



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

The ICES inventory in FIRMS has been analysed and revised during January-February 2010.

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

A 4 day course was held in January 2010 in ICES to train two persons. Aureliano Gentile from the FIRMS team trained them to use Word to XML converter tool. Approximately 30 fact sheets have, at this stage, been updated based on assessments and advice given in 2009. The aim is to finish the outstanding updates for the remaining app 150 stocks during spring 2010.

3. Development/review of standards

Small updates on descriptors were made during the communications at the January meeting. As ICES will provide advice in future based on MSY framework, the ICES stock status results corresponding to the FIRMS standard descriptors will need to be updated in 2011. Also, this will mean an update to the ICES marine Resources Word templates for the automatic conversion and revision of mapping ICES headers to FIRMS headers.

4. Development of applications

In producing the updated fact sheet some problems were identified and feedback was communicated to the FIRMS team. Many of the issues are now resolved by FIRMS team.

Issues encountered when updating fact sheets which are not yet reported:



- *Images often are unreadable after having been put through 'Paint' (see e.g. 'Cod-North Sea, Eastern English Channel and Skagerrak)*
- *Pop-ups often are stuck too close to the text making them 'invisible', it is not clear that they are pop ups and they look like headings (see e.g. 'Cod-North Sea, Eastern English Channel and Skagerrak)*
- *Superscript does not transfer, one has to go in and redo in tables*
- *Sometimes footnotes appear as one long sentence even though they are transferred with paragraph breaks to the merged cell in a table*

5. Development of case studies/prototypes

In the ICES system it was found useful to use the Northeast Arctic cod as test case having a full text under all headings in the ICES advisory sheet.

6. Training or skills development

The 4 day training course (see 1.) conducted in January at ICES headquarters training two new FIRMS data managers in updating of fact sheets.

7. Promotional activities

The ICES web page has been/will be updated with a permanent link to the FIRMS web site.

8. Planned activities during the coming intercessional period

Development of new fact sheets for the remaining stocks for which advice was provided during 2009

Annual updating of fact sheets when new assessments are carried out. In 2010 the framework for advice will change to an MSY basis. Also, there will be major revisions in the format of the ICES advice which will mean modifications to the ICES inventory in FIRMS as from 2011.

Provision of comments/feedback are sent to FIRMS on an ad-hoc basis.