



MINUTES SSC/2018/21

November 7, 2018

12:00 PM EDT - Via Zoom Conference Call

Participants:

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

1. Minutes of 24 September 2018 Meeting (MOS/SSC/2018/20)
 - Will be revised and resent to Commissioners for approval.
2. **Executive Secretary** presented an update of Work Programme implementation to-date:
 - 1.1. Signatories
 - 1.2. 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 continue discussions with the NOAA team about continued revisions to the Stewardship Plan prior to the March meeting.
 - 1.3. Collaborating Partners
 - OSPAR 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, and The **Executive Secretary** responded on behalf of the Commission.

- Andrew Stevenson has created a film “The Secret Lives of Humpbacks”, and shared the trailer with the Commission as he needs financial support which would be acknowledged in the credits. It was felt this would be good publicity for the Commission
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- 1.4. Fisheries
- Dr Brian Luckhurst represented the Commission at the SCRS meeting from 1-5 October 2018 in Madrid, and Brian and **Commissioner Warren** will both attend the next ICCAT Commission meeting next week in Dubrovnik from 12-19 November.
- 1.5. Shipping
- Nothing to report.
- 1.6. Sea Bed
- Kristina Gjerde drafted comments on the draft ISA mining regulations, which were circulated to the Commission for feedback and submitted to the ISA Secretariat.
 - The **Executive Secretary** has brought up to date the draft MoU between the Commission and ISA and sent it to the Legal Office.
- 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** met with Melanie Virtue of CMS and Staffan Daniellson of Sweden at the BBNJ meeting about possible funding and next steps, including a negotiating meeting, potentially back in Sweden in May 2019.
- 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. The Government of Bermuda may also provide co-financing for ground transportation and a cocktail reception.
 - **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’s application was approved by the Donner Foundation in October.
 - The Secretariat worked with **Commissioner Spalding** and TOF staff to submit a request for a no-cost grant extension for another year to the Helmsley Charitable Trust for unspent funds, which was approved.

- Dr David Voudsen was commissioned to develop a “Medium-Sized Project” proposal to the Global Environment Facility, which will be reviewed by the GEF International Waters team during November.

1.9. Mapping and Monitoring

1.10 Communications

- The Secretariat Marine Research Fellow, **Ms Tess Mackey**, reported that the final 2018 Issue of the Newsletter will be released before the holidays. There is also a new page on the SSC website to showcase the Sargasso Sea Ambassadors (<http://www.sargassoseacommission.org/support-our-work/ambassadors>). The SSC social media presence also continues to increase.

3. Any Other Business

4. Date of Next Meeting

- The next SSC meeting call will be scheduled for the week of 3 December via Doodle poll.