



OCS Lifetime Achievement and Membership Award

Instructions to nominate

The OCS Lifetime Achievement and Membership Award honours members who have had a significant impact in advancing the understanding, sustainable use and conservation of chondrichthyans in the Oceania region through the course of their career (defined by the OCS as their 'lifetime'), or who have served the society in some extraordinary way. The award recipient is recognised with lifetime membership of the OCS in addition to any other recognition the OCS committee considers appropriate. The award will normally be presented to the recipient in person by the President of the OCS, at occasions such as the OCS conference, Sharks International, or another suitable event.

The OCS Lifetime Achievement and Membership Awards recognise extraordinary contributions made by members. Whilst the nominations are open annually, the OCS Lifetime Achievement and Membership Award is reserved for occasions when an extraordinary nomination is received and has been carefully considered by the OCS Council and Committee.

Recipients of the OCS Lifetime Achievement and Membership Award should have demonstrated:

- A 'lifetime' of work that has made a significant contribution to our knowledge of chondrichthyan biology, ecology, and/or conservation actions;
- A 'lifetime' of work that has made an impact at a national, regional or global level; and
- A 'lifetime' of influence, inspiration and/or mentorship.

In selecting recipients for the award from nominees who meet the above criteria, the OCS Council and Committee may also consider the following:

- The definition of a 'significant contribution' can be very broad, examples include: intellectual contributions through research, management contributions through government organisations, community engagement through volunteer programs, NGO contributions to public awareness. The focus is on the impact of the activity on the understanding and conservation of chondrichthyans, rather than the specific avenue through which the impact was achieved;
- Nominees may not have received equal opportunities or may have experienced discrimination during their education or career in the past, yet have nevertheless made major contributions to their field;
- Consideration will be given to the career stage of the nominee; for example, nominees closer to or post-retirement may be prioritised over those who are approaching retirement;
- Posthumous awards may be made to individuals with shorter career lifetimes when compared with other nominees, but whose work has nevertheless had a major impact on chondrichthyan biology and/or conservation.

Determination of award recipients

The OCS Committee will promote and invite nominations for the award from OCS members on an annual basis. Nominations will normally be called for between April and June, with assessment and judging occurring between July and August. The award will be announced and presented at the next significant OCS event (e.g., the Annual General Meeting or conference) held in the final quarter of the year. Please note, whilst nominations are open each year, it is not a requirement that a Lifetime Achievement Award be conferred annually. To determine the recipient(s) of the award, the President will appoint an ad-hoc subcommittee to assess nominations. The subcommittee will:

- Review and evaluate the nomination for the award to ensure that it includes all the necessary information.
- Assess the nomination, and where necessary, seek independent referee reports.
- Keep detailed records of all nominations each year.
- Present to the OCS Council and Committee a recommendation for the recipient(s) of the award, along with the supporting information on which the decision or recommendation was based. In exceptional circumstances, the subcommittee may recommend a maximum of two awardees.
- Keep all discussions and nominations strictly confidential, noting that unsuccessful nominations can be re-submitted and re-considered on subsequent years.

In the event of a nomination being successful:

- The OCS President will inform the nominator and the nominee to confirm that the nominee is willing to accept the award. The nominee's response will be communicated to all involved in the preparing and assessing the nomination.
- Should the nominee decline the award, the nomination is considered closed. However, discussions regarding the nomination are to remain confidential.
- Should the nominee accept the award, the OCS Council will make administrative arrangements for the member's lifetime membership, and prepare awards and other items of recognition as the Council deems appropriate.
- The Council will make arrangements for a special ceremony to present the award at the next significant event. The Council may also consider supporting the Awardee's attendance at this event.
- With the nominee's approval, the Council will arrange for a short biography and account of the awardee's career and accomplishments to be placed on the OCS website.
- All communications regarding the nomination, selection process, outcome, and nominee's response are to remain strictly confidential within the Council and Committee. If a nominee accepts the award, the name of the nominee shall not be released until the presentation of the award at the significant event.



OCS Lifetime Achievement and Membership Award

Nomination Form

The OCS Lifetime Achievement and Membership Award honours OCS members who have had a significant impact by advancing the understanding, sustainable use and conservation of chondrichthyans in the Oceania region through the course of their career (defined by the OCS as their 'lifetime'), or who have served the society in some extraordinary way.

To nominate a person for this award please complete the following nomination form so that the OCS committee can assess the nominee's suitability for the award. Only current OCS members are eligible to nominate someone for this award. The nominee does not have to be a current OCS member, but must have been a member in the past.

Award nominations must be sent to the OCS Executive Council (executive4ocs@gmail.com) by **30 June 2026** (MIDNIGHT AEST).

Nominator Information:

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Are you a current OCS member (Yes/No)?

Nominee information:

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Contact details

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Is the nominee aware of this nomination (Yes/No)?

Note – It is not a requirement that the nominee be informed of the intent to nominate them. However, nominators are strongly advised to contact the OCS Council to discuss the nomination prior to submitting a nomination form and/or discussing the nomination with the nominee.

Please describe the geographical scale of the Nominees' achievements

You may check more than one category:

- Local (restricted area, district, or zone within a country)
- National (across more areas within a country)
- Regional (e.g. Oceania, North America)
- International (more than one country within a region)
- Global (more than one country within 2 or more regions)

Please describe the discipline of the Nominee

You may check all that apply:

- Management
- Research
- Conservation
- Education
- Other. Please specify: _____

Nominee's Achievements

In a separate document (~3000 words) attached to this application form, please provide specific details of the nominee's achievements as they relate to the criteria for the Lifetime Achievement and Membership Award. This description will provide the primary source of information on which award selection will be based. This should include a résumé of the nominee including information that spans career achievements. Achievements may include (but are not limited to) contributions to on-the-ground conservation, public awareness, research and publications, teaching and mentoring, public outreach, education, management, policy impacts, and community involvement in conservation.

In providing the information in support of a nomination, **please be as explicit as possible in addressing the criteria below**, which the OCS committee will apply in order to determine recipients.

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- A 'lifetime' of work that has made an impact at a national, regional or global level; and
- A 'lifetime' of influence, inspiration and/or mentorship.

Letters of support: Please provide two letters of support (minimum) for the nomination from people with a close knowledge of the nominee. These should be attached to this document. Letters of support should be limited to 2 pages each.

Supporting letter 1 provided by:

Name: _____
 Affiliation: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Supporting letter 2 provided by:

Name: _____
 Affiliation: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____