



SARGASSO SEA
COMMISSION

Memorandum of Understanding between the Secretariat of the International Seabed Authority and the Secretariat of the Sargasso Sea Commission

The purpose of this memorandum of understanding is to specify the scope of cooperation between the secretariat of the International Seabed Authority ("the Authority") and the secretariat of the Sargasso Sea Commission ("the Commission").

WHEREAS:

The Authority, established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ("the Convention") signed in Montego Bay on 10 December 1982, is the competent organization through which States Parties to the Convention shall, in accordance with Part XI of the Convention and the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, adopted on 28 July 1994 by the United Nations General Assembly, resolution 48/263 ("the 1994 Agreement"), organize and control activities in the Area, particularly with a view to administering the mineral resources of the Area, as defined in article 1, paragraph 1 (1) of the Convention;

The Authority promotes and encourages the conduct of marine scientific research with respect to activities in the Area and the collection and dissemination of the results of such research and analysis, when available, with particular emphasis on research related to the environmental impact of activities in the Area in accordance with article 143 of the Convention and section 1, paragraph 5 (h) of the 1994 Agreement;

The Authority is competent to take necessary measures in order to ensure effective protection of the marine environment from harmful effects which may arise from the activities in the Area as set out in article 145 of the Convention and section 1, paragraph 5 (g) of the 1994 Agreement;

The secretariat of the Authority, as one of its principal organs in accordance with article 158 of the Convention, seeks consultation and cooperation on matters within its competence;

The Commission has been appointed by the Government of Bermuda, pursuant to the 2014 Hamilton Declaration on Collaboration for the Conservation of the Sargasso Sea (“Hamilton Declaration”), which has now been signed by the Governments of the Azores, Bahamas, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Canada, Dominican Republic, Monaco, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The Commission is a legal entity under Bermudian law. It has no management authority; its mandate is to exercise a stewardship role for the conservation of the Sargasso Sea¹ for present and future generations, in collaboration with all who share a vision for the protection of the marine ecosystems of the Sargasso Sea;

The Commission has been seeking to promote collaboration to secure the protection of the high seas ecosystem of the Sargasso Sea. The Commission seeks, where appropriate, to cooperate with competent international or regional organizations;

The Commission and the Authority both have a strong interest in the protection of the marine environment in accordance with their respective mandates;

The Commission has been an observer to the Authority since 2015;

Paragraph 6 of the Hamilton Declaration mandates the establishment of a secretariat to assist the Commission and the Hamilton Declaration Signatories in fulfilling their roles under the Declaration. The secretariat is currently hosted by the North American Office of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in Washington DC.

The Secretariat of the Authority and the Secretariat of the Commission (“the Participants”) herein seek to maximize opportunities for the sharing of research, expertise and practical experience;

THE PARTICIPANTS WILL THEREFORE SEEK TO:

1. Consult, where appropriate and practical, on matters of mutual interest;
2. Encourage and promote marine scientific research in the Area, in order to make widely available the best scientific information to contribute toward ongoing environmental assessments in accordance with the Convention, the 1994 Agreement and the rules, regulations and procedures of the Authority, of:

¹ For purposes of this Memorandum of Understanding as well as for purposes of the Hamilton Declaration, the Sargasso Sea is the portion of the high seas and the Area under that portion of the high seas, excluding the economic exclusive zones, and territorial sea around Bermuda, and the extended continental shelves of neighbouring States. For the purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding, a list of the geographical coordinates of the outer and inner limits of the Sargasso Sea is annexed below.

- a. the distribution, abundance and condition of habitats;
 - b. the status of populations of marine species;
 - c. the effectiveness of measures aimed at ensuring effective protection for the marine environment from harmful effects which may arise from activities in the Area ;
3. Cooperate, where appropriate and practical, in the collection of environmental data and information and, where possible, to exchange standardized data and information, including reports of meetings of relevance to each other;
 4. Comply with the requirement of confidentiality of data and information imposed upon the Authority by the Convention in respect of data and information submitted to it by applicants and contractors for activities in the Area;

The points of contact for this Memorandum are as follows:

H.E. Michael Lodge, Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority
Dr. David Freestone, Executive Secretary, Secretariat of the Sargasso Sea Commission

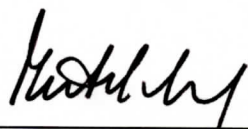
This Memorandum, which is not legally binding, will come into effect on the date of both signatures and will continue in operation until terminated by either Participant (on one month's written notice to the other Participant). Nothing in this Memorandum shall bind any of the members of the Authority jointly or severally. Similarly, this Memorandum shall not bind any of the signatories of the Hamilton Declaration.

The foregoing represents the understandings reached between the Participants upon the matters referred to herein.

Signed in duplicate in the English language at Kingston, Jamaica on 18 FEB 2020 and signed at Washington DC on 12 FEB 2020.

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

FOR THE SECRETARIAT OF THE SARGASSO SEA
COMMISSION



Michael W. Lodge
Secretary-General



David Freestone
Executive Secretary

ANNEX

Geographical coordinates of the outer and inner limits of the Sargasso Sea, in accordance with the World Geodetic System 1984

Point	Longitude	Latitude	Note
1	-46.844711061	35.722427393	Outer Limit
2	-45.764003127	34.933152693	Outer Limit
3	-44.888511093	34.077883068	Outer Limit
2	-44.234228181	33.1726538510	Outer Limit
3	-43.809596690	32.2293062200	Outer Limit
4	-43.6223878969	31.2644540810	Outer Limit
5	-43.6750596899	30.2920440180	Outer Limit
6	-43.9669364849	29.3254614040	Outer Limit
7	-44.4927816539	28.3796964360	Outer Limit
8	-45.242370052	27.4685547280	Outer Limit
9	-46.211304130	26.5962207730	Outer Limit
10	-47.3861762899	25.7753475010	Outer Limit
11	-48.7524679999	25.0156591310	Outer Limit
12	-50.2968057329	24.3247858390	Outer Limit
13	-51.9961771309	23.7133352840	Outer Limit
14	-53.8280359219	23.1895752300	Outer Limit
15	-55.7583194099	22.7630827250	Outer Limit
16	-57.2742720269	22.5076443010	Outer Limit
17	-58.8127540809	22.314816689	Outer Limit
18	-60.360563132	22.186111906	Outer Limit
19	-61.899857195	22.122883500	Outer Limit
20	-63.4177093789	22.125524544	Outer Limit
21	-64.9015744989	22.194129872	Outer Limit
22	-66.3350488299	22.327968720	Outer Limit
23	-67.7097463079	22.526342112	Outer Limit
24	-67.9773135629	23.124000137	Outer Limit
25	-68.3251805629	23.608503137	Outer Limit
26	-68.7620485639	24.029255138	Outer Limit
27	-69.6209215649	24.589295138	Outer Limit
28	-70.7515185659	25.156017139	Outer Limit

29	-71.1329335659	25.524683139	Outer Limit
30	-71.2305445659	25.730557139	Outer Limit
31	-71.6129505659	26.2530331400	Outer Limit
32	-72.0584365669	26.6747081400	Outer Limit
33	-72.582072566	27.0191221410	Outer Limit
34	-73.346071567	27.3528591410	Outer Limit
35	-73.4407595679	27.6884331410	Outer Limit
36	-73.7089945679	28.2184401420	Outer Limit
37	-74.0971495689	28.7174971420	Outer Limit
38	-74.5611935689	29.1321761430	Outer Limit
39	-75.6561875699	29.8403041430	Outer Limit
40	-76.3085735349	30.1041838300	Outer Limit
41	-76.0396989219	30.8899892570	Outer Limit
42	-75.594236569	31.1339141440	Outer Limit
43	-75.1723615699	31.439944145	Outer Limit
44	-74.6393695689	31.641600145	Outer Limit
45	-74.1485805689	31.904417145	Outer Limit
46	-73.6299445679	32.289305145	Outer Limit
47	-72.8847245679	32.718236146	Outer Limit
48	-72.3133805669	33.223239146	Outer Limit
49	-71.9478695669	33.692136147	Outer Limit
50	-71.6796385669	34.197658147	Outer Limit
51	-71.4859195659	34.823283148	Outer Limit
52	-71.377610283	35.483190472	Outer Limit
53	-69.7813294999	36.2857382550	Outer Limit
54	-68.0329246739	36.9802446980	Outer Limit
55	-66.1584100319	37.5566021040	Outer Limit
56	-64.1810005079	38.0071723800	Outer Limit
57	-61.8134996119	38.3604379039	Outer Limit
58	-59.4036827689	38.5278785110	Outer Limit
59	-56.9995286069	38.5063423600	Outer Limit

60	-54.6499882279	38.2958885050	Outer Limit
61	-52.409310345	37.9009332700	Outer Limit
62	-50.329778218	37.3306799480	Outer Limit
63	-48.4601832319	36.5987160020	Outer Limit
64	-47.6183389679	36.177514046	Outer Limit
65	-46.8447110609	35.722427393	Outer Limit
66	-64.671300559	35.722388385	Inner Limit
67	-65.385178560	35.670315385	Inner Limit
68	-66.072834561	35.514836385	Inner Limit
69	-66.875051561	35.198759385	Inner Limit
70	-67.493665562	34.828864384	Inner Limit
71	-67.977916562	34.406912384	Inner Limit
72	-68.361341564	33.920903384	Inner Limit
73	-68.634387563	33.384800383	Inner Limit
74	-68.792758563	32.796655382	Inner Limit
75	-68.826633563	32.213580381	Inner Limit
76	-68.741688563	31.637687381	Inner Limit
77	-68.534871563	31.065008380	Inner Limit
78	-68.228159563	30.545111379	Inner Limit
79	-67.819336562	30.072299380	Inner Limit
80	-67.334221562	29.672430380	Inner Limit
81	-66.769422562	29.344533378	Inner Limit
82	-66.162485561	29.107263379	Inner Limit
83	-65.519671560	28.962421379	Inner Limit
84	-64.829891059	28.913416379	Inner Limit
85	-64.168995559	28.962622379	Inner Limit
86	-63.526408558	29.108249379	Inner Limit
87	-62.868936558	29.369499379	Inner Limit
88	-62.189715557	29.765725380	Inner Limit
89	-61.704062556	30.165532380	Inner Limit
90	-61.301912556	30.630874380	Inner Limit

91	-60.995937556	31.148475381	Inner Limit
		31.705638381	
92	-60.795460556		Inner Limit
93	-60.705557223	32.301684382	Inner Limit
94	-60.739457556	32.883062383	Inner Limit
95	-60.893797556	33.448887383	Inner Limit
96	-61.166912556	33.985611384	Inner Limit
97	-61.550560556	34.471651384	Inner Limit
98	-62.036133557	34.894661384	Inner Limit
99	-62.632567557	35.258234385	Inner Limit
100	-63.272355558	35.512762384	Inner Limit
101	-63.95964056	35.669259385	Inner Limit
102	-64.671300559	35.722388385	Inner Limit