



## NOMINATION APPLICATION FORM

### Section 1: Applicant Details:

**Name:** Michel (Tony) Nalovic

**Date:** 30/11/2024 05:13:22

**Email address:** bigsharkchum@yahoo.com

**Nominated position:** Board of Directors (3 x Positions)

**Professional affiliations:** President of Fishingcleaner.com

**Country of residence:** French Guiana

**Geographic area of work:** Wide Range (Guiana's shield, Gabon, Kenya, French Mediteranian, Red Sea, Mozambique, Gulf of Mexico, French Terriores over seas

### Section 2: Applicant Response:

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

I advocate for the Collaborative Fisheries Research approach to working on bycatch. I am also a fishing gear designer and expert in voluntary implementation of fishing gear.

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

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

2006, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2023, I have organized the Collaborative Fisheries Research Bycatch workshops in New Orleans, Lima, and Cartagena and Thailand (though i had to cancel my participation for family medical reasons).

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

I have organized the Collaborative Fisheries Research Bycatch workshops in New Orleans, Lima and Cartagena and Thailand (bur could not attend), I have participated as ISTS session chair for Thailand but could not attend for family medical reasons.

**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 long term endeavors that aim for conservation at sea and of particular interest to me is the fact that sea turtles are the most umbrella or umbrella species, due to their unique land activities and visibility. Very active by email, rarely does on not get a reply. Throughout my carrer I have demonstrated financial responsibility throughout as I am fortunate to have grown up in a family context where i was well provided for and hence could focus my time and attention on maters of the heart, ocean and marine animal conservation. Not afraid of working in difficult socio-economic contexts, that this precise areas are where my capacities are most needed. Born into a fishing family and a fisher before being a marine biologist has helped make me salient in the eyes of fishers and hence capable of advancing sustainable conservation in this sometimes hard to reach field where differences in stakeholders are highlighted rather than similarities. I am a strong believer in the ideals of decolonization of conservation and though these words can seem insensitive to some, i have witnessed first hand the impacts that this has had on conservation, inn particular in French territories where local populations have been depressed of their environmental heritage. I would like to contribute my time to first understand the way the BoD functions so as to integrate fully the mechanisms and then i would like to uphold its values and endeavor for meaningful changes where necessary.

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

This principle is very dear to me since i have seen ISTS gatherings as opportunities to contribute to change things, when there is an opportunity. I first realized this when ISTS was hosted in New Orleans a 'hot spot' for non TED use. I saw that hosting the ISTS in New Orleans was a way to push open the very closed door on the Issue on non

constitutional Louisiana law that prohibited state agents from inspecting TEDs in state waters. Since then, when ISTS is hosted in a country that has fisheries issues that result in bycatch of sea turtles i always try to develop a bycatch workshop that can bring about some level of change. Even if its finding new fishers that can collaborate with local conservationists or finding local partners that want to promote Collaborative Fisheries Research (CFR) locally. The lost recent example comes from ISTS Cartagena. It turns out that the state of Magdalena and there government representative who actively helped me organise the recruitment of artisan fishers was very enthusiastic about developing a CFR project locally. In 2025 the project CAMAC organized by the CAR SPAW has secured funding for which the State of Magdalena is eligible to work on sea turtle bycatch using the Collaborative Fisheries Research approach. To sum up, i like the idea that ISTS changes things where they pass in a country trying to tackle hard subjects, like bycatch at local levels. Sometimes its not possible, for example for ISTS Tokyo, i was asked to let the local Japanese hosts handle the subject of turtle bycatch. We as ISTS did not know at the time that 'Beyond Conservation', the theme of that ISTS, actually meant lets conserve them so that we can eat them. Which factually only transpired during the closing business meeting with the 'Declaration of Kobe' which i recall reacting very strongly against.

**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?**

ISTS is important because it supportes the conservation of the most umbrella of all species, sea turtles. Its make up, its members reflect this. Coming from all walks of life ISTS members and participants dont resemble any other group or symposium and i strongly believe that this is because of the 'umbrellanness', if I may, of sea turtles. ISTS is a time where i can bring new colleagues and have them meet all my other long standing colleagues, its the place where i get the latest updates on whats working and what's not and being able to brain storm in person what do we do next? ISTS for professional networking for young conservationists is a must and i think ISTS has done a great job capitalizing on this. ISTS has challenges, on a conservation level we are facing climate challenges that are sure to dramatically effect marine turtles behavior as we know it. We also have challenges to face coming from the fisheries sector because though we have better knowledge today on how to mitigate the effects of bycatch on sea turtles, we have never had as much fishing occurring in the ocean at one time. Effort is increasing faster then our ability to disseminate good practices. We also have a very human challenge of decolonizing conservation because today in manu places that i know of turtle conservation is not sustainable because local peoples have been deposed of the subject or put aside in favor of persons with 'higher' degrees. My vision for ISTS is to revamp our impact potential, turn up the notch to adresse threats more

effectively, with more agility. Threats are anything that inhibits marine turtles conservation. Use technologies, laws, publique opinion better. Optimise time, visibility and funding to muster up more members more partners more funders. I also would like to brainstorm on how the motions process can become more fluid and impactful.

**Please include a 250-word bio**

Tony's family owned one of the major shrimping fleets in French Guiana in the 1980s until 2005. He studied marine biology at Spring Hill College in Alabama and then earned a Master's degree in fisheries from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. He worked for the French Guiana Fisheries Committee for 18 years, as technical division leader to improve fisher's livelihoods while reducing the environmental impacts of the artisanal and industrial fishing sector, particularly with regard to turtle bycatch.

Beyond Tony's expertise in the use of various fishing gears, he is a tireless advocate for the Collaborative Fisheries Research approach, which he believes is the best way to achieve sustainable conservation in fisheries. He also advocates for legislation by the EU for exporting countries seeking access to EU markets to require the use of Turtle Exclusion Devices (TEDs) by trawl fisheries, as the US did 40 years ago.

He was also a driving force behind the establishment of TEDs in French Guiana and Gabon. Among his many leadership roles, Tony has been the Regional Co-Chair (with Dr. Eduardo Cuevas in Mexico) of the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group for the Northwest Atlantic since 2012. Tony is also one of the founding members of the NGO Trans-Oceans Tortues Marines which operates throughout the French EEZ and has been president elect since 2019. Finally, he runs Fishingcleaner.com, a new startup which works to reduce the environmental impact of various fisheries through the adoption of innovative methods, gears and behavioral change.

**Photo:**

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1AM3vDrrZWUaxo6vN78t6WbWhEFdWKs7v>

**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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