



MINUTES SSC/2016/10
21 September 2016
10:00 am EST - Via Conference Call

Participants:

Dr. Tammy Trott, Commission Acting Chair
Dr. Billy Causey, Commissioner
Prof. Howard Roe, Commissioner
Mr. Mark Spalding, Commissioner
Prof. Ricardo Santos, Commissioner
Dr. David Freestone, Executive Secretary
(Apologies, Prof. Stephen de Mora, Commissioner)

1. Minutes of 28 July 2016 Meeting (SSC/2016/9)

APPROVED, as corrected.

2. The Executive Secretary presented an update of Work Programme implementation to-date:

2.1 Signatories

- Minister Simons to fly to NY for the signing ceremony of The Bahamas.
- Minister Simons has invited Governments of Turks and Caicos, Cayman Islands, and Trinidad and Tobago to sign Hamilton Declaration.
- Attendance of Minister Simons and Permanent Secretary O'Brien noted at the IUCN World Conservation Congress.

2.2 Commission

- **Executive Secretary** to provide Bermuda official notice that Signatories have agreed that **Commissioner Roe** and **Commissioner Causey** extend their terms as Commissioners.
- Draft stewardship plan will be the subject of a Commission technical consultation in Galway.

2.3 Collaborating Partners

- Informal Nekton cruise report received.
- Noted that Dr Chuanmin Hu (So Florida) received NASA grant with SSC support for tracking Sargassum remotely and need to map the Sargasso Sea Area of Collaboration with Dr Hu emphasized.

- 2.4 Fisheries
- Commission to finance attendance at ICCAT meetings this year at the Ecosystem Sub-Committee, the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) and ICCAT Commission Plenary session.
 - **Faith Bulger** to follow up with Japanese contact at BBNJ meeting for ICCAT team.
 - Commission does not have the resources to send a representative to the NAFO meeting this year.
- 2.5 Shipping
- **Executive Secretary** has provided the Environment Minister with the Bermuda cruise lines final report.
 - Future plans involve meetings in Bermuda with cruise ship and governmental representatives to discuss options for an MOU.
 - **Faith Bulger** requesting access to US web tool SeaVision.
- 2.6 Sea Bed
- Michael Lodge has been elected the new Secretary General of the International Seabed Authority.
 - **Commission Secretariat** will follow up related to an MOU with ISA.
- 2.7 Migratory Species
- Final preparations are underway for the Convention on Migratory Species First Range States Workshop on the European Eel in Galway, Ireland 13-14 Oct. 2016 with about 40 Participants – including scientists and Range State representatives.
 - **Commissioner Santos** noted ongoing interest in illegal, unreported and unregulated glass eel fisheries and a South African meeting on the glass eel fisheries.
 - **Commission Secretariat** engaging with NOAA about links between Bermuda and other Whale Sanctuaries, as well as the possibility of identifying marine mammal migratory corridors through the North Atlantic.
- 2.8 Finance Report
- Current financial condition remains stable with anticipated funding for the last year of the Helmsley general operations grant to be received in October.
- 2.9 Mapping and Monitoring
- NASA expects to continue to support the Sargasso Sea COVERAGE Pilot Project and will seek approval of COVERAGE at next year's meeting of the CEOS.
 - Collaboration with OBIS and/or Professor Pat Halpin at Duke is being explored.
 - Global Fishing Watch and SeaVision are new tools that should be previewed for potential usefulness in the stewardship of the Sargasso Sea.
- 2.10 Communications
- **Faith Bulger** attended the UN BBNJ Prep Com 2 in New York for the Commission.
 - Over 10,000 attendees at the IUCN WCC provided good exposure for the Commission mission and activities.

- US State Department Ocean Conference raised international ocean protection issues.
- **Commissioner Roe** agreed to look at the work of the Atlas/AORA/Horizon 2020 projects to determine whether any opportunities exist for the Commission to encourage engagement in the Sargasso Sea Area of Collaboration.

2.11 Other Issues

3 Any Other Business

4 Date of Next Meeting: Set for 10 November 2016 at 10 am EST.