



42nd International Sea Turtle Symposium

Workshop Proposal for ISTS42

Title of Proposed Workshop:

The Global Male Sea Turtle Initiative: Next steps

Name of Corresponding Organiser: Marco García-Cruz

Email Address: marcogarcia@ufl.edu

Names of All Organisers:

Marco García Cruz, Renato Bruno

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:

Much of what we know about the ecology and biology of sea turtles is based on nesting females, and to a lesser extent on juveniles in foraging and developmental habitats. These studies have sought mainly to understand natal homing, nest site fidelity, migratory movements, nesting trends, somatic growth rates, survival rates, and population structure. Comparatively little effort has been invested in understanding male sea turtle ecology, and even less has focused on the management and conservation of male turtles. Unlike females, males only rarely come ashore and the difficulties posed by capturing males at sea have made locating their feeding, courtship, and mating areas a challenge. Studying male sea turtles in foraging and mating areas across the globe is vital to better understand male habits, reproductive strategies, operational sex ratios, population dynamics, and habitat needs. After the successful workshop held in Charleston in 2019 and Cartagena in 2023 focused on male sea turtles, where more than 120 researchers from around the world participated, now is the time to continue promoting interest in including male sea turtles in research and conservation efforts. Therefore, we propose to meet in a workshop to learn about current research and conservation



42nd International Sea Turtle Symposium

efforts and how we can establish collaborations and synergies to make these efforts effective.

Expected Outcomes of the Workshop:

We will have the opportunity to gather experts of different nationalities to discuss current efforts and identify gaps in our knowledge of the biology and ecology of male sea turtles, and the importance of including them in future conservation strategies, research, and management plans. Participants will discuss this issue with a focus on defining and prioritizing the necessary actions for research and conservation in the future. We will publish these priorities in an article.