



MINUTES SSC/2022/46

October 5, 2022

11:00 AM ET - Via Zoom Conference Call

Participants:

Prof Stephen de Mora, Commissioner
Sen Wilfred Moore, Commissioner
Mr Mark Spalding, Commissioner
Dr Howard Roe, Commissioner
Mrs. Rochelle Newbold, Commissioner
Dr. Ana Colaço, Commissioner
Dr Tammy Warren, Commission Acting Chair

Dr David Freestone, Executive Secretary
Fae Sapsford, SSC Secretariat

1. Minutes of SSC/2022/45

- Approved, with a note to remove the names of Commissioner candidates from the minutes.

2. Signatories update

- **The Executive Secretary** noted that the next joint meeting of Signatories and Commissioners would take place in person in Costa Rica on October 19th. Kristina Gjerde had kindly agreed to chair the meeting.
- **The Executive Secretary** noted that **Commissioner Spalding** had produced an updated version of the rules of procedure – with some slight wording changes and typo fixes, as well as a covering letter explaining the objectives of the draft. The Commissioners agreed to finalise the letter with a few small changes, and it would be sent to the Signatories in advance of the Joint Meeting, where it could be discussed.

3. Executive Secretary presented an update of Work Programme implementation to-date:

- 1.1. Commissioner appointment process
 - **The Executive Secretary** announced that **Commissioner Newbold** and **Professor Murray Roberts** had been appointed by the Government of Bermuda for three-year terms as Commissioners.
 - **The Executive Secretary** and the other Commissioners expressed their sincere gratitude to Professor Howard Roe for his nine years of service.
- 1.2. Collaborating partners
 - Nothing noted
- 1.3. Fisheries
 - The **Executive Secretary** reported that the idea of negotiating an MOU between the ICCAT and SSC Secretariats had been formally agreed by the ICCAT ecosystem sub-committee of the SCRS, and approved also by the full SCRS, so the issue would now go to the full ICCAT Commission. The **Executive Secretary** had been asked to attend the Commission meeting (Nov 14-21) to support it.
 - The **Executive Secretary** reported that after comments received from the Signatories on the NAFO MOU, the text would now be considered by NAFO for approval in 2023.
- 1.4. Shipping
 - The **Executive Secretary** had been invited to speak at a World Maritime University meeting in Malmo, celebrating 50 years since the conclusion of the 1972 London Convention. He reported that he would raise the issue of a technical meeting on high seas PSSAs with IMO.
- 1.5. Seabed
 - Nothing noted
- 1.6. Migratory species
 - The **Executive Secretary** reported that an MOU between the SSC and Inter-American Turtle Convention (IAC) Secretariats had been approved at their COP. The next step was to schedule a date for a formal signing event.
 - The **Executive Secretary** reported that he was trying to reconnect with CMS.
- 1.7. Finance

- The **Executive Secretary** reported that he had finalized a funding letter for the Secretariat that had been sent out to the Signatories.
- The **Executive Secretary** reported that on July 12th, SSPI had received \$89,000 as the first disbursement from the FFEM SARGADOM project. The first year of the project would be reported on during the FFEM steering committee meeting, held on October 17th in Costa Rica. An in-person data meeting for Component 2 of the SARGADOM project would also take place on the 17th and 18th, with opportunities for DPSIR discussion.
- The **Executive Secretary** reported that the GEF inception workshop would be held on October 18th in Costa Rica. Dr David Vousden had been selected as a CTA for the project, but he was yet to be formally appointed by IOC. The communications officer interviews would take place next week, and the project was still seeking a finance and communications officer. The advertisement for that post would be sent to Signatories and Commissioners.
- The **Executive Secretary** reported that the Expert group established for the “Big Data” report was planning develop that report into a peer-reviewed academic paper.

1.7 Mapping and Monitoring

- The **Executive Secretary** noted that the COVERAGE project was progressing, and it was proving extremely useful to Duke in their work synthesizing data on the Sargasso Sea.

1.8 Communications

- **Fae Sapsford** gave a communications update:
 - Reach and engagement increased across the Commission’s accounts.
 - The next SSC newsletter would be released in October.
 - The process of securing funding from the Common Oceans Program for JP Rouja to collect Sargasso Sea and high seas imagery was still in process.
 - **FS** had produced a draft communications plan for the GEF project which was being reviewed.
 - The SARGADOM project website was now live – sargadom.com – and twitter and Instagram accounts were also being maintained for the project.
 - The Executive Secretary would be speaking about the GEF/SARGADOM projects at an Explorers Club event in New York (organized by the Bermuda Aquarium) and an IMO event in the coming weeks.

3. Any Other Business/Date of Next Meeting

- The next meeting would be the Joint Meeting scheduled for October 19th in Costa Rica.