



**MINUTES SSC/2016/8**  
**26 May 2016**  
**10:00 am EST - Via Conference Call**

**Participants:**

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

1. Minutes of 12 February 2016 Meeting (SSC/2016/7)

Minutes of 21-22 March 2016 Joint Meeting of Signatories and SSC (MOS/SSC/2)

**APPROVED.**

2. Dr. David Freestone presented an update of Work Programme implementation to-date:

2.1 Commission

- New Ministry of the Environment has been established in Bermuda. The Executive Secretary will travel to Bermuda to meet the new Minister of the Environment and the new Permanent Secretary.
- Mention of the Hamilton Declaration and the Commission in the recent MOU between the Azores and Bermuda.
- Noted that Commissioners Roe and Causey terms expire this year; Commissioner Causey indicated desire to continue with a second term. ES to check with Commissioner Roe.

2.2 Signatories

- Bahamas still in process, but moving forward.
- Follow up in process with Trinidad and Tobago, Cuba, S. Africa, Grenada, Canada, Portugal, and possibly Iceland.
- Some support for interest expressed by Thailand being considered as first government outside of the Atlantic Basin.

2.3 Collaborating Partners

- Nothing to report

- 2.4 Fisheries
- ICCAT: Brian Luckhurst preparing report and will attend relevant ICCAT meetings as consultant for Commission.
  - WECAFC: Faith Bulger to attend as official observer at the Annual WECAFC meeting in June and report back.
  - NAFO: Due to funding constraints, Commission will not likely send an official observer to the NAFO meeting in Cuba this year.
- 2.5 Shipping
- Bermuda cruise lines report: Currently in process with consultant Samia Sarkis; discussions to resume with Bermuda regarding MOU with cruise lines upon completion of report.
- 2.6 Sea Bed Issue
- APPROVED:** Commission approved request by Dr Philomene Verlaan to serve as the Commission's official delegate to the Annual ISA meeting in Jamaica in July and report back on the proceedings, at no cost to the Commission.
- 2.7 Migratory Species
- European Eel Range States Technical Workshop, 13-14 October 2016: Contracts for background papers are in process; ongoing active administrative coordination with CMS Secretariat; with expected funding from Galway Marine Institute, the Government of the Netherlands, and the Commission.
  - Note on Micro Electric Hydropower (deferred to next call).
- 2.8 Finance Report
- APPROVED:** Budget for 2016.
- 2.9 Mapping and Monitoring
- NASA Workshop completed; follow-up activities being addressed with NASA partner and discussions to occur on how to hand off the Sargasso Sea project to the Commission.
- 2.10 Communications
- APPROVED:** Dr Freestone to attend the IUCN WCC, 1-10 September 2016, for several events involving the Sargasso Sea and the Commission work.
- 2.11 Other Issues
- 3 Any Other Business
- 4 Date of Next Meeting
- APPROVED:** 28 July 2016 at 10 am EST by conference call.

