

**HAMILTON DECLARATION II
ON COLLABORATION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF THE SARGASSO SEA**

**Hamilton, Bermuda
19 October, 2026**



We recognise that the islands of Bermuda are the only land territory within the Sargasso Sea and the important leadership role of the Government of Bermuda in bringing to the international attention the global significance of the Sargasso Sea;

We acknowledge that the Sargasso Sea is a highly connected open-ocean ecosystem that links tropical, subtropical, and temperate marine environments across the North Atlantic, and recognise that its connectivity underpins regional biodiversity, fisheries productivity, and resilience to environmental change;

We affirm that the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out, including the obligation to protect and preserve the marine environment;

We welcome the entry into force of the 2023 Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement);

We recall the Hamilton Declaration on Collaboration for the Conservation of the Sargasso Sea, adopted on 11 March 2014;

We recognise the work of the Sargasso Sea Commission in the conservation and stewardship of the Sargasso Sea;

We recognise the work done in international and multilateral organisations on the conservation and stewardship of the Sargasso Sea;

We note the description of the Sargasso Sea meets the scientific criteria for Ecologically or Biologically Significant [Marine] Areas contained in decision XI/17 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

We consider that the Sargasso Sea fulfils many of the indicative criteria for the identification of areas for proposals for area-based management tools as set out in Annex I to the BBNJ Agreement;

We observe that the Socio-Ecosystem Diagnostic Analysis undertaken by the Sargasso Sea Stewardship Project demonstrates that the Sargasso Sea is ecologically unique, globally significant, highly vulnerable to cumulative

human and climate-driven pressures, and would benefit from stewardship through internationally recognised area-based management tools;

We acknowledge that this Declaration is not legally binding and is without prejudice to the existing legal rights and obligations of the Signatories under international law or to the competences of relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies.

We, the Signatories listed below:

1. Use the following definitions for the purposes of this Declaration:

“Sargasso Sea” is represented in the illustrative chart at Annex I.

“Area-based management tool” means a tool, including a marine protected area, for a geographically defined area through which one or several sectors or activities are managed with the aim of achieving particular conservation and sustainable use objectives.

2. Intend to cooperate and collaborate on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity within the Sargasso Sea, including, as appropriate, through work under and in consultation with relevant legal instruments, frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies such as:
 - The Food and Agriculture Organisation;
 - The International Maritime Organisation;
 - The International Seabed Authority;
 - The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas;
 - The North-West Atlantic Fisheries Organisation;
 - The Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission; and
 - The Sargasso Sea Commission.
3. Intend to cooperate and collaborate on marine scientific research to support the conservation and sustainable use of the Sargasso Sea, including enhancing the sharing of relevant scientific data and traditional knowledge subject to applicable confidentiality and data protection requirements and with the free, prior and informed consent or approval and involvement of relevant Indigenous Peoples, and local communities.

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4. Intend to support the process of development of a collective proposal to establish area-based management tools in the Sargasso Sea, under the BBNJ Agreement, and other relevant legal instruments, frameworks or bodies, as appropriate, at the earliest possible opportunity.
 5. Intend to support a transparent and inclusive process for the development of the collective proposal through the timely and appropriate collaboration and consultation with states, in particular adjacent coastal states, civil society, the scientific community, the private sector, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, relevant legal instruments and frameworks, relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies, and other relevant stakeholders.
 6. Intend to contribute, within available means, to the development of the collective proposal.
 7. Welcome the support of non-government collaborating partners in achieving the objectives of this Declaration.



Adopted in Hamilton, Bermuda on 19 October 2026

**Minister of Public Works and
Environment
For the Government of Bermuda**

**Minister for Overseas Territories,
the Caribbean and Global
Technology
For the Government of the United
Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland**

**Regional Secretary for the Sea and
Fisheries
For the Government of the Azores**

**Ambassador for Environmental and
Educational matters
For the Government of the Bahamas**



**Parliamentary Secretary for
Employment and Immigration,
Infrastructure, Health, Environment
and Sustainability, Financial Services
and Commerce
For the Government of the Cayman
Islands**

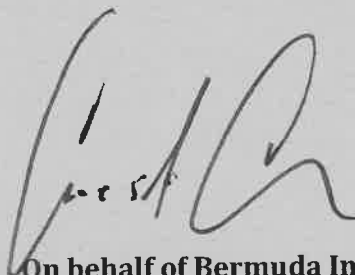
**Permanent Representative to the
United Nations
For the Government of Monaco**

**Minister for Tourism, Agriculture
Environment Heritage, Fisheries,
Maritime and Gaming
For the Government of the Turks and
Caicos Islands**

We, the Collaborating Partners listed below commit to supporting the objectives of this Declaration.



On behalf of the Sargasso Sea Commission



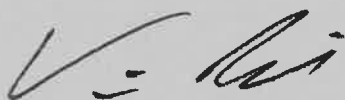
On behalf of Bermuda Institute of Ocean Science



On behalf of Atlantic Conservation Partnership



On behalf of Bermuda Environmental Sustainability Taskforce



On behalf of Bermuda Institute of Technology & Analytics



On behalf of Bermuda is Love



On behalf of Bermuda National Trust



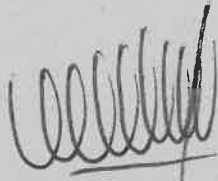
On behalf of Bermuda Ocean Prosperity



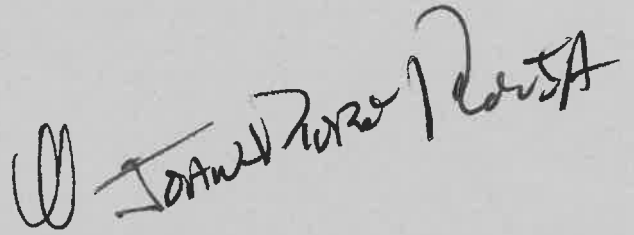
On behalf of Bermuda Sub-Aqua Club



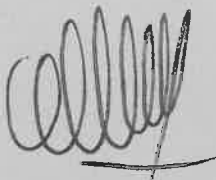
On behalf of Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute



On behalf of Bermuda Zoological Society



On behalf of BioQuest



On behalf of Blue Blackyard



On behalf of Burnt House Productions

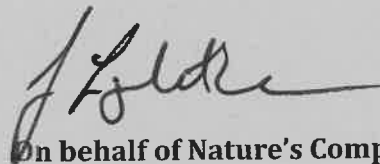


On behalf of Clean Energy Storage Solutions

On behalf of Island Time Bermuda



On behalf of Living Reefs Foundation



On behalf of Nature's Compass



On behalf of Nonsuch Expeditions



On behalf of Sargasso Sea Advisory Council of Bermuda



On behalf of Sargasso Sea Project Inc



On behalf of Seascape Consultants




On behalf of Station-B



On behalf of Waitt Institute



On behalf of the Waterstart Bermuda



On behalf of WhalesBermuda

ANNEX I

