



SARGADOM *Project*

***To contribute to hybrid governance to protect and manage two remarkable areas of the high seas:
The Thermal Dome and the Sargasso Sea***

SARGADOM Kick Off Meeting
Per Zoom - August 26, 2021

Dr David Freestone
Executive Secretary, Sargasso Sea Commission



THE SARGASSO SEA

A VITAL ECOSYSTEM OF GLOBAL IMPORTANCE

THE SARGASSO SEA CREATES AN ESSENTIAL HABITAT FOR WORLDWIDE SPECIES GLOBALLY, BUT WHAT IS THE ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF THIS HIGH BIODIVERSE AND PRODUCTIVE AREA?

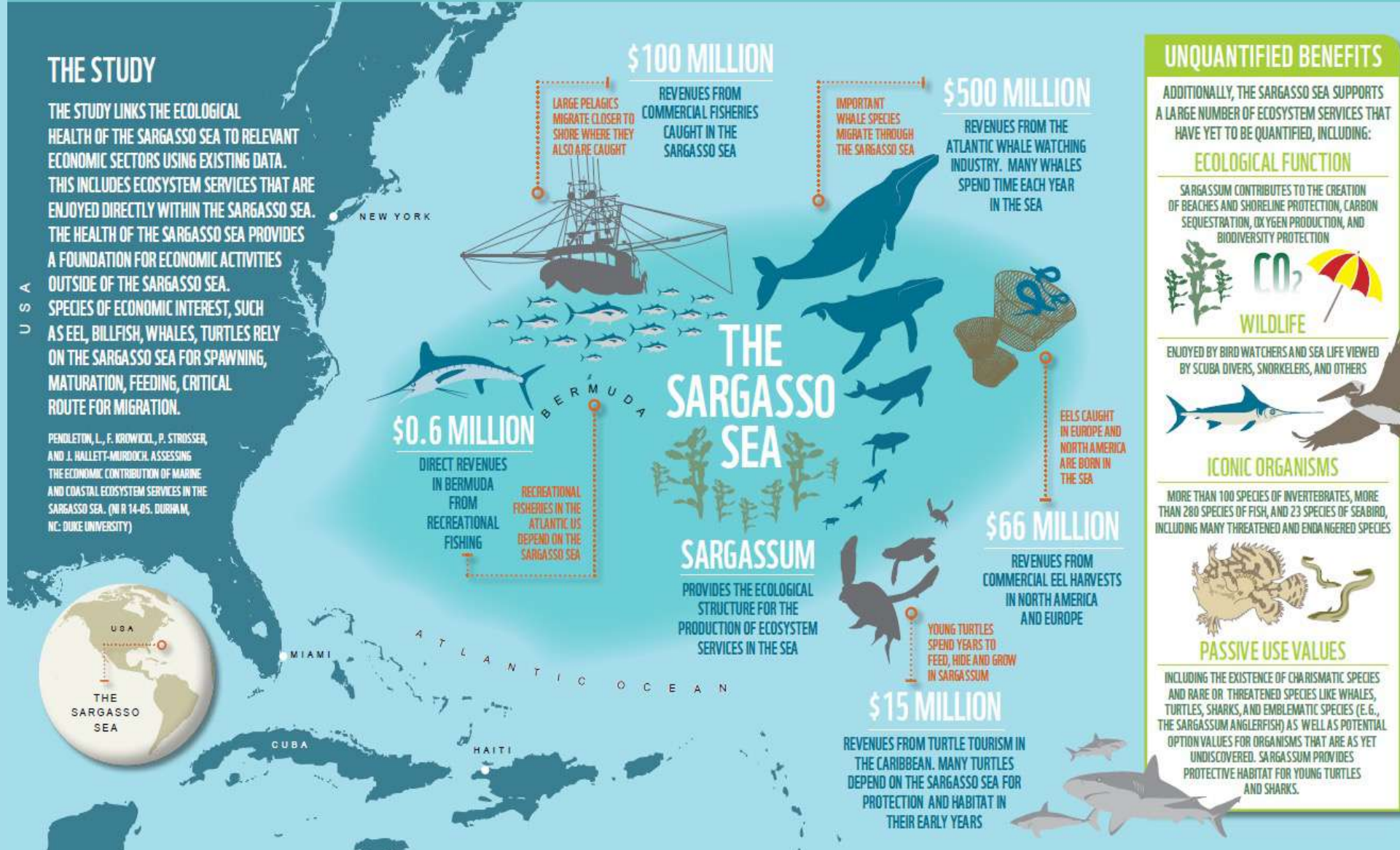
THE STUDY

THE STUDY LINKS THE ECOLOGICAL HEALTH OF THE SARGASSO SEA TO RELEVANT ECONOMIC SECTORS USING EXISTING DATA. THIS INCLUDES ECOSYSTEM SERVICES THAT ARE ENJOYED DIRECTLY WITHIN THE SARGASSO SEA. THE HEALTH OF THE SARGASSO SEA PROVIDES A FOUNDATION FOR ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE SARGASSO SEA. SPECIES OF ECONOMIC INTEREST, SUCH AS EEL, BILLFISH, WHALES, TURTLES RELY ON THE SARGASSO SEA FOR SPAWNING, MATURATION, FEEDING, CRITICAL ROUTE FOR MIGRATION.

PENDELTON, L., F. KRIVICKI, P. STROSSER, AND J. HALLETT-MURDOCH. ASSESSING THE ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF MARINE AND COASTAL ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN THE SARGASSO SEA. (NO R 14-05. DURHAM, NC: DUKE UNIVERSITY)



USA



UNQUANTIFIED BENEFITS

ADDITIONALLY, THE SARGASSO SEA SUPPORTS A LARGE NUMBER OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES THAT HAVE YET TO BE QUANTIFIED, INCLUDING:

ECOLOGICAL FUNCTION

SARGASSUM CONTRIBUTES TO THE CREATION OF BEACHES AND SHORELINE PROTECTION, CARBON SEQUESTRATION, OXYGEN PRODUCTION, AND BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION



WILDLIFE

ENJOYED BY BIRD WATCHERS AND SEA LIFE VIEWED BY SCUBA DIVERS, SNORKELERS, AND OTHERS



ICONIC ORGANISMS

MORE THAN 100 SPECIES OF INVERTEBRATES, MORE THAN 280 SPECIES OF FISH, AND 23 SPECIES OF SEABIRD, INCLUDING MANY THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES



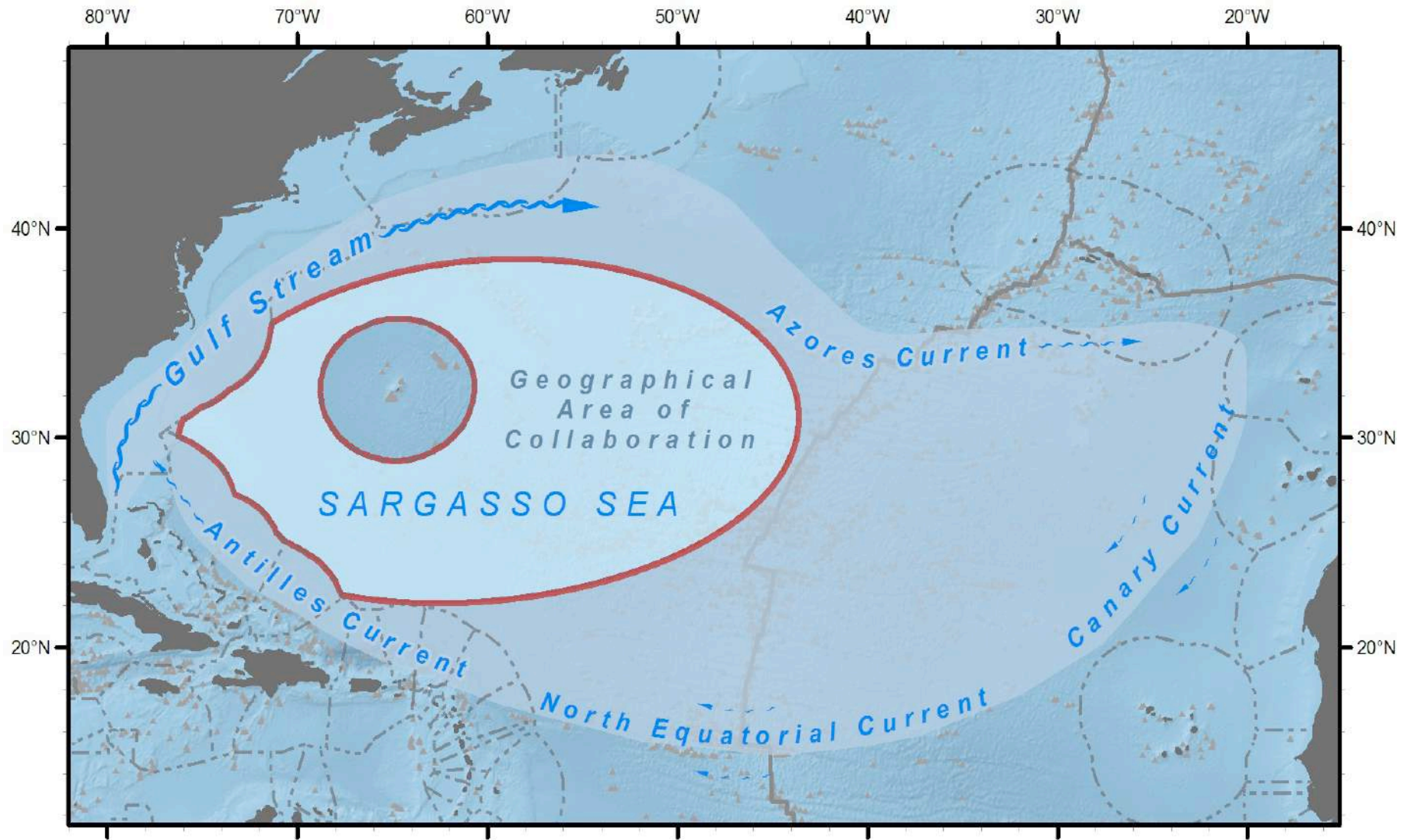
PASSIVE USE VALUES

INCLUDING THE EXISTENCE OF CHARISMATIC SPECIES AND RARE OR THREATENED SPECIES LIKE WHALES, TURTLES, SHARKS, AND EMBLEMATIC SPECIES (E.G., THE SARGASSUM ANGLERFISH) AS WELL AS POTENTIAL OPTION VALUES FOR ORGANISMS THAT ARE AS YET UNDISCOVERED. SARGASSUM PROVIDES PROTECTIVE HABITAT FOR YOUNG TURTLES AND SHARKS.

The Hamilton Declaration on Collaboration for the Conservation of the Sargasso Sea


(March 2014)





 Sargasso Sea Geographical Area of Collaboration

 North Atlantic Gyre

 Seamount

 Mid-Atlantic Ridge

 EEZ

Hamilton Declaration Signatories

- **Azores**
- **Bahamas (2016)**
- **Bermuda**
- **British Virgin Islands (2016)**
- **Canada (2016)**
- **Cayman Islands (2017)**
- **Dominican Republic (2018)**
- **Monaco**
- **United Kingdom**
- **United States**
- **Netherlands, Sweden, South Africa,**
- **Turks and Caicos - *Trinidad and Tobago unable to attend but supportive***

Observer Organisations

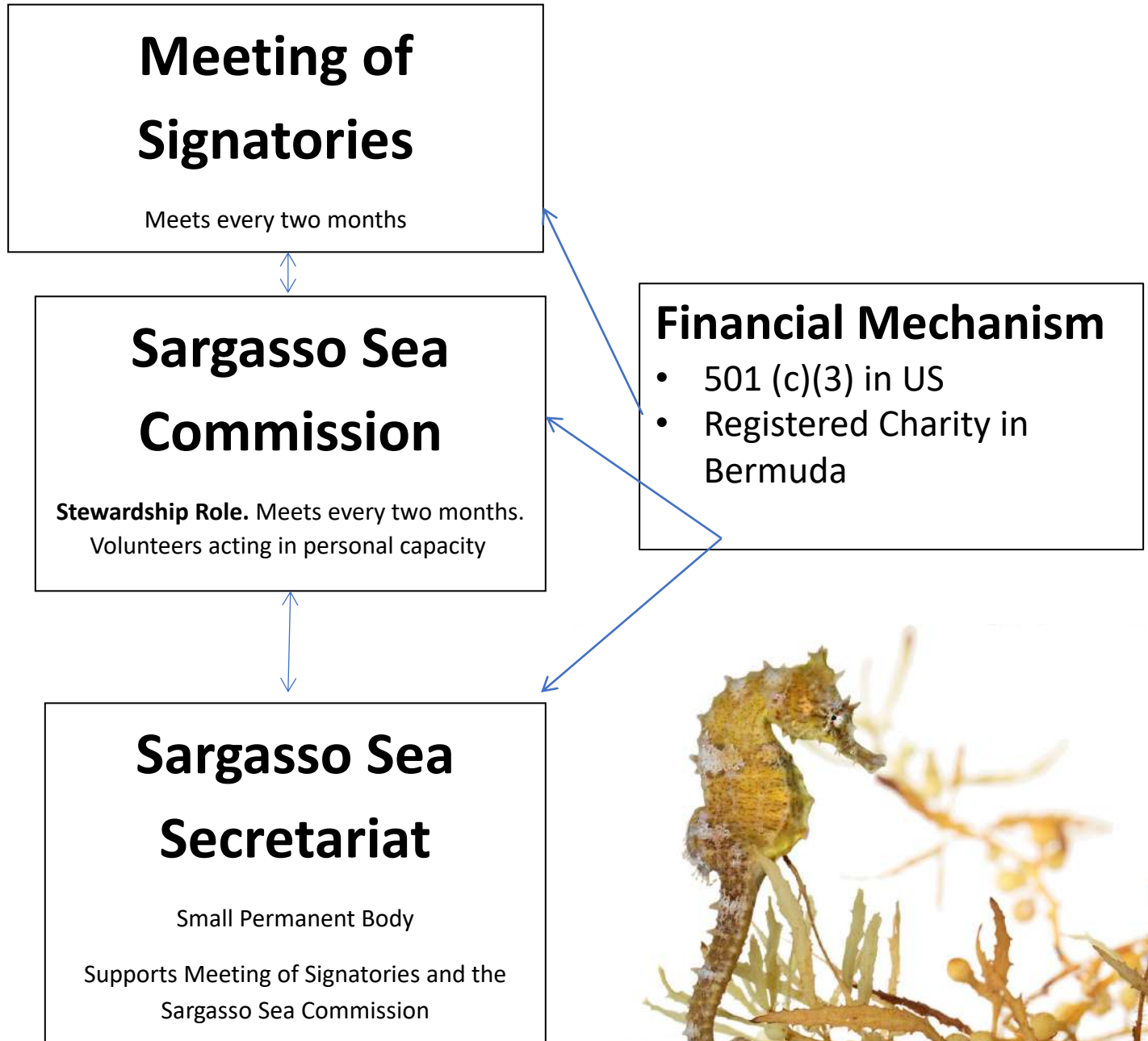
- **ISA - International Seabed Authority Secretariat**
- **OSPAR (former Executive Secretary)**
- **Convention on Migratory Species Secretariat**
- **IUCN**
- **Inter-American Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Sea Turtles**



Role of the Sargasso Sea Commission

- Exercise a **stewardship role** for the Sargasso Sea and keep its health, productivity and resilience under continual review; and
- Develop a **work programme** and action plans for the conservation of the Sargasso Sea ecosystem

Hamilton Declaration Structure





**Dr. Tammy
Warren**



**Professor
Howard Roe**



**Mrs.
Rochelle
Newbold**



**Sen. Wilfred
Moore**



**Mr. Mark
Spalding**



**Professor
Stephen
de Mora**



SARGASSO SEA
COMMISSION

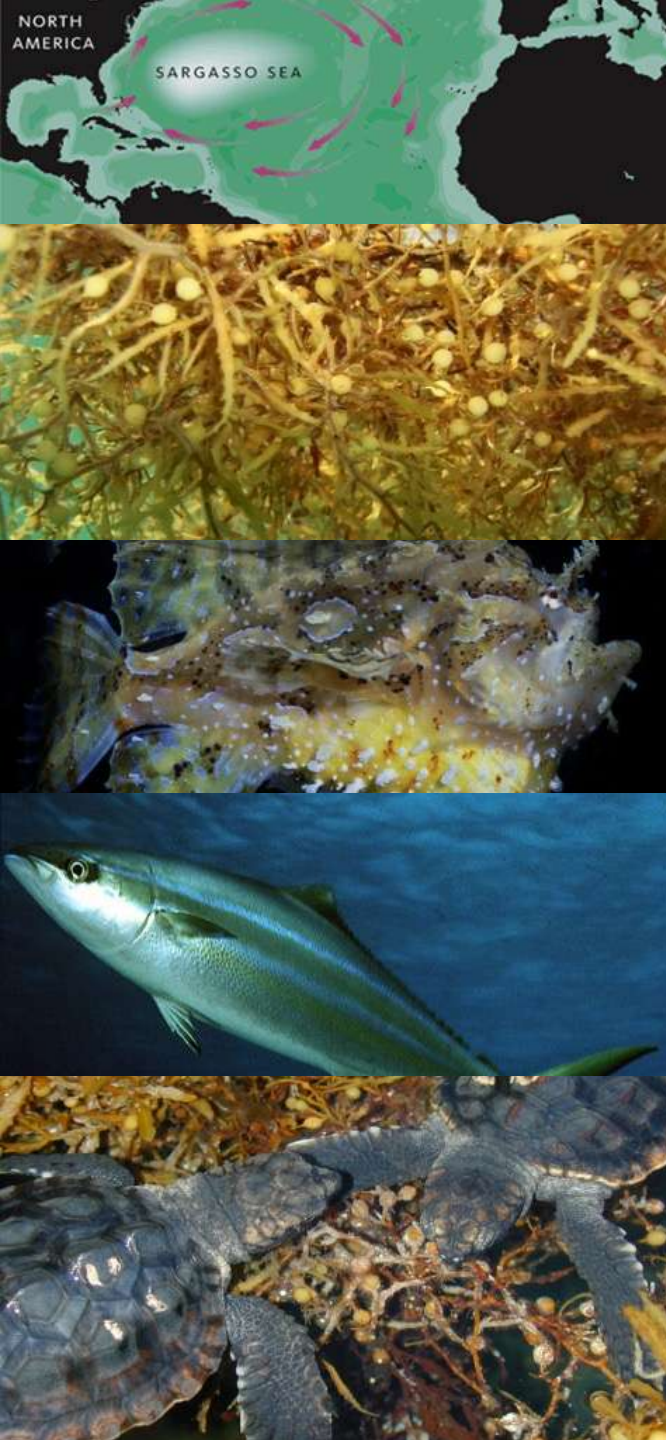
Collaborating Partners (33)

- Andrew Stevenson, Bermuda Humpback Project
- Atlantic International Research (AIR) Centre
- Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences (BIOS)
- Duke Marine Geospatial Ecology Laboratory (MGEL)
- Florida Atlantic University, Harbor Branch
- Gallifrey Foundation
- Global Fishing Watch
- Global Oceans
- Imperial College London
- Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS)
- Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI)
- International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC)
- International SeaKeepers Society
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- LookBermuda
- Nonsuch Expeditions
- Mare (Portugal)
- Marine & Environmental Law Institute, Dalhousie University
- Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL)
- Mission Blue/Sylvia Earle Alliance
- Nekton/Code Blue Foundation
- Optical Oceanography Lab, College of Marine Science, University of South Florida
- Ocean Foundation
- Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML)
- Sea Education Association
- The Ocean Foundation
- University of South Florida College of Marine Science
- University of Central Florida Marine Turtle Group
- University of Southern Mississippi, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Exeter, Global Systems Institute
- WWF-International
- World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)

Next Steps to Strengthen Stewardship of the Sargasso Sea

13-14 March, 2019, Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences





Strengthening the stewardship of an economically and biologically significant high seas area –

The Sargasso Sea

***Inception Workshop
Per Zoom 15 December 2020***



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Key Components



- 4 year project for US \$3million
 - Child Project under FAO Common Ocean Program
 - UNDP Implementing /UNESCO IOC Executing agency
1. **An Ecosystem Diagnostic Analysis (EDA) for the entire Sargasso Sea Ecosystem providing a baseline for monitoring and adaptive management/stewardship of the Sargasso Sea.**
 2. **A road-map and budget for the adoption of an Ecosystem Based Approach to governance and conservation**
 3. **Strategic Action Programme defining the management or stewardship measures and associated priority actions**
 4. **Knowledge Management, Monitoring and Evaluation**



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L'ENVIRONNEMENT MONDIAL



UBO
Université de Bretagne Occidentale



NOTE D'ENGAGEMENT PROJET

Contribuer à une gouvernance hybride pour protéger et gérer des aires remarquables en haute mer Océans Pacifique Est tropical et Atlantique Nord-Ouest





FONDS FRANÇAIS POUR
L'ENVIRONNEMENT MONDIAL

SARGADOM Project

- **5 Year Project starting first quarter of 2021**
- **€3 million to three main partners:**
 - **Sargasso Sea Project Inc. € 961K**
 - **MarViva € 1,403k**
 - **Ocean University of Brest (OBO) €636k**
- **Partners: UBO and OFB; VIVA Trust and Central American Institutions; Sargasso Sea Commission and its signatory countries; GEF; Global Fishing Watch; NASA (Coverage project); MGEL; WMU; Imperial; BIOS; Edinburgh University; Others**

to “contribute to hybrid governance to protect and manage two remarkable areas of the high seas: The Thermal Dome and the Sargasso Sea



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COMPONENTS

1 . Coordination and steering: permanent internal coordination mechanism for the management of the project

2. Socio-ecosystem analysis-diagnosis:

Defining the socio-ecosystem,

Identifying sustainability issues,

Characterizing the pressures and their impacts and the proposal of strategies to improve the sustainability of the socio-ecosystem.

This component also includes an innovative component on the issue of data acquisition (new observation technologies) and data management (big data, *visualisation*).



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COMPONENTS

3. Governance models for ecosystem-based management:

Diagnosis to build a hybrid and participatory governance model through participatory and multi-sectoral discussions, the need and recommendations for potential governance structures and mechanisms will be generated with the participation of public and private stakeholders, based on the BBNJ instrument.

4. Capacity building and communication:

Lessons learned from the results achieved in the two sites, both in terms of knowledge and governance, development of a programme of capacity building and dissemination of know-how beyond the stakeholders directly involved in the proposed work plan



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Thanks... Questions?

