

# IOSEA QUESTIONNAIRE – 2011 \*

## NATIONAL NETWORKS / COMMITTEES FOR MARINE TURTLE CONSERVATION (Pursuant to Objective 6.4 of the IOSEA CMP)

**Signatory State:**

The United States of America

**IOSEA Focal Point (or name of person completing this form)**

Alexis T. Gutiérrez

**National network or Committee (give the name, if applicable):**

The United States does not have a formal national committee for sea turtle conservation. At the Federal level, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries Service share jurisdiction for domestic and international sea turtle conservation activities and work closely with relevant state governments to conserve these species. The Department of State is consulted for all major international initiatives and is the lead for Section 101.162 certification (also known as TED certification.) While, the United States does not have a formal national network or committee, the United States does regularly consult with industry, non-governmental organizations and academics, as well as the general public in all regulatory activities and many international initiatives. At the State level, it varies, but some states have sea turtle advisory committees (e.g., North Carolina).

**Brief Description / Status / Terms of Reference:** (Is the network/committee formally designated by legislation, ministerial accord, MoU or some other administrative formality? Or is it an *ad hoc* organisation?)

Informal and formal consultations with NGOs, academia, industry, and the general public.

**Lead agency / organisation / institution:**

Jurisdiction is shared between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries).

**Representation in the national network / committee (list all members):**

▪ **Government agencies:**

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▪ **Academic and research organizations:**

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▪ **Environmental NGOs:**

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▪ **Development and human rights NGOs:**

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- **Fisheries sector:**  
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- **Tourism sector:**  
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- **Other private sector:**  
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- **Others:**  
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**Specific resources for developing and maintaining the network / committee:**

N/A

**Means of communication (e.g. meetings, conference calls, email etc.)**

Federal register notices, press releases, and notices on USFWS and NMFS websites are all means of communicating with the public on important sea turtle conservation efforts.

**Number of meetings / conference calls held each year:**

- **2006:**
- **2007:**
- **2008:**
- **2009:**
- **2010:**
- **2011:**

**Most important topics of discussion (past / current ):**

NMFS is the process of finalizing several regulations related to the conservation and protection of sea turtles, as part of our regulatory process several public meetings were held to seek public input on these on these regulations.

**Most important advances and contributions resulting from the work of the network / committee:**

N/A

**Most important challenges and difficulties encountered by network / committee:**

N/A

**Plans for the future functioning and development of the network / committee:**

N/A

**Other comments:**

N/A

The information in this form was last updated: (*month / year*): September 2011

**\* PLEASE REFER TO PREVIOUS QUESTIONNAIRE (2008), AS APPROPRIATE**