



MINUTES SSC/2017/16

17 January 2018

09:00 am EST - Via Zoom Conference Call

Participants:

Dr. Tammy Warren, Commission Acting Chair
Mr. Frederico Cardigos, Commissioner
Prof. Howard Roe, Commissioner
Mr. Mark Spalding, Commissioner
Prof. Stephen de Mora, Commissioner
Sen. Wilfred Moore, Commissioner
Dr. David Freestone, Executive Secretary
(Apologies, Dr. Billy Causey, Commissioners)

1. Revised Minutes of 4 December 2017 Meeting (MOS/SSC/2017/15)

APPROVED.

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

- 2.1 Signatories

- Commissioner Cardigos** reported that Portugal was actively investigating signing the Hamilton Declaration

- 2.2 Commission

- Two Commissioners' terms are expiring this year, and they will inform the **Executive Secretary** of their intent to continue in their role.
 - The **Executive Secretary** will renew a request for comments from the Signatory Governments to provide input on the Stewardship Agenda. **Commissioner Spalding** has offered to gather outside legal support to assist.
 - The United Nations Second World Ocean Assessment is underway and has requested Commission input as it embarks on a revised process and format for the second version. **Commissioner Roe** and the **Executive Secretary** will continue their involvement in the process on behalf of the Commission.

2.3 Collaborating Partners

- The **Executive Secretary** noted that there are a total of 30 Collaborating Partners currently, and he will follow up outstanding invitations.

2.4 Fisheries

- The Sargasso Sea Commission, by deliberation of the Commissioners, approve and endorse the text of the Azores Declaration produced during the world's first One by One Tuna Conference held in the city of Horta (Azores, Portugal) on 16-17 October 2017.
- Dr Laurie Kell, who recently retired from ICCAT, is assisting the Commission's ICCAT focus group on an ecosystem-based fisheries management assessment of the Sargasso Sea. He has sent a first draft and will continue to refine a one-pager to support this approach.
- The Commission received an invitation to the French-American Workshop on Sargassum, convened by the Office for Science and Technology of the Embassy of France in the US, Texas A&M University at Galveston, and the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development. **Ms. Tess Mackey** will represent the Commission at this workshop on 18-19 January.

2.5 Shipping

- The **Executive Secretary** will visit Bermuda this year to meet the new Minister and to pursue the issue of how to engage with the cruise ship industry in Bermuda.

2.6 Sea Bed

- The **Executive Secretary** agreed to reach out to Dr. Philomene Verlaan to represent the Commission as an observer delegation at International Seabed Authority meetings this year.

2.7 Migratory Species

- A second CMS European Eel Range State meeting is planned for 15-16 May 2018 as a follow-up to the Galway workshop and CMS CoP12. The Secretariat is currently working to encourage attendance from range states in North Africa and hoping to procure funding for participation of developing nations.
- The Commission is currently working on finalizing the funding for the American eel workshop in the Dominican Republic from 4-6 April, and the preliminary logistics for the workshop – including researching CITES contacts, and drafting the agenda and invitations. The **Executive Secretary** solicited recommendations from the Commissioners for an eel consultant to assist with writing the workshop report.

2.8 Finance and Fundraising Report

- Dr Sylvia Earle, Mr JP Rouja, Mr James Prosek, Mr Jim Toomey, Mr David Doubilet, and Ms Jennifer Hayes, have all agreed to become Sargasso Sea Ambassadors. **Ms Tess Mackey** is working on creating a webpage to showcase the new Ambassadors on the Sargasso Sea Commission website. **Commissioner de Mora** offered to reach out to James Cameron and His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco to gauge their interest in becoming Ambassadors.

2.9 Mapping and Monitoring

- The proposal to NASA for a series of two workshops in 2017-2018 related to the COVERAGE project has been submitted.

2.10 Communications

- The Secretariat Marine Research Fellow, **Ms Tess Mackey**, reported that the Sargasso Sea Commission continues to be active on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. The latest edition of the newsletter included a new 'Sargasso On-the-Go' section, and Commissioners were encouraged to submit relevant photos and recent activities to include.
- **Commissioner Cardigos** previously suggested that the Commission create a pamphlet for outreach. **Ms Tess Mackey** is coordinating with a graphic designer to develop it.
- **Commissioner Warren** has agreed to work with Adam Johnson to film a brief interview in Bermuda to include in the video from the #StandUpForSargasso campaign.
- The Commission hired publisher Scientia to develop a four-page article about the Sargasso Sea Commission. Scientia has sent a draft of the article, and the **Executive Secretary** requested comments as well as updated headshots from the Commissioner to include alongside the article before January 29.

3 Any Other Business

- The **Executive Secretary** was invited to the Monaco Blue Initiative in Edinburgh on 8-9 April 2018. The Commissioners agreed it would be a useful opportunity to have a presence at this event. **Commissioner Roe** kindly agreed to represent the Commission.

4 Date of Next Meeting

- The next SSC meeting call will be confirmed via Doodle poll.