



**OSPAR
COMMISSION**



SARGASSO SEA ALLIANCE

Date: 6 July 2012

Collaboration Arrangement between the Secretariats of the OSPAR Commission and the Sargasso Sea Alliance

Whereas OSPAR is the mechanism by which fifteen Governments of the western coasts and catchments of Europe, together with the European Union, cooperate to protect the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic;

Whereas the Sargasso Sea Alliance is a partnership led by the Government of Bermuda, in collaboration with scientists, international marine conservation groups and private donors, who all share a vision of protecting the unique and vulnerable ocean ecosystem of the Sargasso Sea;

Whereas the geographical area of the OSPAR Convention (the 'OSPAR Maritime Area') does not cover the waters of the Sargasso Sea, the marine environments of the North- East Atlantic and of the Sargasso Sea contain many of the same physical characteristics and, as adjacent ocean areas, also have a connection in terms of some degree of water mass exchange. Both areas support migratory species and are subject to similar human threats; in particular there is a shared interest in conservation of the European eel (*Anguilla Anguilla*) a critically endangered species.

The Secretariat of the OSPAR Commission and the Secretariat of the Sargasso Sea Alliance ("the Participants") herein establish a collaborative arrangement between our two organisations to maximise opportunities for the sharing of research, expertise and practical experience in seeking to protect and manage the marine environment of the North Atlantic, particularly in Areas beyond National Jurisdiction.

Whereas the Parties to the OSPAR Convention have designated a number of Marine Protected Areas in the Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) within the OSPAR maritime area, the aims of the Sargasso Sea Alliance are to mobilize support from a wide variety of national and international organizations and governments to ensure legal protection for this critical ecosystem and to provide insights for the establishment of other Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) on the high seas.

Whereas the Parties to the OSPAR Convention have established a Collective Arrangement with other Convention bodies with competence in the North-East Atlantic the Sargasso Sea Alliance continues to build a comprehensive science case to justify enhanced protection measures.

This collaboration arrangement reflects the clear intention of the Participants and their organisations to foster cooperation on activities of mutual interest and exchange experience through co-ordination of research and experience concerning the conservation, stewardship and management of the marine environment of the North Atlantic

The Participants share the understanding that the cooperation between their two bodies, as well as their cooperation with other Competent Authorities in relation to any activities in ABNJ in the areas of the Atlantic Ocean which are of concern to their respective organisations, should be based on:

- a. Joint Principles for the Conservation and Management (set out in Annex 1 to this Collaboration Arrangement);

- b. Scientific evidence that confirms the value and vulnerability of the biodiversity within these areas; and
- c. The international legal framework for regulating activities in ABNJ provided by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

The Participants will within the framework of their respective mandates, and legal and logistical competence, cooperate in the development and implementation of appropriate measures for the conservation and management of these areas, informed, where appropriate, by conservation objectives established for these areas.

To this end the Participants will:

- a. inform each other of any updated scientific information and environmental assessment and monitoring data;
- b. notify and inform each other of existing and proposed human uses;
- c. cooperate on environmental impact assessments, strategic environmental assessments and equivalent instruments;
- d. consult annually to review their respective objectives in relation to the conservation of their respective areas, the status of the areas concerned, and the appropriateness of existing management measures and, where necessary, develop proposals for improvement of either;
- e. cooperate to obtain a better knowledge of the areas concerned through, where appropriate, developing exchange of data, sharing of databases and collecting data in standardised formats.

The individuals acting as points of contact for this Collaboration Arrangement are as follows:

- Dr David Johnson, Executive-Secretary, OSPAR Commission
- Dr David Freestone, Executive Director, Sargasso Sea Alliance

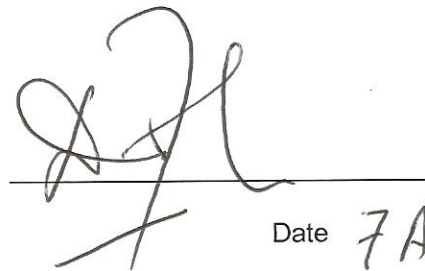
This Collaboration Arrangement will come into effect on the date of both signatures to this correspondence and will continue in operation until terminated by either Participant (on one month's written notice to the other Participant).

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OSPAR Commission
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Date 10/7/12

Dr David Freestone
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Date 7 Aug 2012

Annex 1

Joint principles of [competent authorities] for the management of human activities in ABNJ in the Atlantic Ocean

1. The aim of these joint principles is to set out a common understanding between the Participants regarding the management of human activities in ABNJ in the Atlantic. In drawing up these principles, regard was had to relevant existing international maritime and environmental instruments, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ("LOS Convention") the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic ("OSPAR Convention"); the Convention on the Future Multilateral Cooperation in North-East Atlantic Fisheries ("NEAFC Convention"); the FAO Code of Conduct for responsible fisheries; the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Nodules in the Area ("Mining Code"); and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto ("MARPOL").
2. The management of human activities in ABNJ in the Atlantic Ocean should be guided by the following general principles:
 - a. Ecosystem Approach
 - b. Obligation to protect and preserve the marine environment as contained in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Art. 192)
 - c. Precautionary Principle
 - d. Sustainable Use of Natural Resources
 - e. Use of Best Available Scientific Advice
 - f. Application of Environmental Impact Assessments and Strategic Environmental Assessments
 - g. Polluter Pays Principle
 - h. Public Availability of Information
 - i. Application of Best Available Technique / Best Environmental Practice

Annex 2

Maps of Sargasso Sea Alliance study area and OSPAR Maritime Area

