



MINUTES SSC/2018/20
September 24, 2018
12:00 PM EDT - 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
Mr Mark Spalding, Commissioner
Prof Howard Roe, Commissioner
Dr David Freestone, Executive Secretary

1. Revised Minutes of 11 June 2018 Meeting (MOS/SSC/2018/18) and 9 August 2018 (19)
 - Approved.

2. **Executive Secretary** presented an update of Work Programme implementation to-date:
 - 1.1. Signatories
 - The **Secretariat** received an official letter of support from Minister LeBlanc (Canada DFO) on 12 July. 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 later in September.

 - 1.2. Commission
 - The re-appointments of **Commissioner de Mora** and **Commissioner Spalding** were confirmed by the Bermuda Cabinet on the recommendation of Minister Walton Brown and continue to serve on the Commission.
 - **Commissioners Roe and Warren** and the **Executive Secretary** have been nominated by the UK Gov. to the UN Expert Panel and will be authors of the chapter on the Sargasso Sea for the United Nations Second World Ocean Assessment.

- **Commissioner Spalding** will follow up with the NOAA team about continued revisions to the Stewardship Plan.
- OSPAR had shared their proposal for a high seas MPA designed to protect an important seabird site with the Commission as part of their consultative process. Commissioners were supportive of the proposal. Commissioners Roe made suggestions for comments in response. The **Executive Secretary** will respond on behalf of the Commission. .

1.3. Collaborating Partners

- The **Executive Secretary** followed up with Professor Murray Roberts about the collaborating partner invitation and also potential collaboration.
- The Executive Secretary received a request for support for a proposed North Atlantic plastic clean up initiative called **Plastiseize**. While supportive of the concept the Commissioners expressed reservations that the **Executive Secretary** was asked to convey to the proponent Peter Moore. .

1.4. Fisheries

- Dr Brian Luckhurst will represent the Commission and at the full SCRS meeting from 1-5 October 2018 in Madrid, which will discuss the report of the Ecosystem Subcommittee. Brian and **Commissioner Warren** will both attend the next ICCAT Commission meeting in Dubrovnik from 12-19 November.

1.5. Shipping

Nothing to report.

1.6. Sea Bed

- Dr Philomene Verlaan represented the Commission as the observer delegation at the second International Seabed Authority (ISA) meeting from 16-20 July in Kingston, Jamaica.
- Kristina Gjerde has agreed to draft some comments on the draft ISA mining regulations which have been opened for public comment and will circulate to the Commission for feedback. These comments will be submitted to ISA by the deadline on 30 September.
- The **Executive Secretary** met with the ISA Secretary-General Michael Lodge at the BBNJ meeting and the two Secretariats will continue discussions of the draft MoU between the Commission and ISA.

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, specifically highlighting the need to protect the spawning areas in the Sargasso Sea. The **Executive Secretary** will have follow up discussions with Melanie Virtue of

CMS and Staffan Daniellson of Sweden at the BBNJ meeting about next steps and possible funding.

- **Commissioner Warren** noted that the Sister Sanctuary Agreement on whales between the Bermudian government and the NOAA Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, originally negotiated with the help of the Secretariat in 2012, was renewed in July 2018.

1.8. Finance and Fundraising Report

- Following Minister LeBlanc's letter of support, the **Executive Secretary** is in discussions regarding Canada's interest in high seas conservation with DFO Staff who are interested in using the Sargasso Sea as a case study to show leadership in the BBNJ process.
- **Commissioner Moore** assisted the Commission in proposing to the Donner Foundation that it invite the Commission to apply for \$100K for general support. The Secretariat submitted an application, and is awaiting a response in October.
- The Secretariat worked with TOF staff to submit a request for a no-cost grant extension to the Helmsley Charitable Trust for unspent funds. The **Executive Secretary** is following up with Elizabeth Ruen at Helmsley.

1.9. Mapping and Monitoring

1.10 Communications

- The Secretariat Marine Research Fellow, **Ms Tess Mackey**, reported that the next edition of the Newsletter will be released promptly now that the Commissioner appointment process is completed. The SSC social media presence continues to increase, and has now bypassed the Alliance's social media following.

3. Any Other Business

- The "Our Ocean" conference this year will be held in Bali on 29-30 October. Minister Wilkinson of DFO hopes to make an announcement of their support of the Commission at that Meeting or the Canadian supported Ocean Conference in November in Kenya. .

4. Date of Next Meeting

- The next SSC meeting call will be scheduled 7-8 November via Doodle poll.