

Andrea Phillott explained the mission of IOTN and requested the participants contribute to future issues. She also drew attention to her ongoing study documenting turtle hatcheries in the Indian Ocean. Douglas Hykle reported on developments under the IOSEA Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding over the past year, notably the ongoing work related to the IOSEA Site Network, workshops and training activities, and further development of useful tools on the IOSEA website.

General topics, suggested by the participants prior to

the meeting, were also discussed, including the ongoing illegal take of sea turtles by Chinese fishers in south-east Asian waters, and a new, concerning trend for turtles to be collected by local collaborators then sold to Chinese buyers. Triet M. Truong initiated a discussion on his proposed study of sea turtle epibionts and fibropapillomas in the region. Truong requested samples of marine leeches, collected from marine turtles, for his worldwide study. Other topics of discussion included unregulated hatchery operations in the region, continued poaching of marine turtles, and the conflict between tourism and conservation. ■

ANNOUNCEMENTS



34TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON SEA TURTLE BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATION, APRIL 10-17, 2014 IN NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, USA

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The theme of the New Orleans Symposium is “Cultures”, in honor of all the cultures that have interacted, and continue to interact today, with sea turtle populations around the world. During the Symposium we will also honor the Culture of our Society, which focuses on the conservation and study of sea turtle species and their environments. The city of New Orleans is the perfect place for such celebration given its rich heritage; indeed, the region was first inhabited by Choctow, Houma, and other pre-Colombian native cultures. Later, the city was also influenced by French, Spanish, English, African and Cajun cultures. As a result, the multi-cultural life of the unique city of “Nawlins” (New Orleans) is dominated by festivals (two of the largest being Mardi Gras and the Jazz and Heritage Festival) and its amazing food. This rich cultural heritage and relative proximity to major southern cities, in addition to the exciting scientific program, likely will contribute to attract over 1000 attendees from nearly 80 countries to the Symposium.

Besides the regular sessions usually held at Symposia, the Nawlins Symposium will feature special sessions on Collaborative Fisheries, and the Biology and Conservation of Sea Turtles in the Gulf of Mexico and on the Eastern US Seaboard. Among the topics

included in the program are marine turtle ecological interactions, linkages among scientists, coastal communities, turtles, humans, consumptive and non-consumptive use, collaborative research, community-based conservation, policy-makers and managers. On 11-13 April, we will convene and host several regional meetings and special workshops that will enrich our knowledge and complement our capacities for reaching our conservation goals. On 14-17 April, we will have the themed oral and poster sessions, an outstanding group of returning and new Exhibitors and Vendors, as well as traditional Symposium activities.

Evidence indicates that sea turtles evolved well over 100 million years ago; some evidence suggests that the early forms may have evolved over 200 million years ago, before dinosaurs. As a group, these reptiles have withstood various extinction events. However, current species are under significant stress, mainly as a result of technology and industrialization.

Indeed, data show that current populations are only a fraction of historical levels; this awareness and reality is what gave rise to our Society, to our Culture of conserving and understanding sea turtle species. This

is the culture that together we will celebrate and renew in New Orleans. The symposium registration website will go live later this summer (<http://iconferences.seaturtle.org/>), and the deadline for early registration, abstracts and travel grants will be October 15th, 2013.

Please join us in New Orleans in April 2014 to celebrate

CULTURES!

Roldan Valverde, President
International Sea Turtle Society
34th Annual Symposium "CULTURES"
New Orleans, LA, USA
April 10-17, 2014 ■

RESOURCES OF INTEREST

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Research4Life (<http://www.research4life.org>)

Research4Life aims to reduce the scientific knowledge gap between industrialized countries and the developing world by providing the developing countries with free or low cost access to peer-reviewed online scientific journals. Using four programs, HINARI, AGORA, OARE and ARDI, Research4Life allows online access to over 30, 000 peer-reviewed, international scientific journals, books, and databases. The main focus is on health, agriculture, environment and other life sciences, such as physical and social sciences, in the developing world. The website provides full text articles, which can be downloaded for saving, printing or reading on screen, and are sometimes available in several languages.

- HINARI (Health InterNetwork Access to Research Initiative) is managed by the World Health Organization (WHO) in partnership with Yale University library and over 145 publishers, and provides access to ~8,100 journals, databases, indexes and reference books in health research.

- AGORA (Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture) is managed by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in partnership with Cornell University and over 70 publishers. AGORA allows access to over 3,000 high quality international journals in the fields of agriculture, fisheries, food,

nutrition, veterinary science and related biological, environmental and social sciences. It also includes numerous important databases and indexes.

- OARE (Online Access to Research in the Environment) is managed by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in partnership with Yale University and more than 75 publishers. OARE provides access to more than 3,900 scientific journals and other information resources in a wide range of disciplines including nature and environment

- ARDI (Access to Research for Development and Innovation) is coordinated by the World Intellectual Property Organization, together with its partners in the publishing industry. ARDI includes literature from diverse fields in science and technology, so researchers can develop new solutions to technical challenges faced on a local and global level..

Libraries in academic, government, and research institutions in developing countries are eligible to register for access to the programs at www.research4life.org. Research4Life provides free journal access to group "A" countries and low-cost access to group "B" countries, depending on the position of the host country in the GNI per capita (World Bank figures), United Nations Least Developed Countries (LDCs) List, and Human Development Index (HDI). ■