



NOMINATION APPLICATION FORM

Section 1: Applicant Details:

Name: Justin Perrault
Date: 22/10/2025 06:09:27
Email address: justinrperrault@gmail.com
Nominated position: Board of Directors (2 x Open Positions)
Professional affiliations: Loggerhead Marinelife Center
Country of residence: United States
Geographic area of work: Northwest Atlantic Ocean with collaborations spanning five continents

Section 2: Applicant Response:

How would you describe your work with sea turtles?

Researcher, nonprofit executive

How many years have you worked with sea turtles?

20

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

2007–2009, 2011–2014, 2017, 2019, 2022, 2026

Have you been involved with any Symposium activities?

I have been actively involved with the ISTS Symposium for nearly two decades, beginning as a graduate student volunteer and presenter and later serving for multiple years as a session chair for the Anatomy, Physiology, and Health sessions. I have also participated as an “expert” for Speed Chatting and as a student evaluator. I have co-organized workshops (Sea Turtles and Contaminants), mentored student presenters, and helped connect early-career researchers to collaborative opportunities across institutions and countries. These experiences have given me a deep appreciation for the role ISTS plays in fostering collaboration – a value that I hope to continue advancing through ongoing Board service.

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?

My work focuses on bridging research and conservation through mentorship and long-term collaborations that advance sea turtle science locally and globally. As Vice President of Research at Loggerhead Marinelife Center, a nonprofit sea turtle conservation facility in Florida (USA), I lead a multidisciplinary team with expertise in research, rehabilitation, and education. We view the beaches we monitor as our outdoor global research laboratory, hosting scientists, filmmakers, and educators from Europe, Africa, Australia, Central America, and the Caribbean.

My role also involves nonprofit leadership, including strategic planning, donor cultivation, and securing competitive grant and legislative funding to sustain and expand conservation programs. These experiences have strengthened my ability to connect science, operations, and community engagement while supporting the professional growth of my team and collaborators.

Most recently, I have served on the ISTS Board of Directors, filling a vacated position in 2024. In that role, I have supported the Society through grant reviews, participation on the Benefits and Social Media Committees, and development of the ISTS brand guide. If re-elected, I will continue to focus on communication, inclusivity, and long-term planning alongside the new Executive Director. I am excited about the Society’s new direction and want to help ensure that ISTS remains a platform collaboration fuels progress across borders. After two years on the Board, I feel the momentum building on

several projects, and another term would allow me to continue that progress and help bring those efforts to completion with the team.

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

I see the ISTS and its Symposium entering an exciting new phase. With an Executive Director soon to be hired and a wave of young professionals stepping into leadership roles, there is an opportunity to modernize collaboration and strengthen the connection between science and education. The Symposium remains the most effective platform in our field for producing measurable conservation outcomes globally, and I would like to continue supporting sessions and workshops that integrate all facets of sea turtle biology: research, rehabilitation, education, and applied conservation. I believe that the ISTS is at its best when it unites scientists, educators, students, and policymakers to share findings that directly inform management. Through my experience at the executive level of a nonprofit, I understand the importance of aligning science with communication, funding, and public engagement, and I want to help the Society continue developing strong organizational structures and clear communication frameworks. I also hope to continue mentoring students and early-career professionals, ensuring the Symposium remains a global community where research is accessible, actionable, and inspires the next generation of sea turtle scientists.

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?

Personally, the ISTS remains one of the most genuine and collaborative communities I have ever been part of. It is where my I first presented as a student, where I found lifelong friends and collaborators, and where I continue to learn from international colleagues. The Society has always represented a commitment to advancing sea turtle conservation through community.

Professionally, the ISTS and its symposia have helped me to develop research questions and relationships in the field, in addition to mentoring and leadership skills that have moved with me in my career and current career as a company leader. Over the next decade, I envision ISTS continuing to grow into a more inclusive and sustainable society. With an Executive Director providing continuity and structure, the Board can better focus on long-term strategy, financial sustainability, and global participation. I would like to see ISTS expand mentorship opportunities and increase

accessibility for early-career professionals so that the Society remains a place where innovation and inclusivity drive conservation forward.

Please include a 250-word bio

Dr. Justin Perrault grew up in a landlocked area in the southeastern USA, where his parents fostered a deep compassion for animals. Spiders, snakes, and stray dogs or cats were always welcome. His first encounter with sea turtles came in 1990 at the Children's Museum of Juno Beach, now known as Loggerhead Marinelife Center (LMC). At the time, he had no idea that this place would one day become the center of his professional life. Justin earned his B.S. in Marine Biology from the University of North Carolina Wilmington and later completed his Ph.D. in Integrative Biology at Florida Atlantic University under Dr. Jeanette Wyneken, studying leatherback turtle toxicology and physiology. He then completed a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at Mote Marine Laboratory, where he investigated how harmful algal bloom toxins affect sea turtle health, before serving as a faculty member at the University of South Florida. In 2017, he returned to LMC to lead its Research Department, where he now serves as Vice President of Research. He joined the Board of Directors of the ISTS in 2024 for a two-year term. One of his favorite parts of his job is re-encountering the same leatherbacks he studied during his days as a PhD student. He enjoys teaching students (or anyone who will listen, really) about these resilient animals, including ones he has “known” for nearly 20 years, who continue to return to nest despite the challenges they face. Their persistence reminds him why this work matters.

Photo:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1V7UpCVrnWT0gpD6ru_t7qmnzTsDcGHFe

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 undefined
Annual Board Retreat is usually in the 3rd week of August:**

**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.

JRP