

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

FSC4 - Rome, Italy, 26-27 February 2007

Meetings: ICCAT hosted the third meeting of the FIRMS Steering Committee in February 13 to 15, 2006. Based on the recommendations of the meeting, the ICCAT Secretariat presented the proposal to have a common set of stock status descriptors to be used by all FIRMS Partners at the SCRS annual meeting.

Fact sheets: In 2006 the ICCAT Secretariat has continued with the implementation of the fact sheets corresponding to the principal tuna and tuna-like stocks under ICCAT mandate.

Three activities have been developed:

- Implementation of new fact sheets corresponding to stocks not included before. The fact sheets corresponding to skipjack, eastern and western stocks, as well as the corresponding to blue marlin and white marlin were prepared.
- Updating of existing fact sheets. After the last SCRS meeting (October 2-6, 2006) the fact sheets corresponding to stocks assessed in 2006 were updated: Atlantic Bluefin tuna (western and eastern-Mediterranean stocks), Atlantic blue marlin, Atlantic white marlin, and Atlantic swordfish (northern and southern stocks).
- Splitting of existing fact sheets. The initial implementation of the FIRMS fact sheets corresponding to ICCAT stocks were conducted following exactly the contents of the species Executive Summaries included in the SCRS report. This is the reason why the ICCAT fact sheets either correspond to a single stock or to a resource. After some internal discussions, it was decided to standardize the criteria by creating fact sheets for each stock. Following this criteria, three new fact sheets (SWO_N, SWO_S, SWO_M) have been created after splitting the original swordfish resource fact sheet. Also the albacore fact sheet has been split into three corresponding to ALB_N, ALB_S and ALB_M stocks.

Marine Resources Inventory

In 2007 the ICCAT marine resources inventory has been updated for those stocks for which assessment has been conducted. Similarly the descriptions of the state of the stocks have also been updated. Both inventory and stock status descriptions are updated in the corresponding fact sheets.

Training: Following the first training course on XML given by a member of the FIRMS Secretariat in 2005, ICCAT is considering the possibility of having an advanced course on XML Schema. After some contacts with the FIRMS Secretariat the course is planned tentatively to be held in the second half of May, 2007.

Future plans

ICCAT will continue participating in the FIRMS activities assuming the compromises undertaken as partner. In particular:

- Attending and actively participating in the FIRMS meetings, those of Steering Committee and Technical Group.
- Updating the fact sheets, inventory and stock status descriptions with information provided by new SCRS stock assessments.

The 2007 SCRS will continue discussing the stock status descriptors to be used by all FIRMS Partners.