



**MINUTES SSC/2018/22**

**December 6, 2018**

**10:00 AM EST - Via Zoom Conference Call**

**Participants:**

**Dr Tammy Warren, Commission Acting Chair**  
**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**  
**(Apologies, Mr Frederico Cardigos, Commissioner)**

1. Minutes of 7 November 2018 Meeting (MOS/SSC/2018/21)
  - Approved.
  
2. **Executive Secretary** presented an update of Work Programme implementation to-date:
  - 1.1. Signatories
    - The Hon. Walter Roban was appointed as the Minister for Home Affairs for the Government of Bermuda in early November 2018. **Commissioner Warren** has a meeting with him this week and will discuss the Bermuda March meeting.
    - There have been positive responses from Signatory government representatives and other supporting governments about attending the March 2019 meeting in Bermuda.
  
  - 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
- Andrew Stevenson has created a film “The Secret Lives of Humpbacks”, and shared the trailer with the Commission. It was felt this would be good publicity for the Commission, and Commissioners agreed to provide support for the film (which will be acknowledged in the credits).
- 1.4. Fisheries
- **Commissioner Warren** attended and reported on the ICCAT Commission meeting in Dubrovnik, Croatia from 12-19 November.
- 1.5. Shipping
- Nothing to report.
- 1.6. Sea Bed
- Kristina Gjerde previously drafted comments on the draft ISA mining regulations, which were circulated to the Commission for feedback and submitted to the ISA Secretariat.
  - The next ISA meeting will be held from 25 February to 1 March at the ISA Headquarters in Jamaica.
  - The **Executive Secretary** has brought up to date the draft MoU between the Commission and ISA and sent it to the Legal Office. ISA representatives have been invited to the March 2019 meeting in Bermuda.
- 1.7. Migratory Species
- The result of the Second CMS/SSC European Eel Range State workshop was a mandate for a CMS instrument, specifically highlighting the need to protect the spawning areas in the Sargasso Sea. The Secretariat is working with CMS and other partners to organize a negotiating meeting in Malmo, Sweden from 25-26 June 2019. Professor Chris Wold has also been commissioned to write a paper exploring options for a CMS instrument.
- 1.8. Finance and Fundraising Report
- The Secretariat is in discussions with DFO Staff to finalize the contribution agreement for the March 2019 workshop in Bermuda. **Commissioner Spalding** and the **Executive Secretary** will discuss VIP invitations for the meeting.
  - **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 **Executive Secretary** also acknowledged the Munson Foundation’s support of the Commission’s work over the past several years.

- Dr David Vousden was commissioned to develop a “Medium-Sized Project” proposal to the Global Environment Facility, which was reviewed by the GEF International Waters team in 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 4 February via Doodle poll.