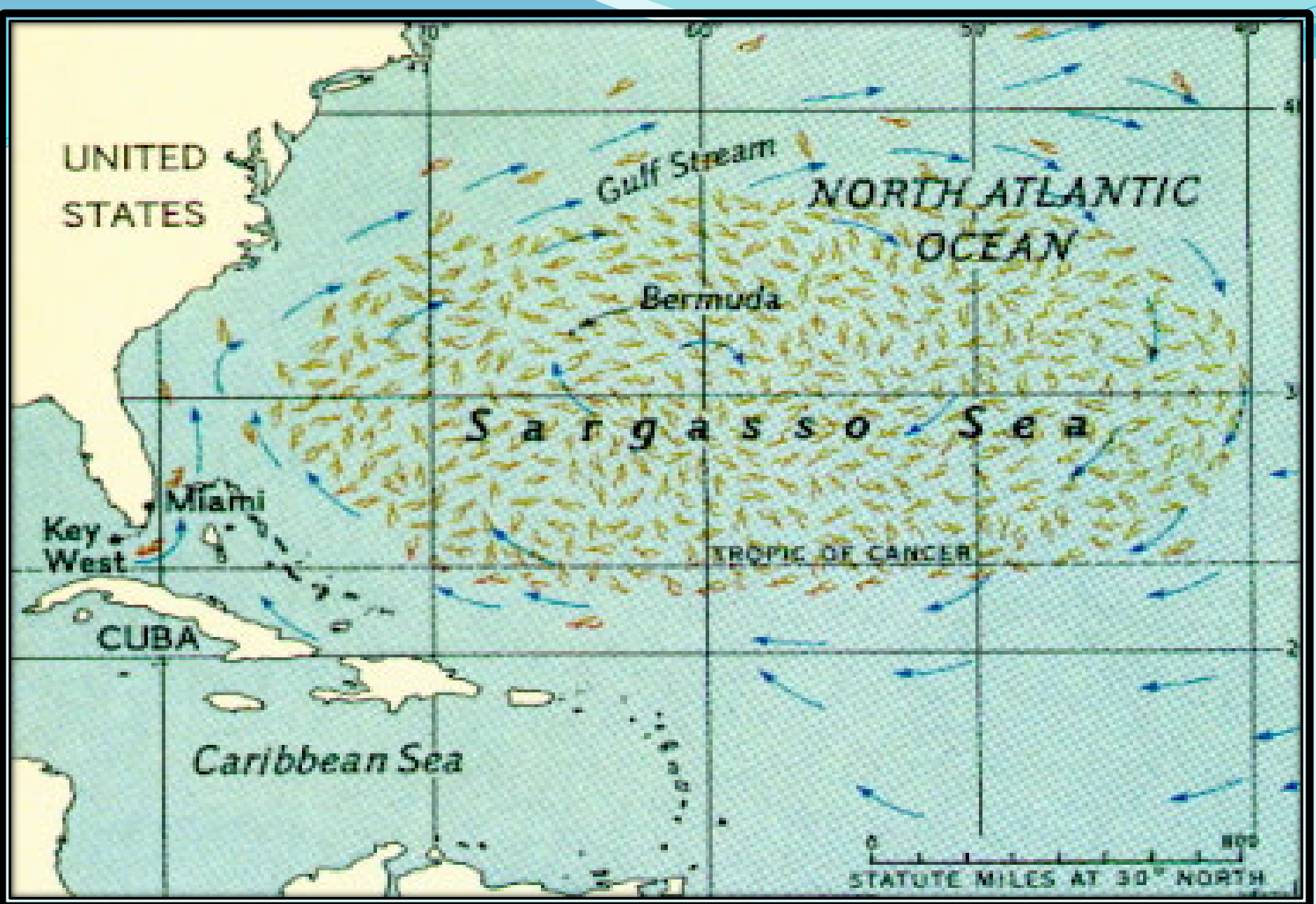





The Sargasso Sea Commission Working to Protect the “Golden Rain Forest of the Atlantic”

Dr. David Freestone
Executive Secretary,
Sargasso Sea Commission

Workshop of Range States of the American Eel
Santo Domingo
4-6 April, 2018





Why is the Sargasso Sea
important?



- Unique open-ocean sargassum-based ecosystem. Mostly High Seas
- Important for life history of many species (eels, turtles, tuna, billfish, sharks, etc.)



Sargassum fish - JP Rouja



Sargassum Swimming Crab
NOAA



Sea horse JP Rouja

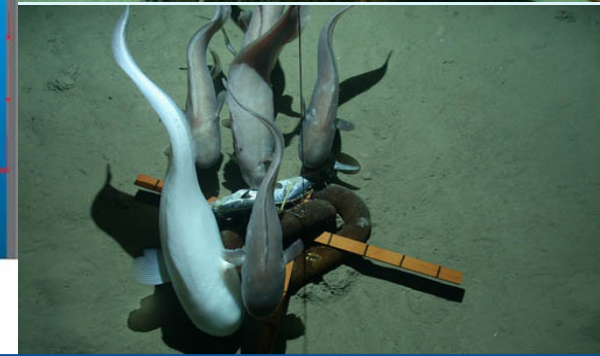
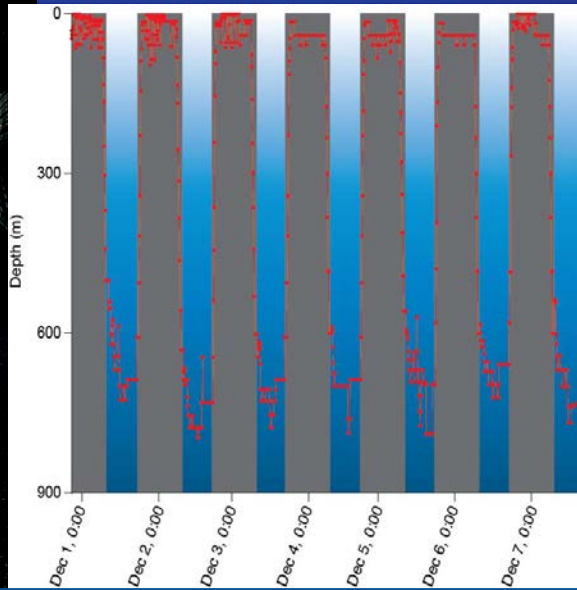
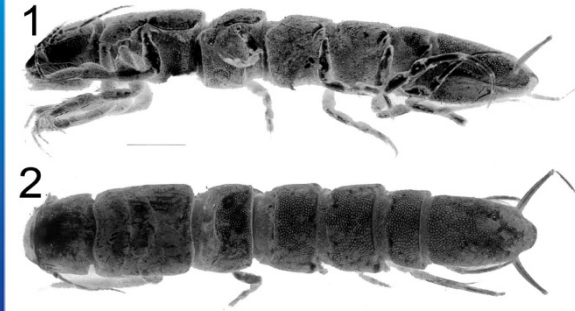
Iconic species



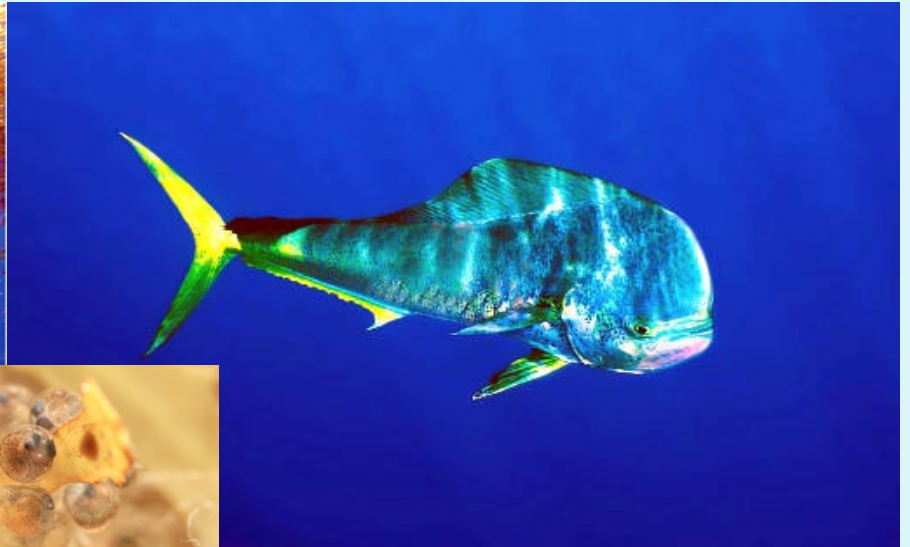


Humpback in Sargassum
Andrew Stephenson

Midwater and Benthic Fauna



Nursery/Feeding area: eggs/juveniles of >80 fish species occur in Sargassum





Flying fish eggs JP Rouja

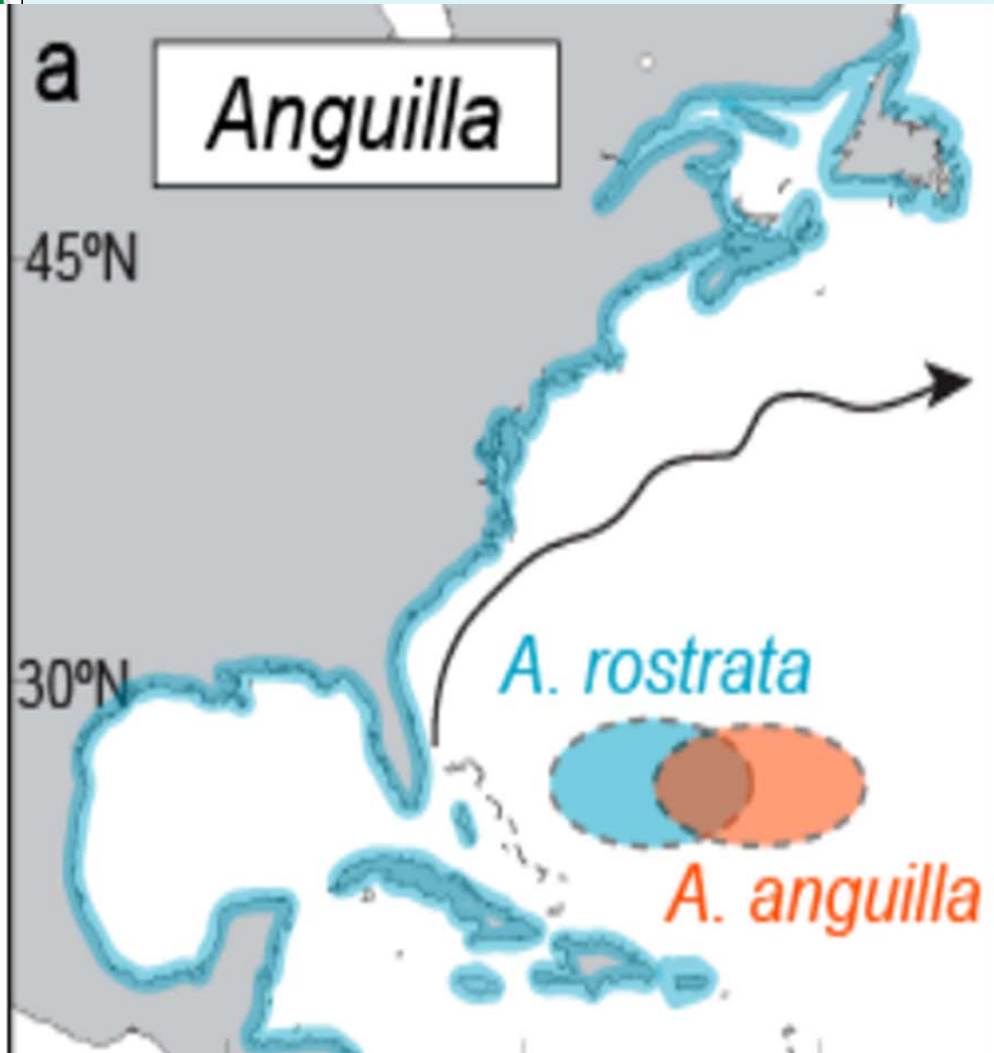
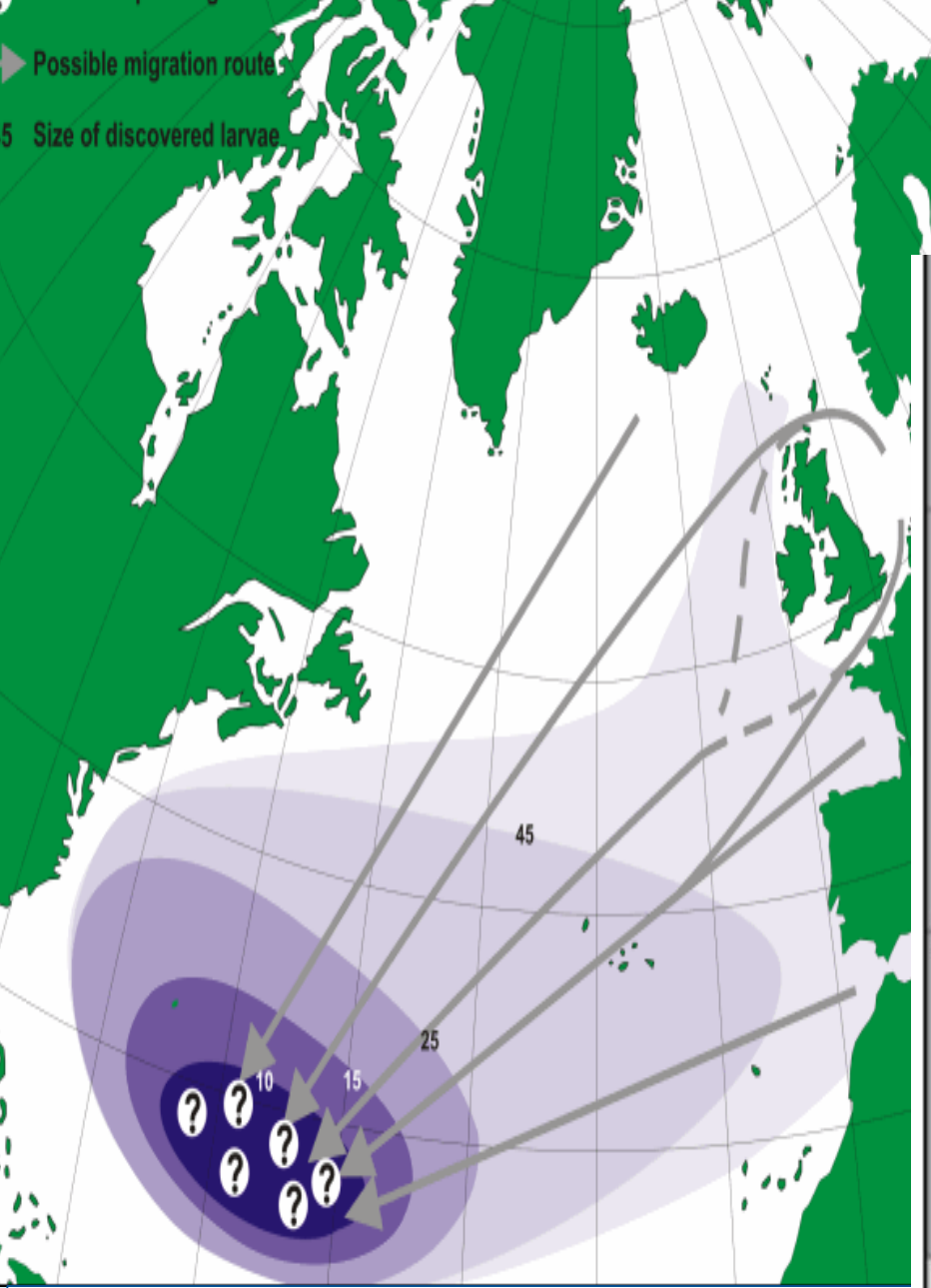


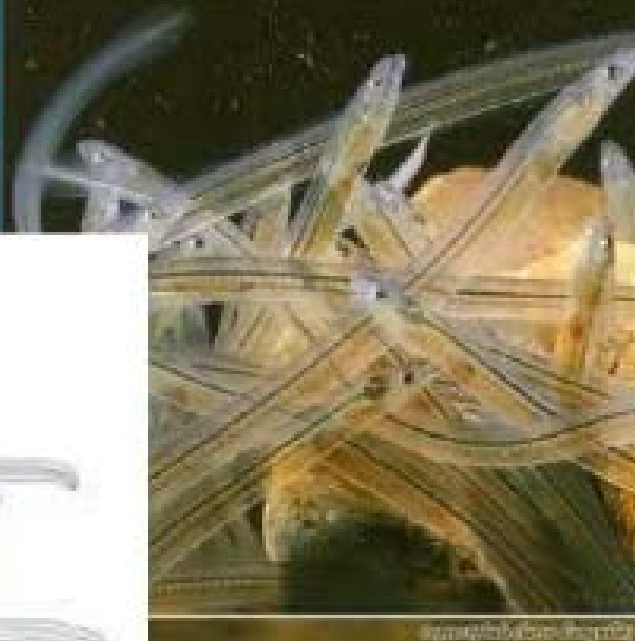
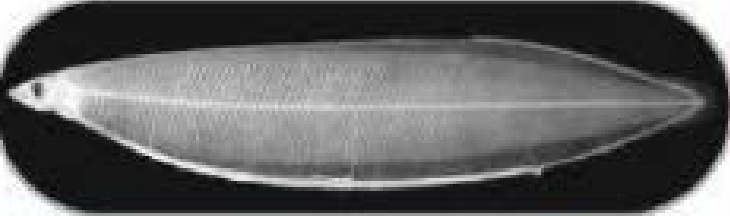
Flying fish JP Rouja



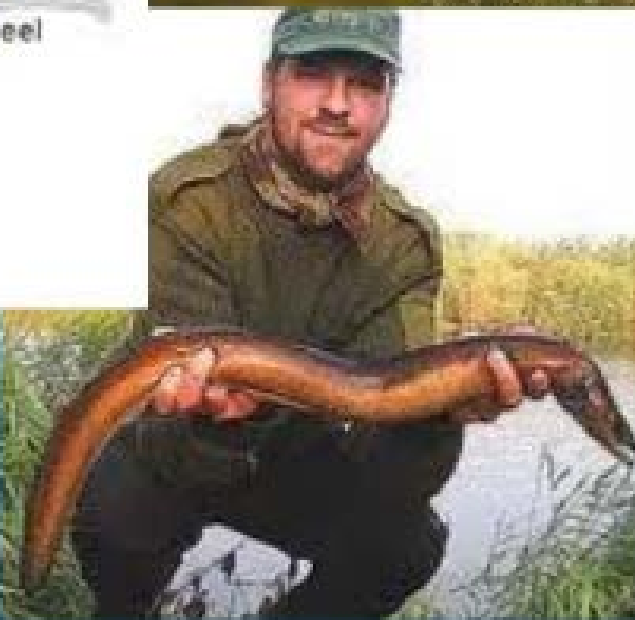
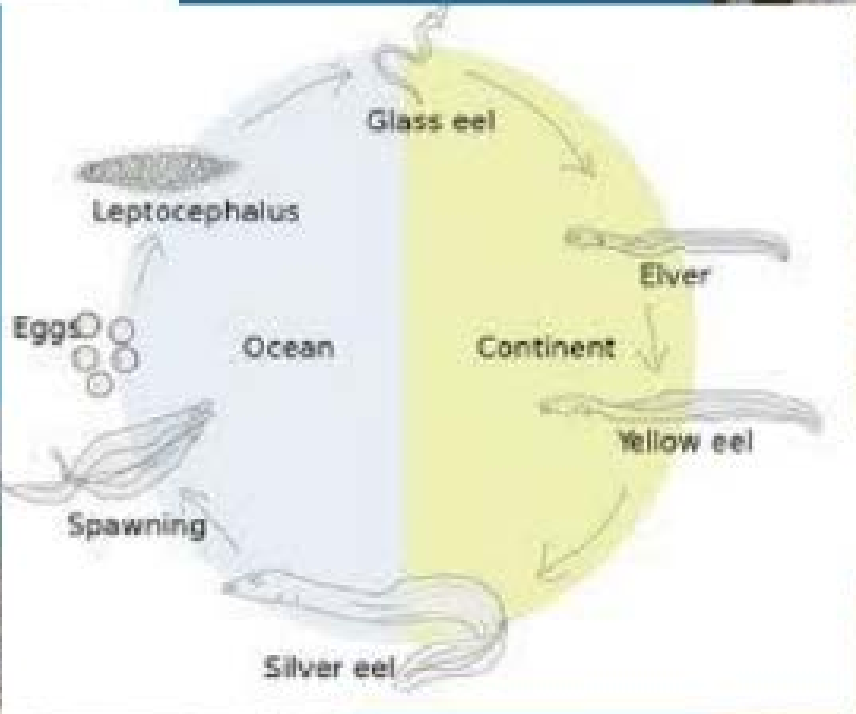
Baby Leatherbacks

Global Connections





European Eel Life Cycle



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

(March 2014)

Hamilton Declaration Signatories

Governments

- Azores
- Bahamas 2016
- Bermuda
- British Virgin Islands 2016
- Canada 2016
- Cayman Islands 2017
- Monaco
- United Kingdom
- United States
- Netherlands, Sweden, South Africa,
- Turks and Caicos*

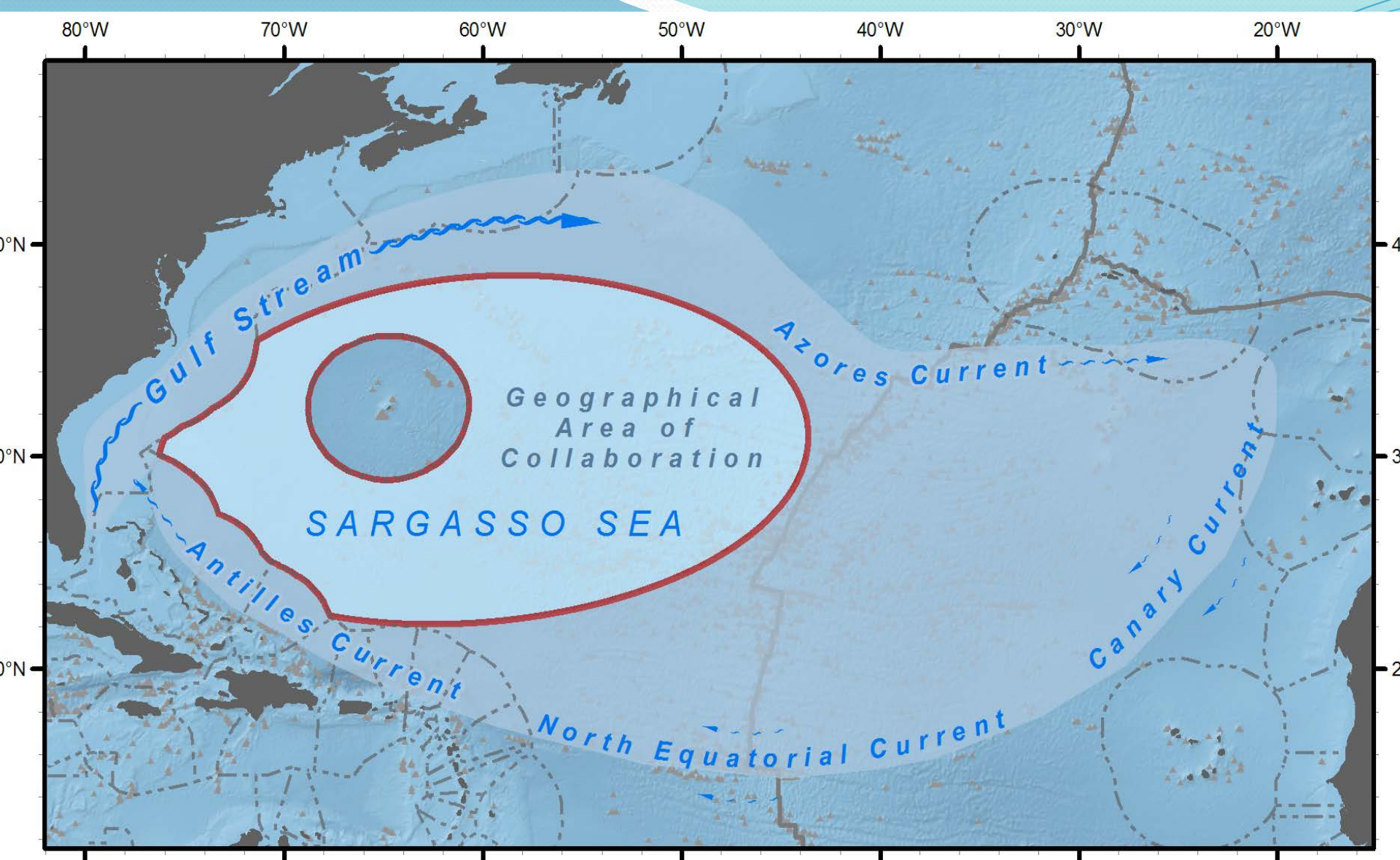
Observer Organizations






- 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

* *Dominican Republic and Trinidad and Tobago unable to attend but supportive*

Hamilton Meeting Participants 2014





-  Sargasso Sea Geographical Area of Collaboration
-  North Atlantic Gyre
-  Seamount
-  Mid-Atlantic Ridge
-  EEZ

The Sargasso Sea Commission

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



Prof Stephen de Mora
Mark Spalding

Prof Howard Roe (Chair)
Senator Wilfred Moore

Dr Tammy Warren
Dr Billy Causey
Frederico Cardicos

5. Conservation of Migratory Species



Convention on Migratory Species

- Monaco submitted Submission for listing of *Anguilla anguilla*
- July 2014 CMS Science Council supported
- Approved at Quito CoP Nov 2014~
- 2015 Oct Workshop on American Eels ~ Maine
- 2016 Range State Meeting



American Eel Symposium

Portland, Maine 23-25 October 2015





Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



First Range States Workshop on the European Eel *Galway, Ireland, 13 – 14 October 2016*





CMS

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



UNEP



**SARGASSO SEA
COMMISSION**

**Second Range State Workshop on the European Eel
Global Ocean Institute, World Maritime University,**

Malmö, Sweden, 15-16 May 2018

THANK YOU



For more information

www.sargassosea.commission.org