



**MINUTES SSC/2018/19**  
**August 9, 2018**  
**10:00 am EST - Via Zoom Conference Call**

**Participants:**

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

1. Revised Minutes of 11 June 2018 Meeting (MOS/SSC/2018/18)
  - The minutes will be re-circulated for approval.
  
2. **Executive Secretary** presented an update of Work Programme implementation to-date:
  - 1.1. Signatories
    - The Commission received a voluntary donation from Monaco of 20,000 Euro and has sent a thank you letter in recognition.
    - Minister LeBlanc sent the Commission an official letter of support. The Executive Secretary will be following up with a meeting with Canadian representatives and other Signatory focal points in attendance during the BBNJ negotiations in UNHQ in September.
  
  - 1.2. Commission
    - Two Commissioners' terms are eligible for reappointment this year. **Commissioner Warren** drafted the Bermuda Cabinet memo for their review.
    - **Commissioners Roe and Warren** and the **Executive Secretary** will continue their involvement in the United Nations Second World Ocean Assessment on behalf of the Commission.

- **Commissioner Spalding** and the NOAA team are continuing revisions to the Stewardship Plan.
  - OSPAR shared their MPA proposal with the Commission to ask for our views. Commissioners were supportive of the proposal, and the Executive Secretary will follow up with David Johnson.
- 1.3. Collaborating Partners
- The Commission will be writing an article about recent eel meetings for the next edition of the GOBI newsletter.
  - The **Executive Secretary** followed up with Murray Roberts about the collaborating partner invitation and also potential collaboration.
  - The Executive Secretary will draft a response to the Plasticeize email and ask the Commissioners for feedback.
- 1.4. Fisheries
- Dr Kell and Dr Brian Luckhurst presented a paper, entitled “Extending the Indicator-Based Ecosystem Report Card to the Whole Ecosystem; A Preliminary Example Based on the Sargasso Sea” at the ICCAT Ecosystem Sub-Committee from 4-8 June. The report from the Eco Sub-Committee will be submitted to the full SCRS meeting from 1-5 October 2018.
- 1.5. Shipping
- Nothing to report.
- 1.6. Sea Bed
- Dr Philomene Verlaan represented the Commission as an observer delegation at the second International Seabed Authority meeting from 16-20 July in Kingston Jamaica.
- 1.7. Migratory Species
- The Second CMS/SSC European Eel Range State report is being finalized. The result of the workshop was a mandate for a CMS instrument. After the summer holiday, Secretariat will follow up with CMS and the Swedish government about next steps and possible funding.
  - The final report from the American Eel Range States workshop was submitted to the CITES Animals Committee prior to the July meeting and is available on the SSC website.
- 1.8. Finance and Fundraising Report
- The **Executive Secretary** is exploring connections to Canada’s interest in high seas conservation with DFO Staff and **Commissioner Moore** who are interested in using the Sargasso Sea as a case study to show leadership in the BBNJ process.
  - The 2017 annual SSPI audit is currently in process.

- **Commissioner Moore** aided in the Commission receiving an invitation from the Donner Foundation to apply for \$100K for general support. The Secretariat submitted an application, and is awaiting a response in late October/early November.
- The Secretariat worked with TOF staff to submit a request for a no-cost grant extension to the Helmsley Charitable Trust for unspent funds.

#### 1.9. Mapping and Monitoring

The **Executive Secretary** previously submitted an amended proposal to NASA for one workshop related to the COVERAGE project in late 2018/early 2019. The Secretariat received a response from Dr Eric Lindstrom that NASA is unable to provide funding for this year but can explore support for the following year. COVERAGE is proceeding well.

#### 1.10 Communications

- The Secretariat Marine Research Fellow, **Ms Tess Mackey**, reported that the next edition of the newsletter will be released once the Commissioner appointment process is completed. The SSC social media presence continues to increase, including a new Instagram account to share visual content.
- **Ms Mackey** will be posting the humpback whale video by Andrew Stevenson to the website, and is exploring collaborations to JP Rouja's videography as well.

#### 3. Any Other Business

- On 20 June, **Commissioner Cardigos** attended a meeting in the EU Parliament titled "Save the European Eel: Europe's Own Ivory Trade" hosted by the Sustainable Eel Group and former Commissioner Ricardo Serrão Santos.

#### 4. Date of Next Meeting

- The next SSC meeting call will be scheduled the week of September 24<sup>th</sup> via Doodle poll.