



41st International Sea Turtle Symposium

Workshop Proposal for ISTS41

Title of Proposed Workshop:

The climate-threats matrix: Understanding and quantifying the interactions of cumulative stressors with climate change and the resulting impacts on sea turtles

Name of Main Organiser:

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Suggested Duration of Workshop:

Half Day (4 hours)

Description and Justification of the Workshop:

Climate change exposure is multi-faceted (changes in sea and air temperatures, sea level rise, and ocean acidification, among others) and is realized across a spectrum of spatial and temporal scales. The direct effects of climate change on sea turtles have drawn the focus of recent research and represent a growing area of study. The effects of non-climate threats on sea turtles have received much attention historically, though coverage has been patchy across regions and species, and new threats continue to emerge. The effect of climate change on other stressors, and the downstream/cascading effect on sea turtles has received considerably less attention but will be an important component of conservation planning in a rapidly changing world.

Understanding how direct and indirect stressors that impact sea turtles may change at different spatial and temporal scales will be necessary to craft effective conservation strategies and will be an integral piece of the management response to climate change.

This workshop builds on the momentum and success from 2022's "Understanding and quantifying cumulative and synergetic stressors to sea turtles" workshop and focuses on the cascading effects of climate change on other sea turtle stressors. The workshop will include introductory presentations related to climate change and sea turtle threats followed by interactive breakout sessions that use participatory assessment approaches in which the participants will use their own expertise to

explore and characterize the interactions between climate change and the threats identified in the 2022 workshop.

Expected Outcomes of the Workshop:

At the end of the workshop, we will have created a draft framework that characterizes the effect of climate change on other sea turtle threats. The framework will later be refined, tested with a case study species or region, and presented in a paper that will be submitted for peer-reviewed publication. All workshop participants will have the opportunity to contribute to the follow-up work and paper.

Participants will be encouraged to network with others in the conservation and assessment arena and will gain experience using the assessment and expert elicitation approaches that will be employed throughout the course of the workshop.