



<b>FIRMS Steering Committee Meeting</b>
<b>Eighth Session</b>
<b>Rome, Italy, 4 - 5, and 8 February 2013</b>
<b>ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY ICCAT DURING THE INTERSESSONAL PERIOD</b>
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### **1. Developments on inventories of Marine resources, and of fisheries;**

ICCAT continue participating in the Marine resources inventory only. No new inputs have been done in the inventory since the last update.

### **2. Reporting on status/trends of Marine resources, and of fisheries;**

During the intersessional period the ICCAT Secretariat has continued with the implementation of the fact sheets corresponding to the principal tuna, tuna-like and some pelagic sharks stocks under ICCAT mandate.

In 2012 fact sheets corresponding to stocks assessed by the SCRS in 2011 were updated such as Atlantic yellowfin, South Atlantic albacore, Mediterranean albacore and Atlantic blue marlin stocks.

### **3. Development/review of standards**

Implementation of FIRMS descriptors for the stocks for which assessment has been conducted during the year following the criteria to map ICCAT stock status results to FIRMS standard descriptors established by the second FIRMS Technical Working Group (TWG) based on the phase plot stock status figure adopted by the Tuna RFMOs.

ICCAT has actively participated in the revision and latest actions on FIRMS data model and reference terms for Assessment Section.

### **4. Development of Applications or Web pages (e.g. new module at Secretariat level, or enhancements in streamlining workflow at Partner level);**

FIRMS is included as a link in the ICCAT web site.

#### **5. Development of case studies/prototypes;**

Following the recommendation of the FSC to develop some case studies using the socio-economic data collected by the EU (50.000 data records on various indicators, by métier and fleet segment – including for distant water fisheries) and presented to the FSC in its 2011 meeting, and considering that the FSC identified a case study of interest to ICCAT (tropical Tunas and Bluefin tuna). ICCAT tried to contact DGMARE in order to elaborate a work plan for the development of the case study. Due to the lack of response from DGMARE the development of the case study is still pending.

#### **6. Training or skills development;**

No activity has been carried out on this item.

#### **7. Promotional activities;**

Not applicable.

#### **8. Planned activities during the coming intersession period.**

Fact sheets corresponding to Atlantic white marlin, shortfin mako, western Atlantic and eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin stocks, assessed by the SCRS in 2012 will be updated.

ICCAT currently working in the development of Limit Reference Points and Management Strategy Evaluation under the tunaRFMOs framework. ICCAT is also participating in the Strategic Initiative for Stock Assessment Methods (SISAM). This initiative is designed to assure that scientists can apply the best stock assessment methods when developing management advice for fisheries management. SISAM includes the following steps:

- identification of the current set of available methods;
- guidance in the selection of the most appropriate methods for a particular application;
- education and access to expert information regarding method usage;
- encouragement for further testing and development of methods to more closely align with particular management needs.

This initiative will help in the FIRMS data model and reference terms for Assessment Section.