

# INTERNATIONAL SEA TURTLE SOCIETY

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN: 1 OCTOBER 2020 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

### Background:

The current Covid-19 pandemic is a global emergency that has created the need for extraordinary actions to be taken by the International Sea Turtle Society's Board of Directors (BoD). The global concerns for public health and restrictions on travel have impacted the Society and require a plan to adapt to the new emergency. The present Emergency Response Plan is designed to provide the BoD with emergency measures so that it can fulfil its role to effectively manage the affairs of the Society during this global emergency, allowing for efficient responses and actions to minimise negative functional and financial impacts on the Society, while at the same time acting in accordance with the ISTS By-Laws and Constitution.

### 1. Governance Structure and Procedures

- a. Elections for both Board and Committee positions have been postponed until 2021 because normal procedures could not be followed.
- b. In order to maintain a fully constituted Board, the terms of some elected positions (Board of Directors, Nominations Committee, Career Awards Committee, and Acting Treasurer that reached the end of their previously programmed term on 1 May 2020) shall be extended by one year.
- c. In 2021, elections shall be held to appoint the Treasurer (1 position to be filled) BoD members (4 positions to be filled), Nominations Committee (1 Ex-BoD and 1 regular position to be filled), and Career Awards Committee (4 positions to be filled – 2 Lifetime Achievement Awardees and 2 regular). For reasons explained below, the position of President-Elect shall not be open for election. Nominees on the 2020 ballot can resubmit their applications and new nominations will also be invited.
- d. The Society shall retain the existing President (Diego Amorocho) and President-Elect (Kellie Pendoley) and redefine their duties as needed to accommodate the emergency situation. As of 1 October 2020, Kellie Pendoley shall assume the role of President and Diego Amorocho of President-Elect for reasons explained below.
- e. The requirements for in-person meetings, such as BoD meetings and retreat, as well as Business Meetings of the ISTS, shall be conducted by meeting online, until further notice.
- f. The annual financial report shall be presented at an online Business meeting in 2021.
- g. Annual Membership duration (1 Oct – 30 Sep) and annual Membership fees shall remain the same.

### 2. Planned events

- a. There shall be no ISTS Symposia in 2020 or 2021 because of ongoing global uncertainty about travel and Covid-19 infection risk.
- b. The Symposium originally planned for Perth, Australia, in 2021 is now rescheduled for 2022. Kellie Pendoley shall serve as President.
- c. For logistic reasons, the Symposium originally planned for Cartagena, Colombia, in 2020 is now rescheduled for 2023. Diego Amorocho shall serve as President.
- d. The BoD encourages and supports online Society events and shall seek volunteers from among ISTS Members to organize such events. Online Society

events shall not be regarded as a formal Symposium, as defined by the By-Laws, but will provide opportunities for exchange and contact in a virtual format.

### 3. Minimising financial impact

- a. Members of the BoD and their designees shall re-negotiate agreements such as Symposium venue bookings, sponsorships, and other financial commitments to reduce the negative impact of cancellations and changes to Society business and events.

### 4. Other necessary actions

- a. The BoD may modify the terms of this Emergency Response Plan, as made necessary by unexpected, changing circumstances to protect the interests and welfare of the ISTS and its Membership.

### 5. Period of validity of this Emergency Response Plan

- a. This Emergency Response Plan shall expire after one year on 30 Sep 2021. If circumstances require extending the Plan beyond one year, the Board may propose an extension to another date and the Membership shall vote to approve or reject the extension.

Date approved: 15 September 2020