



FIRMS Steering Committee Meeting
Eighth Session
Rome, Italy, 4 - 5, and 8 February 2013
ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY ICES DURING THE INTERSESSONAL PERIOD
Author: ICES Secretariat

1. Developments on inventories of Marine resources, and of fisheries;

Since the ICES advice format has changed over the past few years (moving towards MSY basis) the ICES inventory in FIRMS was analysed and revised during autumn 2012. During December the list of stocks was updated – now more than 250.

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

A 3 day course was held in October 2012 in FAO HQ to train two persons. Aureliano Gentile from the FIRMS team trained them to use Word-to-XML converter tool applied on the new template for the ICES Advice 2012.

In that occasion the ICES marine resources inventory was screened, revised and integrated with new stocks.

Approximately 150 fact sheets have, at this stage, been updated based on assessments and advice given in 2012. The aim is to finish the outstanding updates for the remaining app 100 stocks during spring 2013.

3. Development/review of standards;

An update to the ICES Marine Resource Word templates for the automatic conversion and revision of mapping ICES headers to FIRMS headers has taken place. Also, the translation table of stock status in ICES advice into FIRMS descriptors has been updated.

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

In producing the updated fact sheet there has been very good support from the FIRMS team.

5. Development of case studies/prototypes;

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

6. Training or skills development;

The 3 day training course (see 1.) conducted in October 2012 at FAO training two FIRMS data managers in updating of ICES-FIRMS fact sheets.

7. Promotional activities;

The ICES website has a page on links <http://www.ices.dk/marineworld/links.asp> giving access to FIRMS.

8. Planned activities during the coming intersession period.

Development of new fact sheets for the remaining stocks for which advice was provided during 2012. Work on new Contents Management System has begun and it is hoped that from 2014 onwards the FIRMS fact can produced through this system.

The ICES webpage is currently under revision, and the new site will likely be up and running from end of February 2013.