



MINUTES SSC/2015/5
2 November 2015
10:00 am eastern- Via Conference Call

Participants:

Dr. Billy Causey, Commissioner
Prof. Stephen de Mora, Commissioner
Mr. Mark Spalding, Commissioner
Dr. Tammy Trott, Commissioner
Dr. David Freestone, Executive Secretary
(Apologies Prof. Howard Roe, Prof. Ricardo Santos, Commissioners)

1. Minutes of 4 September Meeting (SSC/2015/4)
 - Approved minutes

2. Dr. David Freestone presented an update of Work Programme implementation to-date:
 - 2.1. Commission Issues
 - DF welcomed the new Commissioners.
 - Secretariat travel in early December to Bermuda discussed.

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

 - 2.3. Collaborating Partners
 - International Committee for the Protection of Cables (ICPC) is engaging with SSC as a Collaborating Partner.

 - 2.4. Fisheries
 - Update on NAFO results by FBulger.
 - Update on upcoming ICCAT Meeting; Commissioner Trott and Dr. Brian Luckhurst will represent the Commission at the ICCAT Commission Meeting in Malta in November 2015.

2.5. Shipping

- Threat Assessment Report on Shipping in Sargasso Sea is nearly complete; conducting peer review.
- 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

- Possible 2016 range state workshop for European eel discussed.
- American eel workshop completed Maine 23-25 October 2015, with positive feedback and opportunities for future collaboration. Interest in CITES and possible Convention on Migratory Species options expressed.

2.7 Finance Report

- Positive financial situation for the Commission was noted.
- Fundraising challenges for high seas work mentioned.

2.8 Mapping and Monitoring

- NASA Mapping project is proceeding; vector data is still needed for project and collection of that data is ongoing.
- Possible Florida location for testing workshop with dates set tentatively as 20-23 March 2016; Dr Causey reviewed and approved proposal.

2.9 Communications

- Chapter 50 UN World Oceans Assessment on Sargasso Sea finalized.
- UN Oceans Resolution (2015) under discussion.
- Website still undergoing improvements.

2.10 Other Issues

- Worldwide *Sargassum* network with UNEP-CAR and SPAW has launched; Commissioners with interest will be added.
- Invitation to attend UNEP meeting on *Sargassum* influx (Freeport, Sierra Leone) discussed.
- Dr Causey invited to speak in his Commissioner capacity at Florida legal symposium. Secretariat to assist with power point.

3. Next Meeting

- Next meeting date set for 10 December at 10 am EST.

4. No other business