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**EDITOR'S NOTE****ANDREA D. PHILLOTT**

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We begin IOTN30 with the annual Turtle Diary of SSTCN (Students' Sea Turtle Conservation Network), who recently completed 30 years of sea turtle conservation activities on the Chennai coast of Tamil Nadu, India. SSTCN's history and accomplishments were described by Kartik Shanker in his 2015 book "*From Soup to Superstar: The Story of Sea Turtle Conservation Along the Indian Coast*" and can also be traced on the organisation's website (<https://sstcn.org/>).

Unfortunately, SSTCN's celebrations in the 2018 season were marred by high numbers of dead, stranded turtles. Coincidentally, IOTN received additional descriptions of

stranded turtles from Kerala, India, and Mozambique, and strandings emerged as a common theme in the current issue.

It can be difficult to discern the potential cause of turtle strandings, so one paper has been written to help researchers and conservationists in this area. As interactions with fishing gear are a recognised threat to sea turtles and entanglement is known to result in strandings, IOTN30 also includes a summary of recent research on mitigation strategies to reduce bycatch in small-scale fisheries.

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**CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS**

The Indian Ocean Turtle Newsletter was initiated to provide a forum for the exchange of information on sea turtle biology and conservation, management and education and awareness activities in the Indian subcontinent, Indian Ocean region, and south/southeast Asia. If you would like to submit a research article, project profile, note or announcement for Issue 31 of IOTN, please email material to [iotn.editors@gmail.com](mailto:iotn.editors@gmail.com) before 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019. Guidelines for submission can be found on the last page of this newsletter or at <http://www.iotn.org/submission.php>.