



MINUTES SSC/2016/7
12 February 2016
10:00 am 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 14 December Meeting (SSC/2015/6)
 - Approved minutes

2. Dr. David Freestone presented an update of Work Programme implementation to-date:
 - 2.1. Commission Issues
 - Commissioner Trott, current Vice Chair, will assume Chairmanship for the present time.
 - 2.2. Signatories
 - British Virgin Islands has become the Sixth Signatory to the Hamilton Convention.
 - Trinidad and Tobago and Bahamas are still in process to become Signatories but moving forward.
 - Joint Hamilton Declaration Signatory and Sargasso Sea Commission meeting 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 Commission's plans for next steps at ICCAT proceedings in 2016 and on continuing efforts to renew our resolution in 2016.
 - Invitation to be an official observer at WECEFC meeting in June in Guadeloupe.
 - NAFO meeting in Cuba in September.

2.5. Shipping

- Commissioners to review the shipping assessment in light of comments (draft to be circulated).
- Updated assessment of cruise ship activities to begin in March.
- Inquiry on IMO ballast water voluntary restrictions initiated.

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 to be in transcript form.

2.7 Finance Report

- NASA Workshop funding officially approved.
- Proposed budget for 2016 for Commission will likely track the 2015 budget.

2.8 Mapping and Monitoring

- NASA Mapping project is proceeding; vector data is still needed for project and collection of that data is ongoing.
- Grant for workshop is approved and logistical arrangements are ongoing.
- Workshop will be located at NOAA's Eco Discovery Center in Key West from 20-23 March 2016.

2.9 Communications

- Chapter 50 UN World Oceans Assessment on Sargasso Sea is finalized and will be circulated to Commissioners and posted on website.
- UN Oceans Resolution (2015) approach unchanged.

2.10 Other Issues

- Any agenda items for the Joint Signatory and Commission Meeting in March will be forwarded to the Secretariat by email.

3. Next Meeting

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

4. No other business