

International Sea Turtle Society
Code of Ethical Conduct for ISTS Events and Business
15th August 2019

The International Sea Turtle Society (ISTS) envisions a global network of diverse peoples, professions and cultures sharing knowledge, ideas and inspiration to ensure healthy sea turtle populations worldwide. To achieve this Vision, the Mission of the ISTS is to bring people together to promote the exchange of information that advances the global knowledge of sea turtle biology and conservation.

In an effort to create an equitable, productive and enriching environment that will be conducive to the mission of the Society, every Member of the ISTS, participants in all ISTS events (including the symposium and associated meetings and workshops), those conducting business for the ISTS, and delegates or representatives of external affiliates associated with ISTS events shall abide by its Code of Ethical Conduct for ISTS Events and Business as outlined below.

Expected Behavior at ISTS Events or During ISTS Business

- Advocate for mutual respect among all Members – past and present – and participants.
- Be considerate of diverse opinions that may be different to that of your own.
- Communicate thoughtfully and respectfully.
- Give full and proper credit to the works and ideas of others and make every effort to avoid misrepresentation, and not plagiarize by verbal, visual, or written communication.
- Respect the *by-laws*, policies, and requests of the Society and venue/s.

Unacceptable Behavior at ISTS Events or During ISTS Business

- Discrimination based on, but not limited to, national origin, political preference, race, color, religion, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, pregnancy, appearance, disability, marital or other relationship status, economic status, or organizational affiliation.
- Harassment, intimidation, or bullying in any form^{1,2}, or in any context.
- Prolonged disruption of talks.
- Including as co-author(s) of a professional paper, presentation or report any individual(s) who has (have) not agreed to the content of the final version of the product and approved inclusion of their name.
- Claiming authorship of a professional paper, presentation or report if you have not made an active contribution, such as conception of the project idea or design,

execution of the project, analysis and/or interpretation of the project outcomes, and/or the development and/or writing of a manuscript, video, slide show, report and/or other relevant products/outcomes.

- Presenting research which does not adhere to the applicable legal requirements (or internationally accepted standards if no legal structures are in place) for treatment of animals, protect the rights and welfare of human subjects and project personnel, and/or fails to obtain informed consent (as appropriate) of human subjects.
- Allowing personal interests, personal relationships, compensation, or professional roles to interfere with professional interactions.
- Fabrication, falsification, suppression of outcomes, or deliberately misrepresentation of professional activities, or otherwise committing professional fraud.
- Attempting to injure the reputation and/or professional opportunities of any other ISTS Member – past or present – by offers of gifts or favors, by false, biased, or undocumented claims, or by any other malicious action.
- Not disclosing conflicts of interest.
- Representing yourself as an official spokesperson of or for the Society without express authorization by the President of ISTS.
- Criminal offences.
- Not complying immediately when requested to stop unacceptable behavior.

¹Verbal offences include, but are not limited to, comments that are offensive or unwelcome regarding an individual or group's national origin, political preference, race, color, religion, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, pregnancy, appearance, disability, marital or other protected status, economic status, or organizational affiliation, including epithets, slurs, and negative stereotyping.

²Nonverbal offences include, but are not limited to, distribution, display, or discussion of any written or graphic material that ridicules, denigrates, insults, belittles, or shows hostility, aversion, or disrespect toward an individual/s or group/s because of national origin, political preference, race, color, religion, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, pregnancy, appearance, disability, marital or other protected status, economic status, or organizational affiliation; stalking; harassing; unwanted photography or recording; inappropriate physical contact, and unwelcome sexual attention.

Leadership During ISTS Events and Business

In addition to the above, ISTS Members serving on the Board of Directors (BoD) or other committees shall:

- maintain transparent practices as agents of the ISTS BoD and/or the Society.
- maintain appropriate confidentiality when dealing with individual ISTS Members and their concerns.

- maintain appropriate confidentiality regarding sensitive ISTS legal and business matters where a reasonable person would assume that confidentiality is both legal and in the best interest of the Society.
- make all reasonable efforts to listen to the ISTS Membership and satisfy their needs and concerns.

Acknowledgment- The ISTS Code of Ethical Conduct draws in part upon concepts and language used in the Codes of several other organizations, including the IUCN SSC (MTSG), Society for Conservation Biology, and Ecological Society of America. The International Sea Turtle Society acknowledges, and greatly appreciates, the contributions of these documents as reference materials.