



**SPAW Pre-COP11: A virtual meeting of National Focal Points**

**2021, June 21**

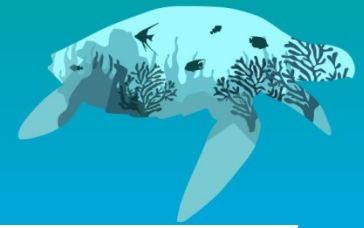
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## Operationalization of SPAW STAC Working Groups

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A stylized illustration of an underwater scene. A large sea turtle is swimming in the foreground, surrounded by various fish and coral reefs. The background is a deep blue gradient with white wavy lines representing the surface of the water.

Dr Sandrine Pivard, Director,  
Regional Activity Center for the SPAW Protocol (SPAW-RAC)



- Terms of Reference elaborated by a dedicated Working Group composed of delegates of Colombia, France, Netherlands, the United States of America, one observer and SPAW-RAC
- validated by the STAC through a remote consultation in July 2019.
- official calls for experts issued by the Regional Coordinator during fall 2019 and relayed
- 1st meetings of the Working Groups in March/April 2020
- Four dedicated Teamwork platforms were set up in order to enhance transparency and communication, allowing people to join in and to catch up with exchanges and previous work.
- Another dedicated Teamwork platform for the SPAW assembly, as a mean to exchange information, improve discussion and endorse some intersessions decisions.

Terms of Reference of the SPAW STAC Ad Hoc Working Groups:

\* SPAW-STAC9 UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.42INF.12

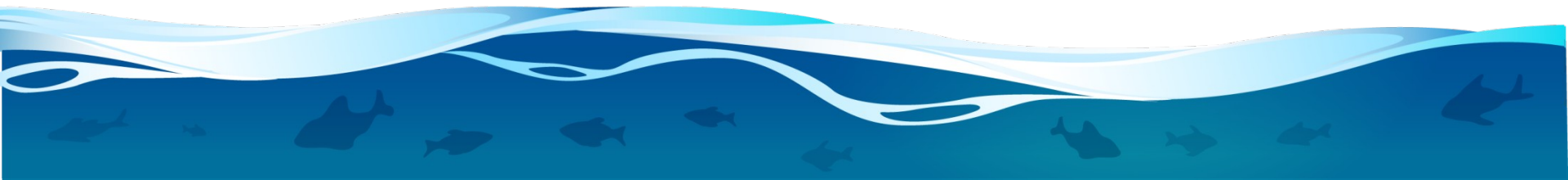


## Membership

- Contracting Parties can nominate up to two experts in each group
- Observer Members (Civil society organizations, non-member States or independent experts) can nominate one expert
- experts are designated for their **acknowledged scientific and technical competence, their availability and readiness to be responsive in the group, and to cover as much as possible the geographical and thematic scope of the working group.** Once designated, they participate *intuitu personae*.

## Chair

The Chair of the working group leads the members of the working group, **ensuring that the working group completes its mandated tasks. is responsible for ensuring that the contracting parties and observers are kept up to date on the work, and manages the roster of active participants in the working group.** WG are currently chaired by the SPAW-RAC.





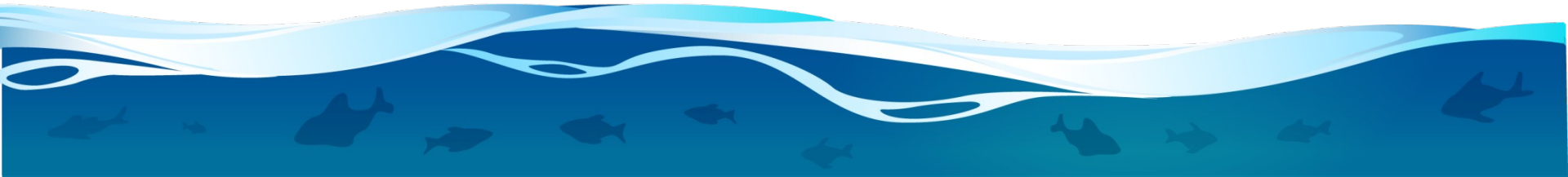
## Goal and Tasks

WGs address issues or topics clearly identified by the STAC to facilitate continued discussions on topics of interest to the STAC. Specific tasks of the WGs are mandated by the STAC

**Output:** Recommendations on documents submitted to the STAC and the COP, or on specific issues requested by the STAC (WGs always report back to the STAC)

**Way of working:** WGs accomplish their work virtually. They are overseen by the Chair of the WG and assisted by the Secretariat/the SPAW-RAC if the chair is from a contracting Party. To ensure transparency in the process and review by all members and observers of the SPAW Protocol, interim reports will be distributed intersessionally

**Decision making :** WGs are composed of experts. In case consensus cannot be reached on a specific task, the chair guarantees that the diversity of opinions are dutifully reflected in the feedback and reports to the contracting parties and observers and ultimately to the STAC.

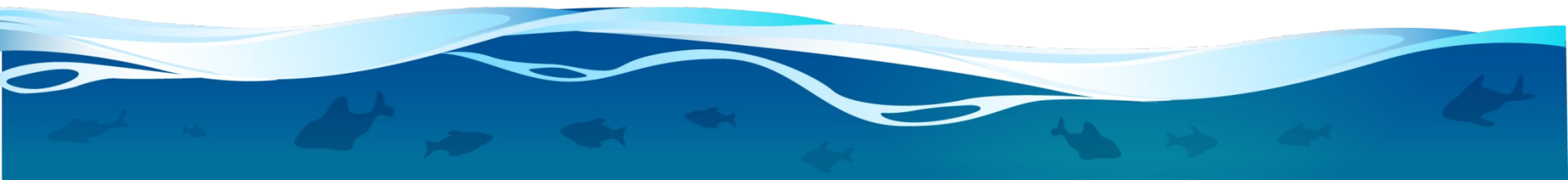




**Languages** : The language for the WGs is English until the outputs become documents to be submitted for deliberation by the STAC . Once acknowledged as working documents for the STAC they must be produced into the three working languages

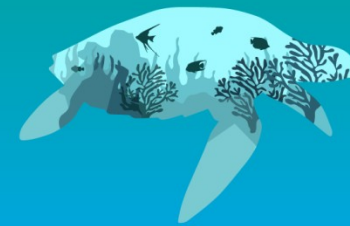
**Submitted documents** (to the group) : With due consideration for the need to limit the extent of the documentation provided, but adhering to the adopted Guidelines for submission when required, national reports (official proposals for PAs, species and exemptions reports) or other proposals submitted for consideration by the STAC must be submitted 4 months before the next meeting of the STAC.

**Communications**: Working Groups use the “teamwork” platform for communication. Once designated, the members of the working groups will be invited to join a virtual platform created by SPAW-RAC for each working group;





## PA WG members



Expert name	Affiliation
Adriel Castaneda	Belize
Alicia Nunez	Belize
Ana Maria Gonzalez-Delgadillo	Colombia
Nacor Bolaños-Cubillos	Colombia
Juan Luis Gonzalez	Dominican Republic
Ricardo Rodriguez	Dominican Republic
Cyrille Barnerias	France
† Paul Hoetjes	Netherlands
Tadzio Bervoets	Netherlands
Eric F. Salamanca	Turks and Caicos
Gonzalo Cid	USA
Samantha Dodwell	USA
Lloyd Gardner	Ind / present in the previous group
Emma Doyle	GCFI
Sandrine Pivard	SPAW-RAC / chair



## PA WG members



Expert name	Affiliation	Expert name	Affiliation
Julia Horrocks	Barbados	Patricia Kramer	AGRRA
Vivian Ramnarace	Belize	Camilo Thompson	AIDA
Jamal Galves	Belize	Susan Millward	AWI
Luis Chasqui Velasco	Colombia	Alejandro Acosta	GCFI
Heins Bent-Hooker	Colombia	Courtney Vails	Ind/Lightkeepers
Marcos Casilla	Dominican Republic	Monica Borobia-Hill	Ind/Previous SPAW program officer
Jean Vermot	France	Brice Semmens	Ind/parrotfish
Gérald Mannaerts	France	Chelsea Harms-Tuohy	Ind/parrotfish
Anne-Marie Svoboda	Netherlands	Twan Stoffers	Ind/sharks
† Paul Hoetjes	Netherlands	Irene Kingma	Ind/sharks
Eric F. Salamanca	Turks and Caicos	Olga Koubrak	SeaLifeLaw
Kristen Koyama	USA	Andrea Pauly	UNEP/CMS Sharks Mou
Nina Young	USA	Myles Philips	WCS /WECAFC
Patricia Kramer	AGRRA	Karen Eckert	WIDECAST
		Sandrine Pivard	SPAW-RAC/ chair



## Exemptions WG members



Expert name	Affiliation
Julia Horrocks	Barbados
Kelly Moreno	Colombia
Ana Maria Gonzalez- Delgadillo	Colombia
Otto Cordero	Dominican Republic
Jean Vermot	France
† Paul Hoetjes	Netherlands
Eric F. Salamanca	Turks and Caicos
Kristen Koyama	USA
Angela Somma	USA
Courtney Vail	AWI
James Franks	GCFI
Sandrine Pivard	SPAW-RAC/ chair

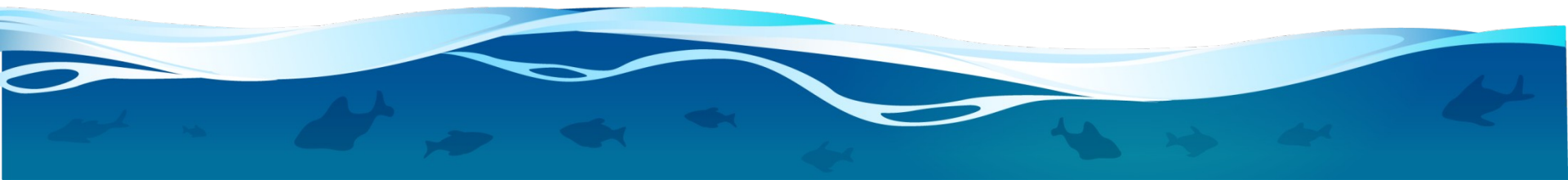




# Sargassum WG members



Expert name	Affiliation	Expert name	Affiliation
Felicia Cruz	Belize	Cherise Trotman	ACS
Martha Natalia Rincón Díaz	Colombia	Newton Eristhee	CARPHA
Nacor Bolaños-Cubillos	Colombia	Monnereau Iris	FAO/ CC4FISH
Lisa Sandy	Dominica	James Franks	GCFI
Fabien Védie	France	Peter Swarzenski	IAEA
Sabine Engel	Netherlands	Emily Smail	IOCARIBE
Eric F. Salamanca	Turks and Caicos	Ana-Maria NUNEZ	UNDP
Gonzalo Cid	USA	Christopher CORBIN	UNEP-CEP
Samantha Dodwell	USA	Sandrine Pivard	SPAW-RAC / chair





## Introductionary sessions

- rules, expectations,
- brainstorming, narrowing the scope/ defining subtasks
- starting indentifying volunteers/ leaders for tasks or subtasks
- FAQs

## Sessions by group and later subtasks

- Methodology
- Volunteers/ drafters
- Deadlines
- Plateform/ reports

## Drafts of the documents/ recommendations

- Call for more volunteers/ more experts

## Official review of the documents

- PA/ species/ exemptions

## Protected Areas Working Group

### Mandatory tasks :

- Review proposals from contracting parties to add new protected areas to the SPAW protocol annexes → **Dominican Republic's proposal** (A.P Gonzalez, )
- Review the procedure through which contracting parties can propose new protected areas to be listed as SPAW sites

### Additional tasks :

- Develop a co-operation programme in support of listed protected areas (review of gaps and needs for an analysis of ecological connectivity) & to strengthen networking & capacities (link with CampAM) (T. Bervoets & P. Hoetjes, L. Gardner, G. Cid)
- Develop reporting format on the status of the listed sites to Contracting Parties (pending ACP visibility)

## Frequently asked questions

**How we are expected to work? Should we be forming subgroups, with group members volunteering their preference, to address the various topics? Or should we tackle each subject separately as a whole group but in a pre-established order and what would that be? (Paul Hoetjes)**

- We will be forming subgroups with group members volunteering their preference, to address the various topics we need to tackle. The Species WG divided the several tasks they had at hand with a google spreadsheet. Protected Areas had volunteering experts for the review of Dominican Republic's proposal. In any case, the SPAW-RAC will oversee these sub-groups and ensure deadlines respect the Group's agenda.

### When is the WG's deadlines ?

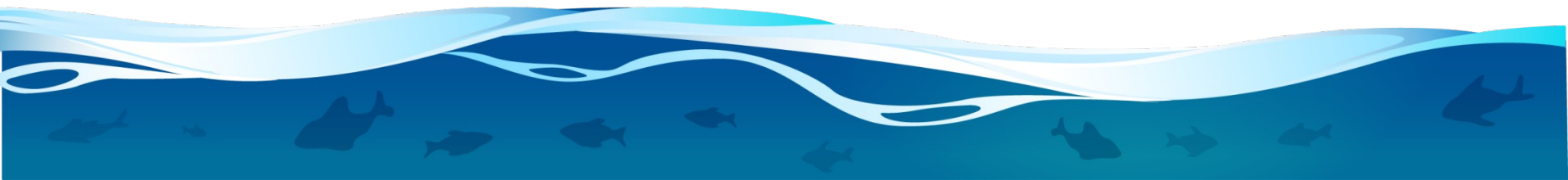
- The dates of the next STAC are still undefined, but this will take place most likely in November/December 2020. This means as for documentation that must be submitted to the groups, it must be received before summer.
- Final documents/ recommendations by the groups must be done 2 months before the STAC



Current biennium	Next biennium
<p>Timing : less than 1yr to conduct the tasks :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- initiate the process/ ToR 6 months over first semester 2019</li> <li>- call for experts to first meetings : more than 6 months</li> <li>- Being up to tasks : rather quickly but impediments : Covid + Turn-over/ vacancy in the team + sicknesses +</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2 years available</li> <li>- a large number of experts knowledgeable and interested in the process</li> <li>→ ready to start now</li> </ul>
<p>Responsiveness : - some members were or became very active, others less.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The bigger the group, the better- more expertise, synergies, representativity, more chance to have leadership,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- join the platforms</li> <li>- nominate more experts !</li> </ul>
<p>Tasks : – the better defined from, the better : more difficult with program coordination or sargassum than more precise tasks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coordination with other areas of the workplan and notably with projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- for the STAc to define what do do next</li> <li>- revise the ToRs, at least the annex</li> <li>-possibility to return to the STAC intersessionally to request advice or decision ?</li> </ul>
<p>Time consuming</p>	<p>As for us, worth it. A good way to be connected to the territories and their needs</p>

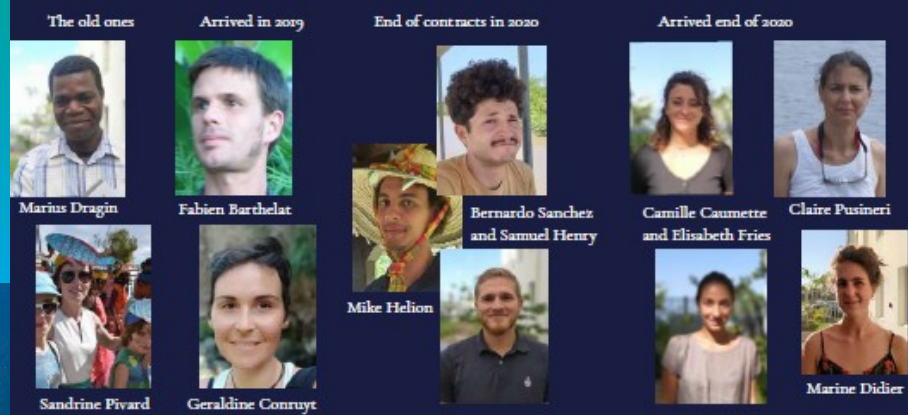


- **Convince Parties and in particular Signatory Parties to the SPAW protocol to nominate experts to the WGs in order to diversify skills and expertise, and ensure the most exhaustive geographical and political representation but also as an efficient way to be involved in the SPAW implementation and better voice their needs and wishes in preparation of the next official assemblies**
- **Improve the WGs functioning collectively/ revise the TORs/ strengthen communication with Parties through the Teamwork platform and bilateral meetings with focal points**
- **Strengthen exchanges and actions with LBS Programme Officer and other RACs on various issues in particular on joint concerns**
- **Answer the various recommendations : better deadlines/ earlier access to documents/ draw syntheses when a lot of documents (done for MM items since 1st march pre-session), Improve clarity in the workplan and with projects/ improve RAC involvement on those...**
- **Improve clarity with rules of procedures : new document to be produced to give clarity on rules and deadlines**





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**Thank you,  
Muchas  
Gracias, Merci,  
Dank je**

*SPAW-RAC  
DEAL Guadeloupe  
Site de Saint-Phy  
sandrine.pivard@developpement-durable.gouv.fr  
<https://www.car-spaw-rac.org/?Key-documents>*