



MINUTES SSC/2020/32

June 18, 2020

11:00 AM EDT - Via Zoom Conference Call

Participants:

Mr Frederico Cardigos, Commissioner

Sen Wilfred Moore, Commissioner

Mrs Rochelle Newbold, Commissioner

Prof Howard Roe, Commissioner

Mr Mark Spalding, Commissioner

Dr David Freestone, Executive Secretary

(Apologies, Dr Tammy Warren, Commission Acting Chair, Prof Stephen de Mora, Commissioner, Dr Billy Causey, Emeritus Commissioner)

1. Minutes of 19 May 2020 Meeting (MOS/SSC/2020/31)
 - Approved.

2. **Executive Secretary** presented an update of Work Programme implementation to-date:
 - 1.1. Signatories
 - There is a virtual Signatories call scheduled for later in the week, 19 June.

 - 1.2. Commission
 - **Commissioners Warren, Moore, and Cardigos'** terms are expiring this year and all are eligible for reappointment. The **Executive Secretary** has followed up with the Signatory governments and PS Rozy Azhar in Bermuda who has suggested ways to expedite the Commissioner appointment process. Nominations are due from the Signatories by 31 July. By 15 August, the Secretariat will inform the Signatories of the list of nominees and request written feedback from Signatories and Collaborating Partners by 30 September. Then the files and result of the consultation will be passed to the Government of Bermuda, which will make the appointments.

 - 1.3. Secretariat
 - Nothing to report.

- 1.4. Collaborating Partners
- The Gallifrey Foundation has officially become a Collaborating Partner, and the Secretariat will continue discussions of how we might collaborate over ocean mining issues. After an introduction by Craig Powell of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Bahamas, the Secretariat also had a productive meeting with Dr Carlton Watson, Dean of Pure and Applied Science of the University of the Bahamas and extended them an invitation to become a Collaborating Partner.
- 1.5. Fisheries
- **The Executive Secretary** has been in contact with the Secretariat of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) and has drafted an MOU for them to consider.
 - **Laurie Kell and Brian Luckhurst** participated in the SCRS Ecosystem Subcommittee, which was held virtually from 4-6 May. They gave a presentation on their work developing ecosystem indicators, and submitted a number of papers which were circulated to the Commission and will be posted on the SSC website. Currently due to COVID-19 concerns, the ICCAT SCRS and Commission meetings initially scheduled for this fall are canceled.
- 1.6. Shipping
- Nothing noted.
- 1.6. Sea Bed
- The MoU between the Secretariats of the International Seabed Authority and the SSC has been finalized and signed by both parties.
- 1.7. Migratory Species
- The SSC is supporting the development of the Single Species Action plan, which will be circulated to the Commission. The Secretariat is discussing planning a series of virtual meetings with a regional focus to discuss the action plan with the CMS Secretariat. Both the EU Commission and the Government of Sweden have expressed interest in joining Monaco in supporting this process.
- 1.8. Finance and Fundraising Report
- The contribution agreement with the Department of Fisheries & Oceans Canada to provide \$100K of operational funding to the Secretariat this fiscal year ended in March 2020. The Commission expressed its gratitude to the Canadian DFO for this. The Commission has received the 10% hold back of the funding (10K CAD) since the final report and accounts have been submitted. The Secretariat are in discussions with DFO staff about a renewal.
 - Thanks to support from the French biodiversity agency (AGF), the French **Global Environment Facility (FFEM)** is currently considering a joint

proposal from the Sargasso Sea Commission and the Costa Rica Thermal Dome project, with the Ocean University in Brest, for a 3 million Euro grant over 5 years. The final proposal received a favourable review from the Scientific and Technical Committee in September and the FFEM Steering Committee in November 2019. The Secretariat has been working on the appraisal stage with the FFEM consultants, who will be assisting with writing the final project document. The Secretariat expects that the final document for approval by the Steering Committee will be ready in September 2020, with contracts to be signed thereafter.

- The “Common Oceans” Programmatic Proposal for ABNJ was approved by the GEF Secretariat during their GEF Council Meeting from 2-3 June. The Sargasso Sea Project will receive a \$100k Project Preparation Grant from GEF. This PPG will allow for the hiring of consultants to prepare the final project document to be sent for GEF CEO approval within 12 months.

1.9. Mapping and Monitoring

- Regarding the NASA COVERAGE Project, a Steering Committee (on which the Executive Secretary sits) is scheduled for 22 June.

1.10 Communications

- The Secretariat Programme Manager, **Ms Tess Mackey**, reported that the latest edition of the newsletter was released during World Oceans Week. Commissioners are encouraged to submit photos and blurbs of recent happenings to the newsletter.

3. Any Other Business

- The Odyssey Connect “Hackathon” now renamed Momentum has been moved to a fully virtual format, and will be held 13-15 November, with a number of preparatory meetings first.

4. Date of Next Meeting

- As agreed on the call, the next SSC meeting will be **August 13 at 11 AM EDT**.