

Proposed strategy for the implementation of the stocks and resources inventory

version 1-0

last updated : 24 July, 2002

Management Summary	

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Version	1-0
Project	FIGIS
Created	24 June 2002
Powerpoint presentation	FIGIS-2002-7_strategy for stock_resource inventory.ppt

The global Fishery Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS) aims at promoting resource conservation, fishery policy and related management practices. The fundamental characteristics of the monitoring system allowing for translation of these objectives into data management requirements consist of the backbone (an inventory of stock, resource, fishery units), the substance (the documenting of enumerated units), and a design which ensures consistency and usability in systematic ways.

The very first step consists in enumerating units in a consistent way : monitoring requirements provide criteria driving the eligibility of units : an inventory should give the global picture, and as such should be comprehensive; however, there is a need to fix a base line for the inclusion of units : the selection process should discard units defined from a purely academic view point, and favour seizable, manageable entities fully or partially fitting under at least one existing management unit; because reporting addresses various audiences from local managers to the global community, the inventory has to address various aggregation levels. Finally, units which should receive priority are those units falling under a management or monitoring mandate and being the object of regular or irregular reporting (in co-operation at regional level, in the framework of management or scientific commissions, or at national level by national fishery management institution or fishery research agency). It should be noted that the discrepancy between monitored/managed and enumerated units will be an indicator of the management gap.

For units regularly monitored and/or managed, the FIGIS project started the work, enumerating 229 high level resource units from the FAO regional review of the state of world fisheries for the global level, and reviews elaborated by regional fishery bodies and national centers of excellence involved in the development of case studies. 439 regularly monitored stocks were identified from lists provided by these partners. In an attempt to increase the completeness of the inventory beyond regularly monitored stocks, other 537 units have been integrated from the FAO popdyn data base, but these need validation from responsible partners. A third approach consisted in the identification of management units in the FAO country and management system profile reports prepared by the Fisheries Department Policy and Planning service.

The workshop is asked to provide feedback on both the inventory made to date, and the approach proposed.