed to advancing conservation science, promoting inclusivity, and fostering international collaboration, I strive to ensure a sustainable future for sea turtles and marine biodiversity.

Photo:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1qz3cgrGFNSCUkBRK-lyZAF6JmQY5sOaQ>

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 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.

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