

# Plenary Session of the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Sea Turtle Symposium

February 19, 2009  
Time: 3.45 pm

Meeting called by:  
Colin Limpus

Type of meeting: ~ 110 people  
Plenary Session

Note taker:  
Manjula Tiwari

## Agenda

Introductions	Board members
Treasurer's Report	Michael Coyne
Travel Committee Report	Hoyt Peckham
Program Officer	Colin Limpus
ISTS website	Michael Coyne
Multiple President-Elect nominees	Colin Limpus
Board Chair	Lisa Campbell
ISTS logo	Nancy FitzSimmons
Resolutions	Nancy FitzSimmons
Symposium overview	Colin Limpus
Nominations	Aliki Panagopoulou & Colin Limpus

## Additional Information

Special notes:

## Agenda

**Introductions****Colin Limpus****3.45 pm**

All the Board members introduce themselves. Limpus requests the membership to consider representation when nominating officers.

Conclusions:

Action items:

Person responsible:

Deadline:

**Treasurer's report****Michael Coyne****3.50 pm**

Coyne goes through the report highlighting that it includes 2 Symposia, the income for 2008 as well for the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Symposia, the Board's retreat which is funded from the operating budget, and the income vs. expenses amount of 89K.

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>CHECKING 07</b>	<b>CHECKING 08</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
AUCTION		\$14,387.20	\$14,387.20	NOT INCI
DONATIONS/GRANTS	\$66,714.00	\$105,584.53	\$172,298.53	
INTEREST		\$864.15	\$864.15	
REGISTRATION/SALES	\$40.00	\$127,711.79	\$127,751.79	NOT INCI
CREDITS		\$8,166.00	\$8,166.00	FEEES HOTEL D
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$66,754.00</b>	<b>\$256,713.67</b>	<b>\$323,467.67</b>	
<b>SYMPOSIUM EXPENSES</b>				
AUDIO VISUAL	\$0.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	
ENTERTAINMENT	\$1,250.00	\$0.00	\$1,250.00	
EQUIPMENT	\$0.00	\$4,889.89	\$4,889.89	COMPUT
POSTER DISPLAYS	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
FOOD & BEVERAGE	\$42,800.00	\$205.50	\$43,005.50	
PARTICIPANT GIFTS	\$2,486.00	\$194.10	\$2,680.10	
PRINTING	\$0.00	\$1,430.00	\$1,430.00	PROGRA
PRESIDENT'S EXPENSES	\$0.00	\$11,366.37	\$11,366.37	
PROCEEDINGS SUPPORT	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	ALAN RE
REFUNDS	\$0.00	\$1,016.51	\$1,016.51	
FACILITIES	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	
STUDENT AWARDS	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	
SPECIAL AWARDS	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	
SYPOSIUM ORGANIZER	\$17,114.00	\$0.00	\$17,114.00	JOURNEY
T-SHIRTS	\$2,486.00	\$0.00	\$2,486.00	

TRANSLATION SERVICES	\$0.00	\$2,700.00	\$2,700.00
TRAVEL GRANTS	\$38,101.00	\$50,032.00	\$88,133.00
TOTAL SYMPOSIUM	\$108,237.00	\$78,934.37	\$187,171.37
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>			
ACCOUNTANT	\$0.00	\$4,320.00	\$4,320.00
BANK CHARGES	\$0.00	\$307.50	\$307.50
BOD MEETING	\$0.00	\$15,646.33	\$15,646.33
POSTAGE/PO BOX	\$0.00	\$243.35	\$243.35
PUBLICATIONS	\$0.00	\$19,000.00	\$19,000.00
SYMPOSIUM COORDINATOR	\$1,530.00	\$4,116.24	\$5,646.24
TREASURER'S SUPPORT	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
			\$0.00
TOTAL OPERATING	\$1,530.00	\$45,133.42	\$46,663.42
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	\$109,767.00	\$124,067.79	\$233,834.79
<b>INCOME VS EXPENSES SYM</b>			\$136,296.30
<b>INCOME VS EXPENSES TOTAL</b>			\$89,632.88

Discussion:

Jack Frazier: is there anything that we can learn from these budgets? Something that a student can analyze.

Bob Prince: Motion to accept the Treasurer's report

Frazier: Seconds

Passes unanimously.

Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:

**Travel Committee Report**

**Hoyt Peckham**

**3.55 pm**

Peckham highlights that there was **100K available for** travel grant, acknowledges fundraisers and the auction, goes through the regional grants, and thanks the Travel Chairs.

Jack Frazier: Motion to accept the Travel Committee’s report  
 Aliko Panagopoulou: Seconds  
 Passes unanimously.

Conclusions:

Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:

**Program Officer**

**Colin Limpus**

**4.44 pm**

Limpus highlights the importance of the Program Officer for continuity and support and goes through the Terms of Reference.

**ISTS Program Officer: Terms of Reference**

The ISTS Program Officer maintains continuity in fundraising for the ISTS

The ISTS Program Officer will:

- Liaise with the Treasurer and the local Symposium fundraising group to ensure efficiency in the fundraising process
- Develop and submit grant proposals to annual or traditional funders, as well as to new funding prospects
- Maintain accurate and detailed records of grant submissions and approvals
- Send invoices to funders at the appropriate time before each Symposium
- Address questions, concerns or requests of funders as they arise
- Obtain logos from funders to be included in any promotional material before or after the Symposium
- Follow up with funders after the Symposium to provide an accurate account of the event and thank them for their support; when required submit an official report to funders
- Develop promotional material such as brochures and reports to be used by Board members and the fundraising staff

The ISTS Program Officer must respect confidential discussions among Board members regarding Board business.

Conclusions:

Action items:

Person responsible:

Deadline:

**ISTS website**

**Michael Coyne**

**4.04 pm**

Coyne explained that at the last Board retreat in August 2008, the Board decided to have its own website to establish its identity. The new website is [www.seaturtlesociety.org](http://www.seaturtlesociety.org) and is active now, but its development has been delayed because the webmaster has stepped down. Traditional links will be maintained for continuity.

Conclusions:

Action items:

Person responsible:

Deadline:

**Multiple President-Elect nominees**

**Colin Limpus**

**4.05 pm**

Limpus explained that over the years the society has tried to plan its Symposium. In the past, nominations were submitted to the Board and the Board selected the President-Elect. Now the membership nominates and if the nominee meets the standards required to run a Symposium, (s)he goes through the voting process. This is more democratic. The Society needs to think about its capacity to reach out to the global community, so we need to plan ahead and think about who should be nominated. Interested nominees should approach the Nominations Committee or Board members. We are looking for bids/nominations for the 2010 Symposium and need to think carefully about it.

Conclusions:

Action items:

Person responsible:

Deadline:

**Board Chair**

**Lisa Campbell**

**4.10 pm**

Last year we announced that a Chair had been internally selected by the Board to free up the President. The board Chair manages the other details of the Society. We reviewed this choice at our retreat in August 2008 and have reappointed Michael Coyne as the interim Chair for 2 years. Meanwhile, the Board will review the position and the election of this Chair. If the position and process is confirmed, the necessary changes will be made to the By-Laws and Constitution.

Conclusions:

Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:

<b>Logo</b>	<b>Nancy FitzSimmons</b>	<b>4.12 pm</b>
<p>FitzSimmons highlights the need for a well thought out logo for the Society. A call for logos will be launched soon and explains the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ISTS logo contest:</p> <p>To celebrate and mark the upcoming 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Annual Sea Turtle Symposia in 2010 a design competition is being launched to develop a new logo for the International Sea Turtle Society.</p> <p>This competition will be open to anyone, with designs to be submitted to the ISTS website by 1 December 2008. A panel of judges will select acceptable designs to be selected by the ISTS membership during the ISTS Annual Election through online voting. The winning design will be announced at the Banquet in Australia.</p> <p>Acceptable designs will be simple and recognizable, unique, powerful and adaptable to various media including letterheads, t-shirts, websites, etc. Designs should present a sea turtle that is not distinguishable as a specific species and should include the wording “International Sea Turtle Society”.</p>		
<p>Conclusions:</p>		
Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:

<b>Resolution</b>	<b>Nancy FitzSimmons</b>	<b>4.14 pm</b>
<p>Fitzsimmons indicates that Teri Shores is present to back the Resolution and then reads through the submitted resolution.</p> <p>Discusion:</p> <p>Jack Frazier: There was very little review time.</p> <p>FitzSimmons: I am to b;ame for that.</p> <p>Jack Frazier: we want the UN to take action but usually we don’t get a resonse from them. I amsurprised that this is not directed to signatory states in the region. Costa rica may respond, but Ecuador is not likely to respond because they are not interested. I saw the mention of another resolution to close longlining, but the closure would not garner much support from the governments, so I am not sure why it is there. Also, not awre of Malpelo being part of the corridor.</p> <p>Teri Shores: This similar to the resolution passed at the World Congress and we think that it is valuable. It does call on all relevant coastal states to to take action and we have published satellite telemetry data that support this. It doesn’t hurt to ask for protected corridors. We are not asking for longline closures, but just want to highlight the issue.</p> <p>FitzSimmos: Add departments of States as recipients?</p> <p>Teri Shores: yes</p> <p>jack Frazier: Is there a reason why the Rio convention is not included?</p> <p>Nick Pilcher: I am okay with the priciple of it, but it is too broad, too long, and the punch line is lost. There are people working on gear solutions so why add that? I was at the IUCN Resolution discussion in Barcelona and the driving force was that satellite tracking showed that we could come up with a time/area closure—why replicate that?</p> <p>Martin Hall: You are adding complexity and political noise with the mention of corridors. Also, we don’t know which fisheries are impacting so this resolution will just bounce off. I agree with Pilcher.</p>		

Ken McKay: I am concerned that it talks about Pacific leatherbacks in the pre-amble and then just deals with the Eastern Pacific. There are separate issues in the Western Pacific.  
 Teri Shores; I don't have the Nature article with me, so I don't know if they differentiated the eastern and western Pacific.  
 George Schillinger: Corridor does not go through Malpelo.  
 Jack Frazier: is there value added by removing "corridors"?  
 Teri Shores: I will not accept the removal of corridors.  
 Lisa Campbell: I will abstain on or oppose this Resolution. We spent hours on it at the World Congress and this is not the best use of our time.

The resolution goes to vote:

In favor: 12  
 Opposed: 0  
 Abstain: 61

Resolution does not pass and the authors are encouraged to resubmit.

Discussion:

Colin Limpus: The CMS is a better forum for this.  
 Martin Hall: Committee Fisheries of FAO is another.

Conclusions:

Action items:

Person responsible:

Deadline:

## Symposium Overview

**Colin Limpus**

**4.45 pm**

There were 730 paid registrations and 668 people attended. 86 countries registered, but 66 countries attended because of travel issues with Africa. The regional response has been good. In the past, the maximum number of Australians who have attended a Symposium was 9 and this year it is 303!

Conclusions:

Action items:

Person responsible:

Deadline:

## Nominations

**Aliki Panagopoulou & Colin Limpus 4.50 pm**

Panagopoulou gives an update on the nominations process (described on the ISTS website) and the results are announced. There were 414 votes (106 more than last year) and the elected candidates are:

Board of Directors: Jack Frazier and Mark Hamman  
Nominations Committee: Hoyt Peckham, Alejandro Fallabrino, and Nick Pilcher (ex-BoD).  
Awards Committee: Dave Owens, Nancy FitzSimmons, Chloe Schauble, David Godfrey, and Karen Arthur.  
President-Elect: Jeff Seminoff  
Accepted by 406 votes

Executive Committee:

377 accept  
1 oppose  
35 abstain

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Conclusions:

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Action items:

Person responsible:

Deadline:

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**Additional Information**

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Meeting adjourned at 5 pm.

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