



FIRMS Steering Committee Meeting
Eighth Session
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Which services could FIRMS provide on Fisheries Management information
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Background

Since the FIRMS Fishery module has been launched in 2008, an increasing amount of Management information has been contributed by Partners (CCAMLR, NEAFC, NAFO, SEAFO, CECAF, RECOFI) making a reality the FIRMS objective “to report on the status of fisheries and their management”. In addition, a few partners routinely report Management advice in Marine resources fact sheets (ICCAT, CCSBT, GFCM). While the FIRMS Secretariat strove to maintain as far as possible consistency in the contributions, the “blooming” of information and Partners’ suggestions result in a need to review the current situation, discuss what use can be made of the Management information in FIRMS, and accordingly address harmonization and presentation issues.

The purpose of this document is to summarize the current situation and the identified issues, and to trigger feedback from FSC8, which might consider to handle the matter through a TWG

I. Management information in FIRMS

Within FIRMS a variety of management information is presently presented among Fishery and Marine resources fact sheets:

- Fishery Management systems (fisheries defined from a Jurisdictional viewpoint)
- Fishery Management units (fisheries identified as part of a formal Management system)
- Fishing activities (fisheries defined from a "Fishing activity" view point, including the applicable management measures)
- Fishery resources (Stocks or Marine resources with "Considered as Management unit = Yes", for which "Management advice" is provided from a biological scientific perspective)

II. What use to be made of Management information in FIRMS

The key topic is to determine how FIRMS management information could be used considering the main target user groups identified as part of FIRMS

Communication strategy:

- RFMOs and their Members States
- Governmental agencies, including for support to EAF implementation
- Initiatives in support of the Global (or Regional) "State of"
- iNGOs promoting sustainable fisheries at Seafood marketing chain level

III. Key topics to be possibly discussed by the TWG

Technical aspects related to the above mentioned topic could be better discussed during a TWG. Main points to be discussed could be the followings:

- Address the harmonization issues listed below:
 1. Adapting management oriented fishery titles to the FIRMS Fishery naming convention;
 2. Adapting the label of the first Heading in Management oriented fact sheets (currently it displays as Fishing Activity and sounds semantically incorrect)
 3. Positioning of the links to the Assessed resources when available. A consistency should be enforced among different partner's fact sheets;
 4. For Management Regime/Status, etc.:
 - Establishing a common agreement and understanding on definitions among partners;
 - Enforcing the consistency for the order of these sections among fact sheets owned by different partners;
 5. Positioning of the links for Fishery Management units related to a Jurisdictional approach fact sheet.
 6. For Compliance Methods and Measures: verifying the need of a dedicated Metadata element for compliance methods has to be discussed, in light of the current use of the element "Monitoring"
 7. A consistent use of "Considered a Management Unit = Yes" across all Marine resources: there is a need to better defining under which condition a Marine resource can be considered a management unit (Ref the discussion with ICES, and with CECAF). There should be a full correspondance between the "Considered a Management Unit = YES" in the Marine resource module, and the "Fishery Management Unit" in the Fishery module.
- Identification of Management indicators;
- Compliance measures layout (related to the point above mentioned).
- Management info and Continuum. How to store Management information if provided for Marine resources.

Detailed documentation and examples for reference available at:

http://km.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Fisheries_Management_Information_in_FIRMS