



**MINUTES SSC/2019/24**

**May 8, 2019**

**11:00 AM EST - 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 4 February 2019 Meeting (MOS/SSC/2019/23)
  - Approved.
  
2. **Executive Secretary** presented an update of Work Programme implementation to-date:
  - 1.1. Signatories
    - **Bermuda Meeting 13-15 March** was a success. Both the report of this meeting, as well as the minutes from the 4<sup>th</sup> Joint Meeting of the Commission and Signatories will be released soon.
    - The Commission and the Government of Canada jointly hosted a side event during the BBNJ meeting on 3 April in New York, which was attended by 50 people and received a lot of positive feedback.
    - During the meeting in Bermuda, it was decided that there would be a follow-up meeting hosted by the Bahamas during the week of July 29 to provide an opportunity for the Commissioners and Signatories to discuss the GEF application process in more detail. David Vousden is revising the draft concept note based on Signatory feedback, and will circulate this updated version by June to provide a six-week comment period.
  
  - 1.2. Commission

- The **Executive Secretary** sent a note to the Mexican office of International Affairs to gauge their interest in becoming a Signatory to the Hamilton Declaration. **Commissioner Mark Spalding** will assist
- 1.3. Secretariat
- Nothing to report.
- 1.4. Collaborating Partners
- Since the meeting in Bermuda, several new Collaborating Partners have formally joined, including the Nonsuch Expeditions, The Ocean Foundation, the University of Edinburgh, and Imperial College London. The **Executive Secretary** is exploring MoUs with the International Seabed Authority, OSPAR, BirdLife International, and ICCAT. There is a new page on the Commission website to highlight Programmatic Partners, including ATLAS, COVERAGE, MiCO, and I-Atlantic.
- 1.5. Fisheries
- Dr Laurie Kell and Brian Luckhurst have conducted 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 also gave a presentation at the SSC meeting in Bermuda. They, along with **Commissioner Tammy Warren**, will be attending the upcoming SCRS and Commission meetings in Madrid and Curaçao.
  - The **Executive Secretary** attended a WECAFC meeting in Bermuda, which discussed adapting the organization into a regional fisheries management body. He will circulate the report from the meeting to the Commissioners.
- 1.6. Sea Bed
- The next ISA meeting was held from 25 February to 1 March at the ISA Headquarters in Jamaica. John Vermilye and Luc Cuyvers from the Gallifrey Foundation, as well as Sarah DeLand from the Duke Geospatial Ecology Lab, represented the Commission as our observer delegation. The **Executive Secretary** will send a note to John Vermilye to ask if he would like to attend the next meeting as well.
- 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. So

far, 18 Range States have registered. The Secretariat will follow up with CMS to see if Portugal might attend.

- **Commissioner Frederico Cardigos** reported on the last developments of the European eel tagging project being developed by the UK Environment Agency with the University of the Azores local cooperation.

#### 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 FFEM is considering a joint proposal from the Sargasso Sea Commission and the Costa Rica Thermal Dome project, thanks to support from the French biodiversity agency.
- 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.

#### 1.9. Mapping and Monitoring

- Nothing to report.

#### 1.10 Communications

- The Secretariat Programme Manager, **Ms Tess Mackey**, reported that the most recent issue of the newsletter, which was released in early March to celebrate the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hamilton Declaration, was the most-read SSC newsletter ever. The next edition will be released in June to celebrate World Oceans Day.
- The Secretariat is writing an article on the Commission's work which will be published in the Open Access Government publication. A link to the previous publications will be sent to the Commission.

### 3. Any Other Business

- Greenpeace is conducting a research cruise from Bermuda through the Sargasso Sea this summer. The Secretariat is working with them to identify Bermudian researchers to collaborate with, and to possibly host an event in August in Bermuda.
- The kick-off I-Atlantic board meeting will be held from 18-20 June in Edinburgh. **Commissioner Howard Roe** and **Programme Manager Tess Mackey** may be in attendance, since the Executive Secretary is unable to attend.

### 4. Date of Next Meeting

- The next SSC meeting will be held the week of 10 June and confirmed via Doodle poll. Commissioners also noted it would be helpful to have a call to

specifically discuss the GEF proposal prior to the meeting in the Bahamas in July.