



FIRMS Steering Committee Meeting
Fifth Session
Halifax, Canada, 7 – 9 July 2008
PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA AND TIMETABLE
Author: FIRMS Secretariat

Monday, 7 July 2008

all day: 09:00 hours to 18:00 hours

1. Opening of session and Welcome address

2. Adoption of agenda

3. FIRMS membership

- Progress on the development of FIRMS Partnership

New Partners (NEAFC) will be acknowledged. FIRMS will also welcome as Observer the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO). Responses from other institutions invited by FSC4 will be reviewed.

- Review of new perspective Partners

This item will also consider status for other foreseen partners, and ways to approach them.

4. Review of Annex 2 of new Partners

Each new Partner (NEAFC) will present the content of its Annex 2 in order to raise common awareness on the contributions that each intends to make to FIRMS and on important aspects that could have been addressed with respect to contribution specifications. Partners willing to start contributions on the new Fisheries module might also wish to take this opportunity to revise / specify the content of their annex 2. Observers may indicate their intended contributions.

5. Report of the technical working group (TWG2, April 2008) (cf Doc. FIRMS FSC5/2008/3)

The report of TWG2 will be reviewed with focus on aspects requiring decision making by FSC4. In particular, FSC's attention was called on:

- proposal for a composite code mapping the graphical presentation of the stock status adopted by Tuna RFMOs with the FIRMS descriptors (par.25)
- endorsing TWG2's response to Reference Year and Reporting year (par.35, complemented by Annex 4b)
- approving TWG2's recommendation for release of Fisheries module (par.62)
- considering suggestions to create a new module entitled "Ecosystem module", and a high-level topic entitled "Enforcement policy" (par. 64, complemented with Annex 5)

Immediate follow-up actions to TWG2 will be reviewed. In particular, FSC's attention is called on:

- Access pages to Fisheries fact sheets
- Issue of status and trends reporting of multiple sub-components of a resource (par.30)
- Modifications / improvements made to workflow management system
- Required working group for defining structure of Ecosystem assessment

6. Review of FIRMS activities during the past year (cf Doc. FIRMS FSC5/2008/2x)

With reference to the work plan agreed at FSC4, FIRMS partners and the FIRMS Secretariat are invited to present one page papers of the activities carried out during the intersession, according to the following template (available at FSC5/2008/Inf.5): 1. developments on inventories of Marine resources, and of fisheries; 2. reporting on status/trends of Marine resources, and of fisheries; 3. development/review of standards 4. development of Applications (eg new module at Secretariat level, or enhancements in streamlining workflow at Partner level); 4. development of case studies/prototypes; 5. training or skills development; 6. Promotional activities 7. Planned activities during the coming intersessional period. The FIRMS Secretariat will also provide a summary of the contributions processed and major difficulties encountered, if any.

- Review of the status of FIRMS web-site and workflow management system

FIRMS Secretariat will present status of the FIRMS web-site with focus on perceived issues, new features and future plans.

7. Metadata standards for georeferenced information

The Geonetwork platform and related Metadata standards will be introduced as a possible standard for adoption as part of the FIRMS Information Management Policy (IMP).

8. FIRMS Information Management Policy (IMP) – FSC4 version (cf Doc. FIRMS FSC5/2008/Inf3)

The FIRMS IMP is a living document, updated after FSC4, providing the framework for the continuing development of FIRMS standards, through the addition of chapters. The feedback from Partners on above discussed issues and on document FSC5/2008/2 will be considered in terms of inclusion in the IMP.

9. NatFIRMS, an initiative for fostering FIRMS like processes at national level (cf Doc. FIRMS FSC5/2008/3)

FSC will be informed about the FAO NatFIRMS project idea, as a possible way forward to complement FIRMS processes at national level.

10. Intersessional work plan

The various discussions held under the previous agenda item should pinpoint forthcoming activities and result in the development of an agreed workplan.

11. Planning for the sixth session of FSC (FSC6)

12. Any other business

13. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

14. Adoption of the Report