



**MINUTES SSC/2022/47**  
**December 6, 2022**  
**10 AM ET - Via Zoom Conference Call**

**Participants:**

**Professor Stephen de Mora, Commissioner**  
**Senator Wilfred Moore, Commissioner**  
**Professor Murray Roberts, Commissioner**  
**Dr. Ana Colaço, Commissioner**  
**Dr Tammy Warren, Commission Acting Chair**

**Dr David Freestone, Executive Secretary**  
**Fae Sapsford, SSC Secretariat**

**Apologies**

**Mrs. Rochelle Newbold, Commissioner**  
**Mr Mark Spalding, Commissioner**

1. Minutes of SSC/2022/46
  - Approved, with note to change 're-establish' to 'reconnect' with CMS.
2. Signatories update
  - **The Executive Secretary** noted that the next step in terms of the Rules of Procedure would be for the Signatories to convene their drafting group. The Commissioners made it clear that they would like to be consulted again on the draft they produce and have the chance to comment.
3. **Executive Secretary** presented an update of Work Programme implementation to-date:
  - 1.1. Commissioner appointment process
    - **The Executive Secretary** welcomed **Commissioner Roberts** to his first meeting as a Commissioner. He also congratulated **Commissioner Newbold**

on her reappointment. The Commissioners sent their best wishes to **Commissioner Newbold** on the news of her mother's poor health.

1.2. Collaborating partners

- Nothing noted

1.3. Fisheries

- The **Executive Secretary** reported that the proposal for an MOU between the ICCAT and SSC Secretariats had been approved by the ecosystem sub-committee in June, and by the full SCRS in September. The **Executive Secretary** had been part of the UK delegation to the Commission meeting (Nov 14-21) to support it, and had been approved, so drafting can now begin.
- The **Executive Secretary** reported that after comments received from the Signatories on the NAFO MOU, it would now be delayed for approval until next year.

1.4. Shipping

- Nothing noted.

1.5. Seabed

- The **Executive Secretary** reported that OSPAR had put out a [call for comments](#) on a proposal for the extension of the OSPAR NACES MPA to include the seabed.
- **Commissioner Roberts** gave a short presentation (attached) on the NACES MPA as he had been involved in consultations for it.
- The **Executive Secretary** suggested that the Secretariat could draft a letter of support for the expansion, which the Commissioners could review and endorse. **Commissioner Colaço** suggested forming a working group for reviewing the letter in January. Comments were due to OSPAR by February 28<sup>th</sup>.

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 10 (held from June 15-17 in Panama). The next step was to schedule a date for a virtual signing event.
- The **Executive Secretary** reported that he had reconnected with Melanie Virtue from CMS. He was exploring financial support from the GEF project for Dr Matt Gollock to finalize the single species action plan authorized by the CMS COP 13 in 2020. Sweden had previously agreed to fund a meeting in Sweden to bring range state together; Sweden is hoping the funding will be available in 2023.

## 1.7. Finance

- The **Executive Secretary** reported that he had finalized a funding request letter from the Secretariat that had been sent out to the Signatories. Positive responses had so far been received from Canada, Bermuda, and the Azores. He thanked colleagues for their help with this.
- The **Executive Secretary** warmly thanked the Government of Monaco which had donated Euros 20,000 on December 5<sup>th</sup>.
- The **Executive Secretary** reported that on July 12<sup>th</sup>, SSPI had received \$89,000 as the first disbursement from the FFEM SARGADOM project. Three contracts had been created as part of that project for data collection and analysis – with Duke Marine Geospatial Ecology Laboratory, Imperial College London, and Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences.
- The **Executive Secretary** reported that the CTA for the GEF project had been selected and appointed from 1 November: Dr. David Vousden. He was finalizing the report from the GEF Inception workshop.
- **Fae Sapsford** had been selected as the GEF communications officer, but a finance and administrative officer was yet to be appointed. The **Executive Secretary** encouraged colleagues to [share the advertisement](#) with relevant contacts within their networks.

## 1.7 Mapping and Monitoring

- The **Executive Secretary** noted that at the Costa Rica meeting the Joint Meeting had agreed to support a letter of support to continue the NASA COVERAGE project funding. This letter had now been developed and was sent to Dr. Jack Kaye, the NASA contact on November 29<sup>th</sup>.

## 1.8 Communications

- **Fae Sapsford** will be attending the CBD COP and speaking at an IOC-UNESCO event on December 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am-1pm, [AN OCEAN OF LIFE: Knowledge and Solutions for Marine and Coastal Biodiversity under the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#)
  - **Commissioner Colaço** was also attending the COP as part of the Portuguese delegation, and as part of DOSI.
  - Dr Lea Anne Henry would be presenting on an event on deep sea connectivity at the CBD COP with GOBI.
- **Fae Sapsford** gave a communications update:
- The GEF inception report was in the process of being finalized.
- The Secretariat had been interviewed by the “Beastly Business” project about European Eels, and **Fae Sapsford** went out on a short cruise in Bermuda with the researcher to see *Sargassum*.

- A communications plan for the next year had been created to coordinate social media activities with relevant events and dates.
  - A communications plan for the GEF project had been drafted and was under review.
  - The next Secretariat newsletter would be distributed in mid-December.
  - Facebook was doing well, but Instagram and Twitter engagement had declined, prompting **Fae Sapsford** to create a content schedule.
  - Request for copy for the ICCAT page.
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- **Commissioner Roberts** highlighted the research of Andrew Stevenson, which was funded by iAtlantic, and which had shown a dramatic recovery in humpback whale population numbers. The **Executive Secretary** welcomed **Commissioner Roberts'** thoughts as to how his data could be integrated into the GEF EDA.
  - The **Executive Secretary** reported that he had been talking to IUCN about the International Marine Mammal Area (IMMA) initiative. He said he would reach out to Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara, the leader of the project – perhaps there may be funding to include Andrew. **Commissioner Roberts** mentioned that iAtlantic may have some funding available for such a workshop.

### 3. Any Other Business/Date of Next Meeting

- **The next meeting would be a Joint Meeting scheduled for February 15th, 2023.**
- **A working group for the NACES MPA would be scheduled for January.**