



MINUTES SSC/2019/23
February 4, 2019
11:00 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
Mr Mark Spalding, Commissioner
Prof Howard Roe, Commissioner
Dr David Freestone, Executive Secretary

1. Minutes of 6 December 2019 Meeting (MOS/SSC/2018/22)
 - Approved.
2. **Executive Secretary** presented an update of Work Programme implementation to-date:
 - 1.1. Signatories
 - **Bermuda Meeting 13-15 March** There have been positive responses from most Signatory government representatives and other supporting governments, including the governments of Cuba and South Africa, about attending the meeting in Bermuda.
 - 1.2. Commission
 - The third day of the meeting in Bermuda (March 15th) will be the 4th Joint Meeting of the Commission and Signatory Governments. Commissioners unanimously agreed that this should be a closed session to discuss the Work Programme.
 - 1.3. Secretariat

The **Executive Secretary** was pleased to report that **Ms Tess Mackey**, formerly the Marine Research Fellow, has been appointed as Programme Manager for the Secretariat – a position she will hold through The Ocean Foundation.

1.4. Collaborating Partners

- Nothing to report.

1.5. Fisheries

- Dr Laurie Kell and Brian Luckhurst are conducting an ecosystem-based fisheries management assessment of the Sargasso Sea using a “Driver-Pressure-State-Impact-Response (DPSIR)” approach. Dr Kell and Dr 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 in June 2018, and will also be giving a presentation at the upcoming SSC meeting in Bermuda.

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. Dr Philomene Verlaan, who has previously represented the Commission as an observer delegation, is unable to attend.

1.7. Migratory Species

- The Secretariat is working with CMS and the World Maritime Institute to organize a negotiating meeting in Malmo, Sweden from 25-26 June 2019. This meeting will begin negotiations for a CMS instrument for European eel, based on the mandate from the Second Range States workshop in 2018. Professor Chris Wold has drafted a paper exploring options for a CMS instrument, which the **Executive Secretary** will circulate to the Commission once it has been reviewed.

1.8. Finance and Fundraising Report

- Dr David Vousden was commissioned to develop a Project Proposal for the Global Environment Facility, which was reviewed by the GEF International Waters team in November. The **Executive Secretary** will send a background presentation to the Commissioners for more details about Large Marine Ecosystem projects.
- The Commission also received approximately 90K CAD from Fisheries and Oceans Canada to fund the Next Steps to Strengthen Stewardship of the Sargasso Sea meeting in Bermuda.

- **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.
- Former Deputy Executive Secretary, Kate Morrison, has joined The Ocean Foundation as their new Director of Strategic Partnerships and will be collaborating with the Commission in her new capacity.

1.9. Mapping and Monitoring

- **Commissioner Causey** offered to assist with the NASA COVERAGE project, if appropriate, the **Executive Secretary** will follow up.

1.10 Communications

- The Secretariat Programme Manager, **Ms Tess Mackey**, reported that the next issue of the newsletter will be released in early March to celebrate the 5th anniversary of the Hamilton Declaration.
- Sargasso Sea Ambassador JP Rouja has created a page on the National Geographic Open Explorer to highlight his photography on the Sargasso Sea. (<https://openexplorer.nationalgeographic.com/expedition/nonsuchexpeditionssargassosea/>).
- Collaborating Partner Andrew Stevenson has created a film "The Secret Lives of Humpbacks", which the Commission helped to sponsor. The premiere of the film will be in Bermuda on 20 February.

3. Any Other Business

4. Date of Next Meeting

- The next SSC meeting will be in Bermuda on 15 March during the "Next Steps to Strengthen Stewardship of the Sargasso Sea" workshop.