



MINUTES SSC/2015/2

23 April 2015

10:30 am eastern- Via Skype

Participants:

Prof. Howard Roe, Chair
Dr. Tammy Trott, Commissioner
Prof. Ricardo Santos, Commissioner
Dr. Billy Causey, Commissioner
Dr. David Freestone, Executive Secretary
[Prof. Dire Tladi was not present due to a scheduling conflict].

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting SSC/2015/1

- Approved Matters arising

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

2. Update on Work Programme Implementation

2.1. Priority One: International Recognition of Ecological Importance

- HR and RSS Reported on the EU Conference “The Atlantic: Our Shared Resource” Brussels 16-17 April, and on a number of very promising follow up meetings.
- Chapter 51 of World Ocean Assessment report on the Sargasso Sea finalized.
- BVI is ready to sign the Hamilton Declaration. Awaiting appointment of the new Permanent Secretary for Environment Ministry in Bermuda to follow up.

2.2. Priority Two: Fisheries and Fisheries Habitat Conservation

- Update on preparations for ICCAT SCRS ecosystems subcommittee in June.

2.3. Priority Three: International Shipping

2.4. Priority Four: Submarine Communication Cables

- Report of October 2014 Workshop to appear in June 2015 Issue of *International Journal of Marine and Coastal Law*.
- ICPC to discuss further steps end of April.

2.5. Priority Five: Conservation of Migratory Species

- Discussions continue with potential sponsors.
- DF reported on Report of Meeting April 14th between DF and Dr. Bradnee Chambers, Executive Secretary of CMS.

- “*Concept Note on the importance of Sargassum and the Sargasso Sea for Atlantic Sea Turtles*” is undergoing Spanish translation and formatting. Now posted on website.

2.6. Priority Six: Defining Role in Data and Information Management

- The NASA initiative is progressing.
- NOAA has initiated a discussion within IOCARIBE for a Sargasso Sea GOOS.

3. Finance

- Update on fund raising efforts
 - Meeting acknowledged with thanks the donation of \$30k from the Munson Foundation over 3 years.

4. New Reports

Commission agreed to note the publication and post a link to it on the website: Pendleton, L., F. Krowicki., P. Strosser, and J. Hallett-Murdoch. (2014) *Assessing the Economic Contribution of Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Services in the Sargasso Sea*. NI R 14-05. Durham, NC: Duke University. There may be an opportunity to introduce the report at UNESCO’s World Ocean Day Celebration in Paris.

5. Collaborating Partners

- Commissioners noted with pleasure that the following institutions had accepted their invitations to become Collaborating Partners:
 - Plymouth Marine Laboratory (UK)
 - Marine and Environmental Sciences Centre, Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa (Portugal)

6. Commission transitions

- DF reported that he had sent an invitation to the Hamilton Declaration Signatories to nominate candidates for the vacancy on the Commission which will arise at the end of Professor Dire Tladi’s term at the end of July 2015.
- The Meeting thanked Dire warmly for his help and support for the Commission and the whole Sargasso initiative and hoped he would remain engaged with the work of the Commission.

7. Global Leadership Academy Sustainable Oceans Lab

- DF, BC and TT reported on the Sustainable Oceans Lab week in Germany in March

8. Next Meeting

- It was agreed that the next meeting would be 18 June at 10.30 EST.

9. No other business