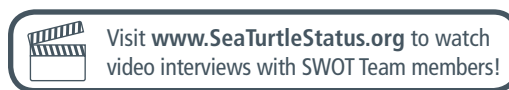


# SWOT Team Profiles



## Dr. René Márquez Millán (Mexico)

From 1963 to 2001, I researched sea turtles at Mexico's Instituto Nacional de la Pesca, or INP. Currently, I am the vice president of the Scientific Committee of the Inter-American Convention for the Conservation of Sea Turtles. I have seen firsthand and participated in the organization of the incredible work to protect sea turtles in my country. Kemp's ridley nesting numbers at the beach in Rancho Nuevo were a mere 740 in 1988 and grew to more than 16,000 by 2009 as a result of a bi-national project between Mexico and the United States (INP–National Marine Fisheries Service). On Playa Escobilla in Oaxaca, there were only 57,000 olive ridley nests in 1987, and by 2006, that number grew to more than 1 million as a result of the National Sea Turtle Conservation Program. *SWOT Report* supports and advances activities of sea turtle conservation efforts such as these around the world, and I am grateful for its success.

**Interesting Fact.** René was integrally involved in developing the landmark legal decree banning sea turtle take and consumption in Mexico that was passed on June 1, 1990.



## Carolyn Robins (Australia)

Since 1991, I have assisted commercial fishers in their quest toward an environmentally sustainable and turtle-friendly industry. I have worked for the Bureau of Rural Sciences in Canberra and for the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation in Brisbane to compile and analyze fishery data, and I am currently conducting fishery data analysis and marine turtle mitigation research as a private consultant with Belldi Consultancy. *SWOT Report* is an important tool for my line of work. It helps commercial fishers understand why they need to care, and it fosters in them not only a personal appreciation for sea turtles and their niche in a healthy ocean, but also an understanding of their role as fishermen in ensuring that their industry participates in positive ways. **Interesting Fact.** Carolyn co-produced an educational film that is used in thousands of schools internationally to help children develop an appreciation for sea turtles and to inform students of ways to help in conservation efforts.



## Kartik Shanker (India)

I have been an Assistant Professor at the Centre for Ecological Sciences of the Indian Institute of Science, for four years, where I teach, supervise doctoral students, and conduct research in community ecology and biogeography. My role in sea turtle conservation is to bridge nature conservation with sustainable human development in India. I also try to inspire students and young researchers. In fact, my favorite part of the job is working with the next generation of sea turtle biologists and conservationists. *SWOT Report* helps compile and visualize the global effort in sea turtle conservation. The compilation of data and the visual representation through maps in *SWOT Report* lay a foundation for a globally synchronized effort to advance sea turtle monitoring and general knowledge of marine conservation. **Interesting Fact.** Kartik is the current president of the International Sea Turtle Society, which will host its 30th Annual Symposium in Goa, India.



## Brian Skerry (U.S.A.)

I have been a photographer and diver for nearly 30 years and am fortunate to have witnessed some of the world's most amazing marine wildlife. In the course of any given year, I spend about 8 months in the field, much of which is spent underwater, and frequently find myself in environments of extreme contrast—from exploring tropical coral reefs to diving beneath Arctic ice. My photos have been featured in publications for Conservation International and the BBC as well as in magazines such as *GEO*, *Audubon*, and *Smithsonian Magazine*, and I've been a contract photographer for *National Geographic Magazine* for the past 12 years. My goal as a photojournalist is to tell stories that not only celebrate the mystery and beauty of the sea, but also help bring attention to the larger issues that endanger our oceans and its inhabitants. *SWOT Report* uses unique and compelling photos to illustrate the global conservation effort to study and protect not only sea turtles, but also the entire ocean. **Interesting Fact.** Brian has spent more than 10,000 hours underwater over the past 30 years.