



MINUTES SSC/2015/6
14 December 2015
2:30 pm EST - 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 2 November Meeting (SSC/2015/5)
 - Approved minutes

2. Dr. David Freestone presented an update of Work Programme implementation to-date:
 - 2.1. Commission Issues
 - Report on Sargasso Sea Commission Secretariat travel and meetings in Bermuda.
 - Bermuda Charity Bank Account established and required trainings completed.

 - 2.2. Signatories
 - Efforts to engage 2-3 additional governments are ongoing with active support of Bermuda Government representatives.
 - Joint Hamilton Declaration Signatory and Sargasso Sea Commission meeting tentatively set for 20-22 March 2016 in Key West FLA.

 - 2.3. Collaborating Partners
 - No change.

 - 2.4. Fisheries
 - Update provided by Commissioner Trott on the ICCAT proceedings in Malta: despite additional cosponsors and support for the Sargasso Sea resolution, adoption of our proposed resolution was tabled by ICCAT.
 - Continuing efforts to gather quantitative data on spawning areas and renew our resolution in 2016.

2.5. Shipping

- Commissioners to review the shipping assessment in light of comments.
- Contract to engage Dr Samia Sarkis to update assessment on cruise ship activities in Bermuda noted.

2.6. Convention on Migratory Species

- Update provided on Range State Workshop for European Eel in 2016.
- Written report by Maine Law on the American Eel Workshop (October 2015) is expected in January 2016.

2.7 Finance Report

- Helmsley Foundation funding for the second year of its grant received.
- NASA Workshop funding is tentatively approved.
- Year end for 2015 financial obligations is December 18, 2015.

2.8 Mapping and Monitoring

- NASA Mapping project is proceeding; vector data is still needed for project and collection of that data is ongoing. Partners in Bermuda to help.
- Grant for workshop is approved pending final review.
- Workshop tentatively set for NOAA's Eco Discovery Center in Key West for 20-23 March 2016.

2.9 Communications

- Chapter 50 UN World Oceans Assessment on Sargasso Sea finalized.
- UN Oceans Resolution (2015) under discussion.
- Sargasso Sea Commission to present a poster session and participate in workshops at the IUCN World Conservation Congress from 1-10 September 2016.

2.10 Other Issues

- Possible opportunities noted for Sargasso Sea Commission in carbon sequestration projects after COP 21. Follow up by Dr Freestone noted.

3. Next Meeting

- Next meeting date set for 12 February 2016 at 10:00 EST.

4. No other business