



42nd International Sea Turtle Symposium

Workshop Proposal for ISTS42

Title of Proposed Workshop:

Bycatch assessment and mitigation in developing world fisheries: current state of affairs, priorities, opportunities, and next steps.

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Preferred Date for the Workshop:

Suggested Duration of Workshop: Full Day (8 hours)

Description and Justification of the Workshop:

In many regions, non-targeted marine species, including several endangered, threatened, and Protected (ETP) species of marine turtles are experiencing startling population declines due in part to bycatch within a variety of fisheries. Understanding key threats to these ETP species are an important component to their conservation and recovery. Over the past years, some regions (e.g., Eastern Pacific and Caribbean) have initiated coordinated assessments of ETP bycatch (e.g. sea turtle bycatch assessments) in coastal fisheries while other regions (e.g. Southeast Asia, East Africa) remain data poor with regards to such fisheries bycatch assessments. In addition, testing and adoption of bycatch reduction strategies has had uneven effort and success across regions as well as fishery. A workshop focusing on turtle bycatch assessments and mitigation strategies in the context of understanding what has been done, what has worked, and how lessons learned in one region/fishery can be applied in others will be an important step in guiding the necessary path for bycatch mitigation efforts for years to come.



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For this workshop, we aim to bring researchers and policy makers to discuss in particular, gill net bycatch mitigation, small scale fishery /community harvest understanding/impact, and adoption of TEDs in coastal trawl fisheries. Planned areas for discussion will include:

Bycatch and targeted catch, what's the current problem?

Research and Development;

- Current projects
- What does policy say?

Break out groups focusing on themes of:

- Artisanal, small scale fisheries;
- Commercial fisheries;
- Community harvests and well being, to explore/present on:

Lessons learnt.

What to from here (next steps)

Mind mapping

Expected Outcomes of the Workshop:

We will develop a network of researchers, policy makers, and conservationists working on bycatch issues willing to share experiences and expertise. This will not only provide an understanding of ongoing specific projects (be it assessments or solution trialing), but a place to help standardize methodologies and centralize data, and a place where future training/support can be organized - Ultimately, this network and community infrastructure will help ensure that folk working in remote regions are not doing so in isolation but with the support of a broader community.