



**MINUTES SSC/2020/35**  
**November 18, 2020**  
**11:00 AM EDT - Via Zoom Conference Call**

**Participants:**

**Dr Tammy Warren, Commission Acting Chair**  
**Mr Frederico Cardigos, Commissioner**  
**Prof Stephen de Mora, Commissioner**  
**Sen Wilfred Moore, Commissioner**  
**Prof Howard Roe, Commissioner**  
**Mr Mark Spalding, Commissioner**  
**Dr David Freestone, Executive Secretary**  
**Ms Teresa Mackey, SSC Secretariat**  
**(Apologies, Mrs Rochelle Newbold, Commissioner)**

1. Minutes of 23 September 2020 Meeting (SSC/2020/34)
  - Approved.
  
2. **Executive Secretary** presented an update of Work Programme implementation to-date:
  - 1.1. Signatories
    - The fourth virtual Signatories call was held on November 10, 2020. The USA had previously suggested that the Signatories convene an internal working group to review their rules of procedure. The USA, UK, Canada, Bahamas, and the Azores agreed to collaborate on a first draft which will be shared with the Commission for comment.
  
  - 1.2. Commission
    - The chapter for the 2nd UN World Ocean Assessment has been approved by the editors. The Commission thanked **Commissioner Roe** for taking the lead on this and his writing team – including **Commissioner Warren**, Laurie Kell, Brian Luckhurst and the **Executive Secretary** - for all their work on this draft.
  
  - 1.3. Secretariat

- The auditors have completed the 2019 audit and both Form 990 and the CHAR 500 forms have been filed ahead of the November deadline. The **Programme Manager** explained the process of the annual audit filing.
- 1.4. Collaborating Partners
- The Secretariat revised the Hope Spot Champion Agreement, and sent it to Mission Blue. The Secretariat is continuing negotiations with Mission Blue’s Executive Director.
- 1.5. Fisheries
- **The Executive Secretary** has been in contact with the Secretariat of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) and has drafted a Secretariat to Secretariat MOU which is currently being considered by the NAFO Parties but no response is expected till mid-2021.
  - Currently due to COVID-19 concerns, the ICCAT SCRS and Commission meetings initially scheduled for this fall are canceled. **Commissioner Warren** gave an update of the ongoing correspondence process, and recommended that the Secretariat follow up with UK DEFRA.
  - WECAFC hosted a virtual Second Preparatory meeting for the development of a regional fisheries management entity/arrangement on October 23, in which the Secretariat participated.
- 1.6 Shipping
- Nothing noted.
- 1.6. Sea Bed
- The ISA is conducting stakeholder consultations on the draft standards and guidelines to support the implementation of the Draft Regulations for Exploitation of mineral resources in the Area. **Kristina Gjerde** wrote comments on behalf of IUCN, and the Commissioners had previously agreed to associate themselves with these comments.
- 1.7. Migratory Species
- The SSC has supported the development of a “zero draft” of the European Eel Single Species Action plan, which was authorised by the CMS COP 13 in India in February. It was circulated to the Range States for comment. The Secretariat has engaged Matt Gollock as a consultant and is working with the CMS Secretariat to plan a series of virtual meetings with regional groups to discuss the zero draft action plan. 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 was finalized to provide \$165K CAD of operational funding to the Secretariat the current fiscal year ending in March 2021. As part of the DFO contribution agreement, the Secretariat is in discussions with DFO about a virtual American eel workshop (as a follow-up to the one held in the Dominican Republic in 2018).
- The final project document is currently being reviewed for approval by the FFEM Steering Committee, and the Secretariat expects it will be ready in December 2020, with contracts to be signed thereafter and work beginning the first quarter of 2021. The FFEM grant agreement will be with SSPI, Inc. (the nonprofit arm of the Secretariat) and, subject to negotiations on overhead, passed to IUCN for implementation as usual.
- The “Common Oceans” Programmatic Proposal for ABNJ was approved by the GEF Secretariat during their GEF Council Meeting from 2-3 June. This included a \$3m allocation to the Sargasso Sea. IOC as the Executing Agency received a \$100k Project Preparation Grant (PPG) from GEF. The IOC has now hired David Vousden as the lead consultant to prepare the final project document to be sent for GEF CEO approval within 12 months from the time of GEF Council approval. There will be an inception meeting, followed by a stakeholder consultation process during the preparation of the final project document.

#### 1.9. Mapping and Monitoring

- Nothing noted.

#### 1.10 Communications

- The Secretariat Programme Manager, **Ms Tess Mackey**, encouraged Commissioners to submit photos and blurbs of recent happenings to the newsletter. The next edition will be released in December.
- The Odyssey Connect “Hackathon” now renamed Momentum was held virtually 13-15 November. The Secretariat, Commissioner Howard Roe, Laurie Kell, and Vardis Tsontos and Jorge Vasquez from NASA JPL all participated as invited experts and judges for the Sovereign Nature challenge. Team CEVEN-protect was chosen as the winning team.

### 3. Any Other Business

#### 4. Date of Next Meeting

- As agreed on the call, the next SSC meeting will be held **21 January 2021 at 11 AM EST.**