



**MINUTES SSC/2021/37**

**March 16, 2021**

**10:00 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**  
**Mrs Rochelle Newbold, Commissioner**  
**Prof Howard Roe, Commissioner**  
**Dr David Freestone, Executive Secretary**  
**Ms Teresa Mackey, SSC Secretariat**  
**(Apologies, Mr Mark Spalding, Commissioner)**

1. Minutes of 21 January 2021 (SSC/2020/36)
  - Approved.
2. **Executive Secretary** presented an update of Work Programme implementation to-date:
  - 1.1. Signatories
    - Nothing noted.
  - 1.2. Commission
    - The terms of two Commission members (Commissioners Mark Spalding and Stephen de Mora) will be expiring in 2021. Both are eligible for reappointment. The Executive Secretary will open the call for nominations in late March 2021.
  - 1.3. Secretariat
    - Nothing noted.
  - 1.4. Collaborating Partners
    - The Secretariat has sent a draft MoU to REV Ocean for their review.
    - The SSPI Board had reviewed the Mission Blue champion agreement, which was revised by the Mission Blue legal team, and unanimously agreed to sign the agreement.

- The Secretariat has invited the FFEM project partners- MarViva, the Ocean University at Brest, and the AFB (the French biodiversity agency), to become official collaborating partners.
- No response has yet been received from U of Bahamas re the draft MOU. **Commissioner Newbold** agreed to gently remind Dr Watson.

#### 1.5. Fisheries

- **The Executive Secretary** has drafted a Secretariat to Secretariat MOU with the Secretariat of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) which is currently being considered by the NAFO Parties. No response is expected till mid-2021.
- The virtual ICCAT SCRS is scheduled for May 2021, and Laurie Kell and Brian Luckhurst plan to attend. **Commissioner Warren** reminded that contact needs to be made with the UK FCO about the delegation.
- 1.6 ShippingThe Secretariat and invited experts have had further meetings with CEVEN-protect, the winners of the Odyssey Momentum challenge. The project proposal is still being assessed and fine-tuned to decide it is ready for the next stage of the Odyssey process – Odyssey Ignite.

#### 1.6. Sea Bed

- In March, the Secretariat received the hard copy of the countersigned MoU with the Secretariat of the International Seabed Authority.

#### 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 2020. 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.
- As part of the 2020-21 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 Commission and the Secretariat would like to express their sadness at the passing of Dr Maurice Isaacs, who attended the 2018 American eel workshop in the Dominican Republic as a representative of The Bahamas.

#### 1.8. Finance and Fundraising Report

- The Commission would like to express its thanks to Angel Braestrup and the Curtis & Edith Munson Foundation board for the renewal of their grant of \$25,000 USD.
- 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.
- The final project document was approved by the FFEM Steering Committee in December 2020, with contracts to be signed in early 2021. The FFEM grant agreement will be with SSPI, Inc. and, subject to negotiation of a donor agreement with IUCN, will then be passed to IUCN for implementation as usual. Implementation partners, including BIOS, Duke, and Imperial College London, will be written into the agreement. The first meeting of the FFEM project core team was held this month. The project has been named SARGADOM.
- 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. Additional consultants are being hired to assist Dr Vousden. There is also an optional 3 month extension due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 of the newsletter was released to commemorate the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Hamilton Declaration on March 11.
- The Secretariat collaborated on an article with Mission Blue featuring the Sargasso Sea Hope Spot and the Commission’s work, which was released this week. The Secretariat also submitted an article of the UN Ocean Decade special edition of ECO Magazine in partnership with IOC-UNESCO, which is scheduled to be published in May 2021.

3. Any Other Business

4. Date of Next Meeting

- As agreed on the call, the next SSC meeting will be held on **April 21 at 11 AM EDT.**