

FORM FOR SUBMITTING RESOLUTION PROPOSALS FOR THE 27th ANNUAL SEA TURTLE SYMPOSIUM

Please fill out all the required information and submit this completed form along with appropriate supplementary information via email to the ISTS Resolutions Committee at <resolutions@seaturtle.org>. Be sure to write "SYMPOSIUM RESOLUTION" in the subject line. If you do not have access to e-mail, or need to submit supplementary materials that are not in computer format, please fax your materials to the ISTS secretary (Manjula Tiwari, Fax: + 858-546-7003) or Committee Co-chairs (Jeffrey Seminoff, fax: + 858-546-7003; Nancy FitzSimmons, fax: + 61-2-6201-2328). The deadline for all submissions is **15 November 2006**. If your submission is not received by this date, it will not be considered for the 27th Symposium.

Resolution 2009- XX Conservation of Leatherback Turtles in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor

CONSIDERING:

1. That eight years ago a study in Nature (2000) reported that Pacific leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) had experienced declines of over 90 percent during the previous two decades, due in large part to fisheries interactions and impacts; and
2. That prominent scientists have warned that Pacific leatherback populations are facing imminent risk of extinction; and
3. That after more than a decade of protection and monitoring at nesting sites, egg harvesting and poaching has been effectively eliminated at key breeding locations; and
4. That the Pacific leatherback has continued to decline.

RECOGNIZING

1. That new information from acoustic and satellite tracking shows that the Pacific leatherback utilizes pelagic migration corridors in the marine waters of certain States, between Cocos Island (Costa Rica) and the Galapagos Islands (Ecuador) and Malpelo Island (Colombia); and
2. That Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and Colombia are working for the protection of the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor, which includes marine protected areas, migration corridors and other critical habitats within and beyond these countries' Exclusive Economic Zones.

ACKNOWLEDGING

1. That the World Conservation Congress at its 4th Session in Barcelona, 5 to 14 October, 2008, adopted the resolution CGR4.MOT028 Conservation of Leatherback Turtles and Hammerhead Sharks in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor; and
2. That the InterAmerican Convention for the Conservation and Protection of Sea Turtles, the InterAmerican Tropical Tuna Commission, the Convention on Migratory Species and the Secretariat of the South Pacific have adopted measures to protect sea turtles and have recognized the need for continued efforts by the Parties to these agreements; and
3. That 1,007 scientists from 97 countries, as well as representatives from 281 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from 62 countries, have gone as far as to urge the United Nations to call for a moratorium on pelagic long-line fishing in the Pacific.

Therefore, let it be resolved that the International Sea Turtle Society at its 29th meeting 17 to 19 February, 2009, in Brisbane, Australia,

REQUESTS

1. That the United Nations urge states and regional fisheries management organizations to permanently protect Pacific leatherbacks through the control and management of the fishing effort, including through the development and application of gear specific solutions as well as through the establishment of a network of spatial and temporal closures of those fisheries that interact with sea turtles and in scientifically documented marine biological corridors in the Eastern Tropical Pacific and elsewhere, including areas beyond national jurisdiction during periods of high concentration of sea turtles; and
2. CALLS on relevant coastal states as well as states and fishing entities whose vessels operate in the Eastern Tropical Pacific to immediately implement their domestic laws and regulations, and to carry out their obligations under relevant international treaties for the protection of Pacific leatherback in the Eastern Tropical Pacific, including gathering information on the bycatch of sea turtles and facilitating public access to the information, which are critical to the ecosystems of the region; and
3. CALLS on the relevant coastal states of the Eastern Tropical Pacific to immediately adopt and implement policies in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor and elsewhere to include broad protection for the Pacific leatherback and other threatened marine organisms that are critical to the marine biodiversity of the region.
4. CALLS upon the States of Costa Rica and Ecuador to establish a Cocos-Galapagos Marine Corridor that protects these marine waters from activities harmful to sea turtles during times of high concentrations of sea turtles.

Sponsors:

Sea Turtle Restoration Project

Programa Restauración de Tortugas Marinas

REFERENCES (Not necessary to include in final text):

CGR4.MOT028

Conservation of Leatherback Turtles and Hammerhead Sharks in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor

Persistent Leatherback Turtle Migrations Present Opportunities for Conservation

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REFEREES (names of 2 experts familiar with region and issues)

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LIST OF SPONSORS (PRIMARY SPONSOR MUST BE SPECIFIED AND MUST BE PRESENT AT THE SYMPOSIUM)

Primary: Randall Arauz

Presidente, Programa Restauración Tortugas Marinas, PRETOMA

Todd Steiner and Teri Shore, Sea Turtle Restoration Project

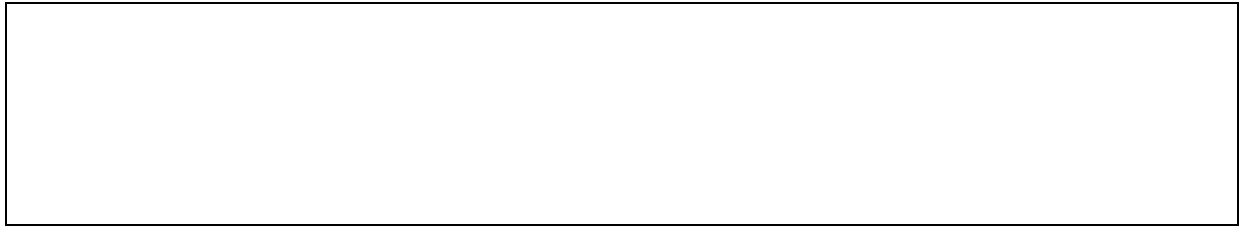
COMPLETE LIST OF TARGETS WITH ADDRESSES

Director, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, Room DC2-0450, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, USA

**WHAT IMPACT WILL THIS RESOLUTION HAVE
(POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE) ?**

Positive: The resolution will strengthen efforts to protect Pacific leatherbacks in the waters of the Eastern Tropical Pacific that are critical migrating and foraging habitat, and where they are caught accidentally in longline fisheries.

Negative: None.



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