



42nd International Sea Turtle Symposium

Workshop Proposal for ISTS42

Title of Proposed Workshop:

5th ISTS Drones and Turtles Workshop

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Names of All Organisers:

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Preferred Date for the Workshop: Monday 25th March 2024

Suggested Duration of Workshop: Half Day (4 hours) in AM

Description and Justification of the Workshop:

The four-hour session is intended to bring together sea turtle researchers that are experienced, novice and just interested in using UAVs or drones. The various use cases for drones in research and conservation will be presented and discussed, as will recommended hardware and software systems. We will cover how to get started flying drones and using their data for your project.

The workshop is envisaged to be repeated and developed over successive years/symposia so that the international sea turtle community are kept up to date with advances in drone-based research and 'recruits' to the field have opportunity to learn from experienced practitioners first hand.

The primary aims are to continue dialogue on the best use of UAVs for sea turtle studies and catalyse a network where technical advances and method development are shared.

Expected Outcomes of the Workshop:

- The potential for sea turtle research and conservation-oriented actions facilitated through use of UAVs will be shared with probable / potential practitioners



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- Prospective UAV users will learn from the experiences of UAV users and hence avoid the financial and methodological pitfalls the pioneers have encountered.
- All attendees will be able to discuss best practice and hence software use, flight planning and analytical methods should be advanced within the sea turtle community.
- A global network of UAV-using sea turtle researchers will be solidified and expanded.