

<b>FIRMS Steering Committee Meeting</b>
<b>Sixth Session</b>
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<b>PROPOSALS AND ISSUES CONCERNING THE UPDATE OF THE FIRMS INFORMATION MANAGEMENT POLICY</b>
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<b>Management Summary</b>

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### **Purpose of the document**

This document enumerates issues and proposals raised by the FIRMS Secretariat during the update of the [FIRMS Information Management Policy](#) according to the decisions taken by FSC5.

- **Geographic reference:** there is a confusion about its usage and terminology. See concerning discussion at [http://km.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:Geographic\\_reference\\_descriptors](http://km.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:Geographic_reference_descriptors).
- **Fishery naming conventions:** an improvement could be to endorse the latest guidelines of the fishery inventory
- **FIRMS Stock Status standard descriptors:** Annex 1.3, section 3 (FIRMS Stock Status descriptors, Mapping established by Partners between their own classification and FIRMS standard descriptors): there are some updates from ICES and new inputs from ICCAT, already reflected in Wiki page: [http://km.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/FIRMS\\_Fishery\\_Resources\\_Standard\\_descriptors\\_for\\_State\\_and\\_trend](http://km.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/FIRMS_Fishery_Resources_Standard_descriptors_for_State_and_trend). It would be probably better to remove that section and link

to the Wiki where latest rules are maintained. A sentence specifying which agencies have established this mapping would be good.

- issue: FIRMS Wiki is not public (do the mapping rules need to be public?)
- armonize labels across the FIRMS web site: Status vs. State considering that the fact sheet header is Biological state and trend.
- same type of linkage could occur for Chapter 7.2 appendix 1 Georeferencing standards/preliminary list of water areas.

- **Annex 1.5 Fishery data dictionary**

- removal of "container" and "how to use" as recommended by TWG2 not yet achieved.
- missing definitions:
  - Jurisdiction (jurisdictional framework)
  - Ecosystem assessment
  - Socio Economic Assessment
  - Crew
  - Flag State
  - Land Area
- some proposals from FAO terminology:
  - **Flag State:** *The State having registered a vessel under the national flag.*
  - **Ecosystem assessment:** *A social process through which the findings of science concerning the causes of ecosystem change, their consequences for human well-being, and management and policy options are brought to bear on the needs of decision-makers. Source: Alcamo, J. et al., 2003. Ecosystem and human well-being. A framework for assessment. Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. Island Press, 245 p.*
  - **Socio Economic:** *Pertaining to the combination or interaction of social and economic factors and involves topics such as distributional issues, labor market structure, social and opportunity costs, community dynamics, and decision-making processes. Source: Sutinen, J.G., ed. 2000. A framework for monitoring and assessing socioeconomics and governance of large marine ecosystems. NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-NE-158, 32 pp.*
- inputs from CECAF Accra workshop will further contribute to refine those definitions (See Annex 1 at the bottom of this document).

- **Work on Fishery Indicators:** as part of BNP, we have not modified the structure of the element, but improved the list of controlled terms:

<b>Fishery Indicator Attribute</b>	<b>Controlled terms</b>
<b>Class</b>	Exploitation
	Socioeconomic
<b>Type</b>	Catch
	Effort
	Economic_Performance
	Employment
	Fishing_Capacity

	Fleet_Size
	Production
	Participation
	Utilization
<b>Measure</b>	Catch
	Gross_Value_Added
	Number_of_Ports
	Landed_Volume
	Landed_Value
	Landed_Average_Price
	Landed_Global_Value
	International_Market_Global_Value
	Fleet_Tonnage
	Fleet_Power
	Number_Vessels
	Number_Fishermen
	Number_Fishing_Unit
	Trawling_Hours
	Per_Capita_Consumption
	Domestic_Human_Consumption
	Shared_in_Animal_Protein
<b>FreeMeasure</b>	
<b>Unit</b>	
<b>TimeFrame</b>	
<b>Value</b>	

- **Management measures:** the IMP may contain a new section on management measures. See concerning discussion at [http://km.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:Fishery#Fishery\\_Management\\_Measures\\_Categorization](http://km.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:Fishery#Fishery_Management_Measures_Categorization)
- **Stock unit life cycle:** an End Date should be added in those resources no longer monitored.
- **Revision of definition of Fishery.** Change from:
  - Fishery: “A Fishery is an activity leading to the harvesting of fish, within the boundaries of a defined area. The fishery concept fundamentally gathers indication of human fishing activity, including from economic, management, biological/environmental and technological viewpoints.
  - to
  - Fishery: “A Fishery is an activity leading to the harvesting of fish, within the boundaries of a defined area. The fishery concept fundamentally gathers indication of human intervention on the harvesting of aquatic resources, including from economic, management, biological/environmental and technological viewpoints.
- **Update Citation:** add the Reporting Year date aside the Corporate Cover Page title.

- **State and trend standard descriptors**

Although the following elements are not displayed in the Marine Resource fact sheets and only utilized for search purposes it would be good to have definitions since these are available in the XML schema, in the templates for the converter tool and through the CMS. Due to their importance it would be appropriate to have them also in the FIRMS IMP.

Draft definitions are:

- **FIRMS Standard Abundance Level**

*a FIRMS standard descriptor for the abundance level.*

**How to use:** *The content of StandardAbundanceLevel element containing FIRMS standard descriptors is not shown in the HTML view of the observations while only the content of AbundanceLevel is displayed. The FIRMS standard descriptors are used only for search purpose, while the Partners mapped descriptors are displayed. If partner has not provided any mapping rule between a partner descriptor and the corresponding FIRMS standard descriptor, a free text can be used but this will be not searchable.*

- **FIRMS Standard Exploitation Rate**

*a FIRMS standard descriptor for the exploitation rate.*

**How to use:** *The content of StandardExploitRate element containing FIRMS standard descriptors is not shown in the HTML view of the observations while only the content of ExploitationRate is displayed. The FIRMS standard descriptors are used only for search purpose, while the Partners mapped descriptors are displayed. If partner has not provided any mapping rule between a partner descriptor and the corresponding FIRMS standard descriptor, a free text can be used but this will be not searchable.*

## Annex 1

### **Comments and suggestions on data definition extracted from the report of the CECAF-FIRMS Workshop on Resources and Fisheries inventories, Accra December 2009**

- A column to handle Fisheries that do not exist anymore is requested, so that they can be maintained in the inventory. *This comment on the Fishery module can be connected with the issue of the End Date raised for the Marine Resource. See also the following point on Trends of fishery.*
- Trends of fishery: proposals are expected from participants regarding how fishery trends can be described. In relation with previous discussion it was agreed that this field can be used for indicating the date of closure of a fishery or in case of very sporadic or irregular activity. Another possible use of the field could be for indicating that a fishery defined in the national fishing code is actually not active.
- The terminology “Water area” is too generic and a more meaningful terminology should be adopted.
- Fishery area name: When information related to Fishing zones conveys a meaning of Zonation definition, or a rule or a spatial restriction as described in the Code of fishing, this information should be stored in "Fishing activity-related measures" of Management section. When fishing zones are used to simply describe where the fishery takes place (ie in relation with a georeferencing purpose), the Fishing zone name should be stored into "Fishery area name" column. *This comment can be utilized to improve the “how to use” definition for the element FisheryArea and the still debated Management Measure element (not yet introduced in the schema).*
- Associated species: the notion of associated species required some precision, especially for francophone participants who argued that the concept of “espèces associées” is used in the context of “habitats” with a risk of confusion; a recommendation was made that the Secretariat should verify the best translation in French for “associated species” suspected to be “espèces retenues”. Precision was also given that bycatch species should be intended as “captures accessoires”. It was further specified that, when the categorization of species among catches is not possible, the unqualified list of species can be addressed to the “Captured species” column. *This comment can be utilized to improve the “how to use” definition for the elements Captured, Target and Bycatch species.*
- Port: the guidelines should also mention “Landing site”. *This comment can be utilized to enrich the current definition “Ports”.*
- A general comment was made that the meaning of the sections displayed in the FIRMS fact sheets should be somehow explained to users (e.g. headers tool tips).
- A general reference to the national code of fishing should be provided in the field [Management / Management Overview]. In the field [Management / Legal definition], a legal definition of the concerned fishery is expected when this fishery is duly identified in the code of fishing: one would find for example what is legally understood by “artisanal fishery”, or “pêcherie côtière”. In this Legal definition field, one will provide in addition the reference to the national code of fishing. *This comment can be utilized to enrich the current definition “Legal Definition”.*

Reference year:

- It was agreed that this concept is clearly implemented in the Resource inventory, and verified that CECAF SSC conventions are compliant with FIRMS.
- The Reference year is clearly implemented for the Marine Resource module while for Fishery the situation is more complex since the information evolves from many sources, not always updated at the same time.

**In example:** All fisheries validated during the CECAF workshop will be published with “Reference year” 2009. This implies that the data reported represents the best actualized knowledge in 2009 as nationally accepted.

Under the hypothesis that the SSC will meet and endorse the dissemination of this inventory in March 2010, then the “Reporting year” will be 2010. The “Publishing year” will be the date when the inventory will become available on-line.

In case of fisheries slightly modified (in their descriptors and indicators), there will be two records: 2004 (archive) and 2009 (published).