



MINUTES SSC/2015/4
4 September 2015
10:00 am eastern- Via Skype

Participants:

Dr. Billy Causey, Commissioner
Prof. Ricardo Santos, Commissioner
Prof. Dire Tladi, Commissioner
Dr. Tammy Trott, Commissioner
Dr. David Freestone, Executive Secretary
Apologies Prof. Howard Roe

1. Minutes of 16 June Meeting (SSC/2015/3)
 - Approved minutes subject to edits

2. Dr. David Freestone presented an update of Work Programme implementation to-date:
 - 2.1. Commission Issues
 - DF reported on the Commissioner Selection process for 2015. Announcement is expected in September. DF noted with appreciation that the new Bermuda Permanent Secretary of Health, Seniors and Environment was actively engaged in moving the appointment process forward.

 - 2.2. Signatories
 - DF reported the status of possible new Signatories remains unchanged from last official report.

 - 2.3. Collaborating Partners
 - International Seabed Authority approved official Observer status for the Commission at its August Meeting
 - FB will attend the NAFO Meeting in September in Halifax representing the Commission in its Official observer capacity.
 - Negotiations with UNEP-CAR/RCU, UNEP-Abidjan, Mexico's Quintana Roo Environment Department and IOCARIBE
 - Commission approved engaging with Code Blue (Nekton Foundation) as a Collaborating Partner.

2.4. Fisheries

- Commissioner Trott and Dr. Brian Luckhurst will represent the Commission in Madrid at the ICCAT SCRS meeting and at the ICCAT Commission Meeting in Malta in November.

2.5. Shipping

- Risk Assessment Report on Shipping in Sargasso Sea is nearly complete.
- The GIZ Oceans Lab EBSAs prototype team is developing a business case for the shipping industry to mitigate impacts, with a focus on the cruise ship industry that services Bermuda.

2.6. Convention on Migratory Species

- American eel workshop in Maine 23-25 October 2015 with funding, commitments and speakers in place.

2.7 Finance Report

- FY 2014 Audit results were positive, and FY 2014 State and federal taxes were paid.
- Positive financial situation for the Commission was noted.
- Revised budget for Commission activities will allow more programmatic activities.

2.8 Mapping and Monitoring

- NASA Mapping project is proceeding; vector data is needed for project.
- Possible Florida location for testing workshop.

2.9 Communications

- Chapter 50 UN World Oceans Assessment on Sargasso Sea finalized.
- UN Oceans Resolution (2015) under discussion.
- Commission representatives attended GIZ Oceans Lab in Mexico, August 2015.
- Commission newsletter will be released once the new commissioners are announced.
- Report on DF invitation to the Arctic Council's Task Force on Arctic Marine Cooperation 21-22 September.

2.10 Other Issues

- Worldwide *Sargassum* network with UNEP-CAR and SPAW has launched; Commissioners with interest can be added.
- Initial inquiry into partnership with IOCARIBE is progressing (noted above).

3. Next Meeting

- Next meeting date will be set via email.

4. No other business