



SARGASSO SEA
COMMISSION



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET



Chris Burville



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intergovernmental
Oceanographic
Commission



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

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

The Sargasso Sea

Validation Workshop
Per Zoom – October 20th, 2021

Dr David Freestone
Executive Secretary, Sargasso Sea Commission

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

(March 2014)



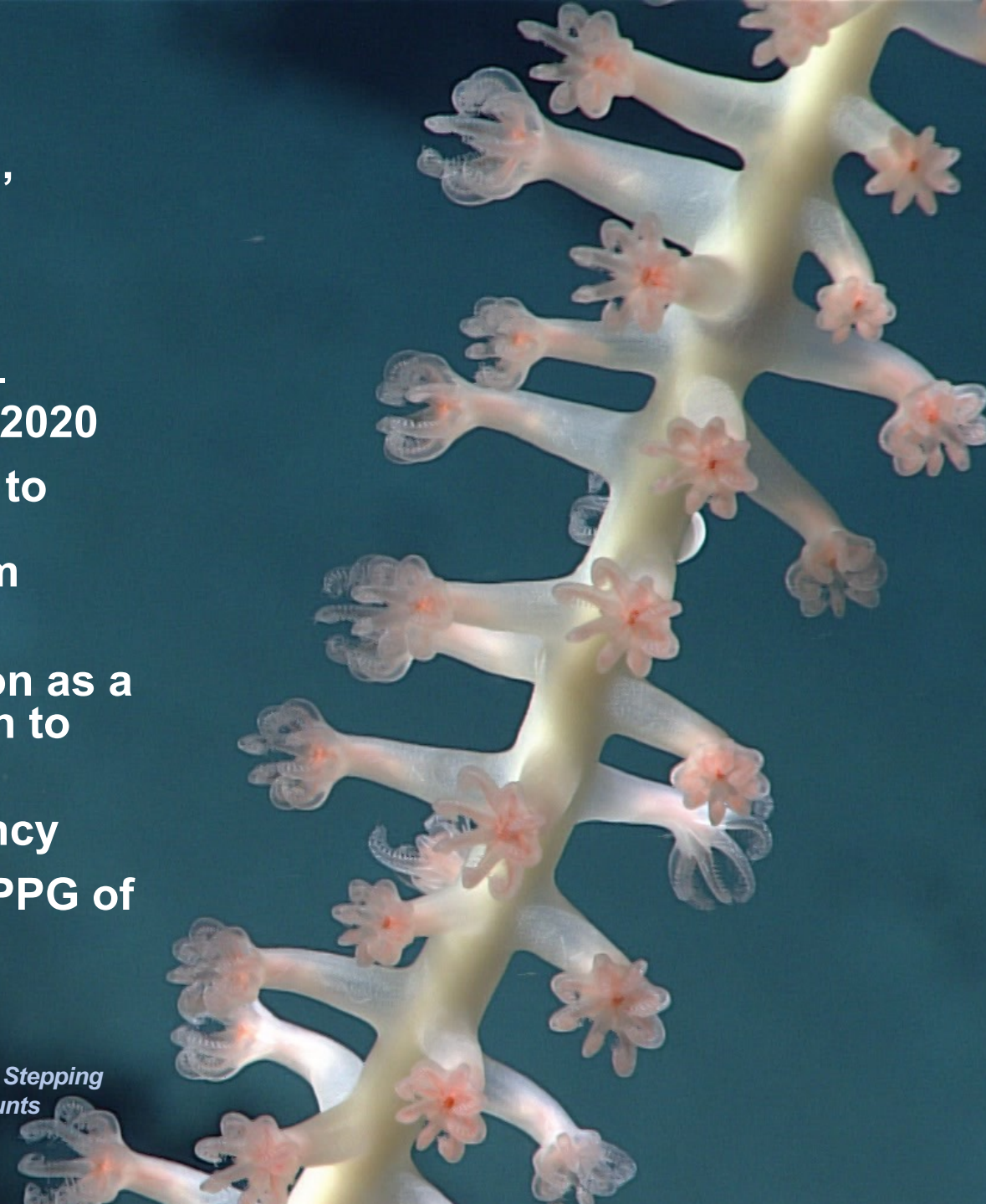
Key steps in the Project Process

- **Sept 2018** DV hired to draft a concept Note for Medium Size project for \$1 million through UNDP
- **Dec 2018** Draft Concept note sent to GEF Sec for comment – Supported by GEF Sec but they suggested to make it a full size project for \$ 3.5 million.
- **March 2019** Revised Concept Note discussed at Bermuda Signatories Meeting, followed by review by signatory governments and Commission. DV revised in light of comments
- **April 2019** Common Oceans meeting in Rome – discussed possible content of the FAO Program. SS Project put on the table – well received. But FAO program was behind schedule

- **July 2019**, Bahamas Meeting. Commission, Signatories, UNDP and partners.
- Planned to submit to November 2019 GEF Council
- FAO has outstanding Project Evaluations – submission delayed until complete – June 2020
- **Jan 2020**, DF and AH went to FAO in Rome to negotiate inclusion of project in the FAO Program. Agreed but as \$3million of a \$30m program.
- **April 2020** FAO incorporated the submission as a Child Project and submitted documentation to GEF
- **May** UNDP selected IOC as Executing Agency
- **June 2020** Approved by GEF Council with PPG of \$100k – 12 month to produce final Project Document (ProDoc)



*NOAA Ocean Exploration– 2021 North Atlantic Stepping
Stones: New England and Corner Rise Seamounts*

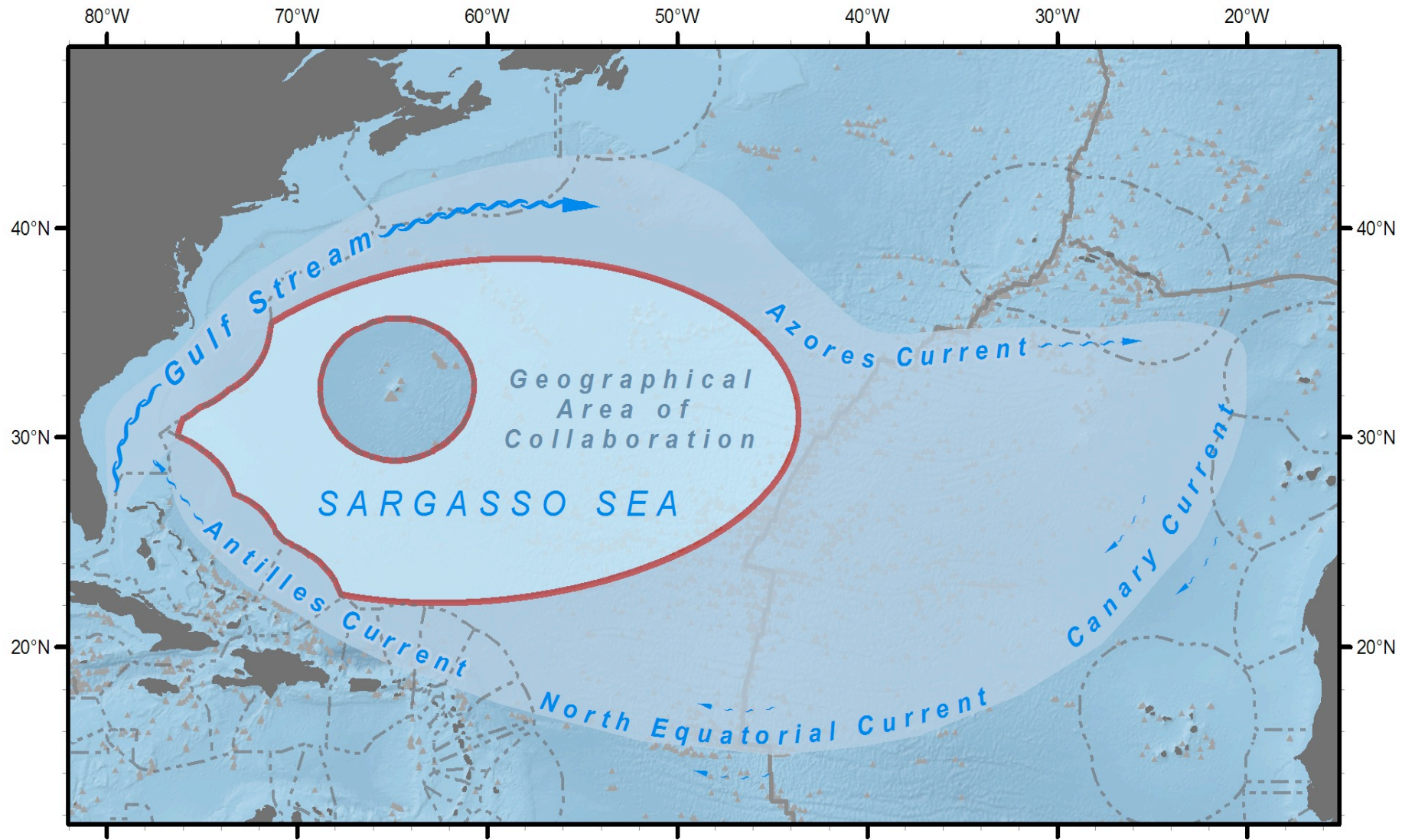


Hamilton Declaration Signatories

- **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**



 Sargasso Sea Geographical Area of Collaboration

 North Atlantic Gyre

 Seamount

 Mid-Atlantic Ridge

 EEZ

Duke MGEL



Role of the Sargasso Sea Commission

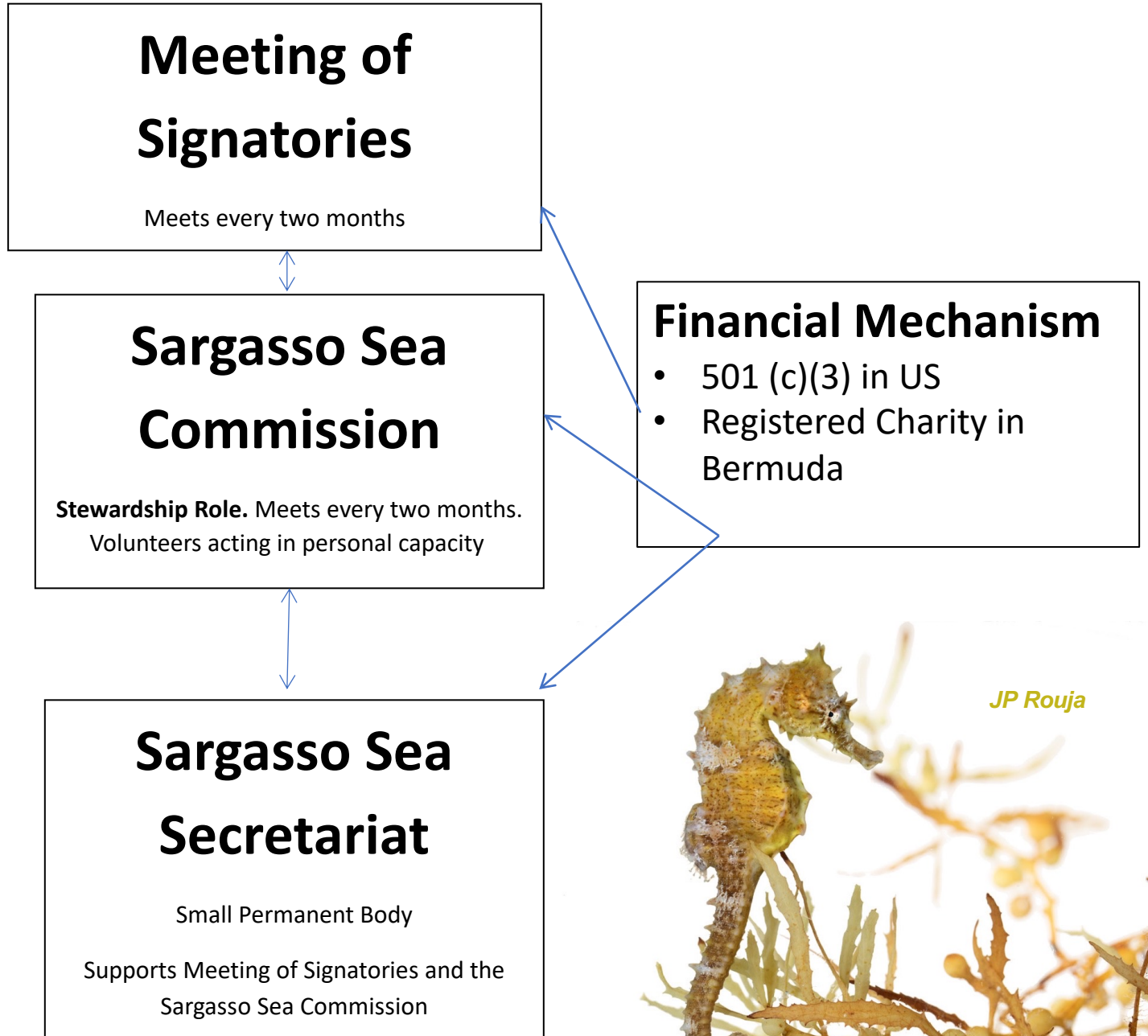
- Exercise a **stewardship role** for the Sargasso Sea and keep its health, productivity and resilience under continual review; and
- Develop a **work programme** and action plans for the conservation of the Sargasso Sea ecosystem

JP Rouja



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Hamilton Declaration Structure





**Dr. Tammy
Warren**



**Prof.
Howard Roe**



**Mrs.
Rochelle
Newbold**



**Prof.
Stephen
de Mora**



**Sen. Wilfred
Moore**



**Mr. Mark
Spalding**



**Dr. Ana
Colaço**



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Jason Arnold



Collaborating partners

- *Air Centre*
- *Andrew Stevenson*
- *Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences (BIOS)*
- *Bermuda Zoological Society*
- *Ciências – University of Lisboa*
- *Dalhousie University*
- *Duke University Marine Geospatial Ecology Laboratory*
- *Florida Atlantic University*
- *Global Fishing Watch*
- *Gallifrey Foundation*
- *Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI)*
- *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) (WCPA)*
- *Look Bermuda*
- *Mare (Portugal)*



- *Marviva*
- *Marine & Environmental Law Institute, Dalhousie University*
- *Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL)*
- *Mission Blue/Sylvia Earle Alliance*
- *Nekton/Code Blue Foundation*
- *Nonsuch Expeditions*
- *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 the Bahamas*
- *University of Brest (UBO)*
- *University of Exeter Global Systems Institute*
- *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*
- *WWF-International*
- *World Commission on Protected Areas*

Thanks... Questions?

