



ANNEX II of the Hamilton Declaration: Mandate of The Sargasso Sea Commission

Pursuant to paragraph 6 above, the Sargasso Sea Commission, which has no management authority, will:

1. Exercise a stewardship role for the Sargasso Sea and keep its health, productivity and resilience under continual review;
2. Develop a work programme and action plans for the conservation of the Sargasso Sea ecosystem;
3. Develop its rules and procedures as appropriate;
4. Develop a regular budget and generate necessary financial reports;
5. Serve as a focal point for the gathering and exchange of such information and data, develop a repository of information and scientific data relating to the condition of the Sargasso Sea ecosystem and make it publically accessible;
6. Foster and promote outreach, public awareness and scientific research and observation, and liaise with appropriate national, regional and international organisations to this effect;
7. Publish and/or publicise reports of the results of scientific research and, as appropriate, submit such reports to governments, national, regional and international organisations with relevant competences for their consideration;
8. Monitor the effects, including cumulative effects, of any anthropogenic activities in order to determine whether such activities are likely to have adverse impacts on the Sargasso Sea ecosystem and to assess the appropriateness and effectiveness of any measures being adopted for the conservation of the Sargasso Sea;
9. Liaise with the Signatories, as well as with other governments in the region and appropriate national, regional and international organisations with relevant competences, including those with competence in adjacent marine areas, to obtain a better understanding of issues of common concern and interest through, where appropriate, developing exchange of data, sharing of databases and collecting data in standardised formats;
10. Cooperate with governments, national, regional and international organisations with relevant competences in the development of environmental impact assessments, strategic environmental assessments and equivalent instruments;
11. Encourage cooperation among governments, national regional and international organisations with relevant competences in developing and promoting contingency plans for responding to any significant pollution incidents; and
12. Undertake such other tasks as may be deemed appropriate by the Meeting of the Signatories.