



FIRMS Steering Committee Meeting
Sixth Session
Hobart, Australia, 24 – 26 February 2010
ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY <u>ICCAT</u> DURING THE INTERSESSIONAL
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1. Development of inventories of marine resources and of fisheries

In 2009 the SCRS decided to extend the ICCAT inventory in FIRMS to three oceanic shark species caught as by-catch species in the tuna fisheries: porbeagle, shortfin mako and blue sharks.

2. Reporting on status/trends of Marine resources and of fisheries

During the intersessional period the ICCAT Secretariat has continued with the implementation of the fact sheets corresponding to the principal tuna and tuna-like stocks under ICCAT mandate.

Two activities have been developed:

- Updating fact sheets for those stocks for which assessment was conducted in 2009: Albacore North Atlantic, Sailfish East and West Atlantic and Swordfish North and South Atlantic.
- Modifying existing fact sheets with the incorporation of the stock status standard descriptors and new elements such as the reference and reporting years adopted by the SC5.

3. Development/review of standards

The SCRS at the 2009 meeting adopted FIRMS standard stock status descriptors for the Atlantic and Mediterranean tuna and tuna like species stocks. The adoption of FIRMS descriptors will be done annually for the stocks for which assessment has been conducted during the year. The criteria to map ICCAT stock status results to FIRMS standard descriptors were established by the second FIRMS Technical Working Group (TWG) based on the phase plot stock status figure adopted by the Tuna RFMOs.

4. Development of applications

In producing the updated fact sheet for FIRMS, a numbers of FIRMS systems were tested. Some problems were identified and feedback was provided to the FIRMS team concerning the problems.

5. Development of case studies/prototypes

Not applicable.

6. Training or skills development

Not applicable.

7. Promotional activities

The ICCAT web page has a permanent link to the FIRMS web site.

8. Planned activities during the coming intercessional period

- Development of new fact sheets for oceanic sharks stocks for which ICCAT has conducted assessment. A total of six new fact sheets will be created for the following stocks:
 - Blue shark: North and South Atlantic
 - Shortfin mako: North Atlantic
 - Porbeagle: Northwestern, northeastern including Mediterranean and southwestern
- Annual updating of fact sheets when new assessments are carried out.
- Provision of comments/feedback to FIRMS on an ad-hoc basis.