



FIRMS Technical Working Group e-Meeting
Third session, 1st part
Online, 14 March, 2012
FINAL REPORT
Author: FSC Secretariat

OPENING OF SESSION AND THE WELCOME ADDRESS

1. FSC7 decided that the Third Session of the FIRMS Technical Working Group (TWG) would be held as a series of e-meetings. The first part of this series was opened by Mr Taconet, at 17.10 hrs, Rome time (CET, UTC+1) on Wednesday 14 March, 2012. He welcomed the participants representatives of the following agencies: FAO, IATTC, ICCAT, NAFO, SEAFO, and thanked NAFO colleagues for hosting the meeting through their WebEx account. He reported that CCAMLR, CCSBT, CECAF, ICES, NEAFC, RECOFI have apologized for not being able to attend the virtual meeting, some of which have provided written contributions.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2. Mr Gentile, designated coordinator of the e-meeting, presented the agenda which was adopted (annex 2).

UPDATING OF THE FIRMS HOME PAGE – agenda item 3

3. An overview of the improvements of the FIRMS homepage was presented by Mr Gentile: an active world map showing the FAO major fishing areas has been added. A click on any given area retrieves all the related available FIRMS Marine Resource

and Fishery fact sheets. This proposal, described and requested for action during the FSC7 meeting, is related to FSC7 Agenda item 9 “Target audience and communication strategy” and FSC7 Agenda item 6 “The Resources-to-Fisheries continuum”.

4. TWG agreed on the following decisions:

- The new proposed home page can be implemented and published in internet.
- As part of the proposal taking into account the FSC7 decisions (par. 75 of the FSC7 Report), also the reference year will be removed from the list of results of any query retrieving fact sheets.

REFINING FIRMS THEMATIC PAGES – agenda item 4

5. The agenda item 4 part 1 (“**FIRMS on Tuna**” thematic page) was lead by Ms Pallares (ICCAT) who presented her proposal for a revision of the list of tuna species retrievable through the “FIRMS on Tuna” thematic page. Details of her proposal available at: http://km.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/FIRMS_on_Tuna_thematic_page .
6. Mr Hinton (IATTC) suggested the possibility of queries retrieving all species belonging to specific families (i.e. Scombridae, Istiophoridae, etc.) and to add some link to species fact sheets in the page. He also suggested to create a mackerels dedicated page.
7. Mr Van Zyl (SEAFO) asked some clarification on the logic behind the thematic pages and then suggested to create similar ones for Sharks and by-catch species.
8. After some discussion, TWG agreed on the following decisions:
- updating queries for including and excluding species as per list revised by Ms Pallares;
 - creating queries based on taxonomic criteria (e.g. family);
 - changing the name of the page from “FIRMS on Tuna” into “FIRMS on Tuna and Tuna fisheries”, which implies to also query fisheries which target tuna species;
 - changing the introductory statement of the page as follows: “...This page provides a global digest of the information available through FIRMS on Tuna, Billfishes and Tuna-like resources”.
9. Any additional input on the list of Tuna and tuna like species to be retrieved from the thematic page will be circulated by e-mail and stored at

http://km.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:FIRMS_on_Tuna_thematic_page#Discussion_of_the_TWG3_1_eMeeting.

10. The agenda item 4 part 2 (**FIRMS on deep sea (high seas) resources**) was introduced by Mr Gentile, who reported a comment sent by Mr Ramm (CCAMLR) on the need of defining a depth range for deep sea (high sea) resources. The discussion was then led by Ms Marshall who pointed out that there is effectively the need of defining a depth range to provide a strong criterion to classify the resources (controversial case of white hake for NAFO). She invited each partner to revise its list of deep sea resources and provide the criteria for identification of suitable depth range. The discussion will be stored in a dedicated Wiki page http://km.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:FIRMS_Deep_Seas_High_Seas_thematic_page and all feedback will be harmonized by FIRMS Secretariat.
11. Mr Van Zyl (SEAFO) pointed out a possible expansion of the marine resources list under SEAFO ownership, which will be realized in the coming weeks.
12. Mr Taconet suggested to build a mapping interface to complement or substitute the table in the webpage during the intersessional period (April to June).
13. TWG agreed on the following decisions:
 - Revising the list of deep seas species, and the criteria for identification of depth range suitable for deep seas (high seas) resources, during the next intersessional period. Feedbacks will be stored in the FIRMS Wiki.
 - Drafting a proposal for a mapping interface to better visualize the elements of the table of the High Seas Deep Seas thematic page.

REVISION OF FIRMS REFERENCE TERMS FOR ASSESSMENT MODELS AND ASSESSMENT METHODS – agenda item 5

14. The Agenda item 5 was led by Ms Balestri, who summarized the present way of reporting assessment models and methods within FIRMS fact sheets and highlighted the emerging need of storing this kind of information in the Excel template of the marine resources inventory in a consistent way.
15. The full history of the proposals is available at http://km.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Assessment_Models where also future feedback will be stored.
16. The discussion which followed mainly focused on how to define the level of uncertainty and include it in the excel template.

17. Ms Pallares reported her preference for the second proposed template (option 2) for reporting assessment data into the inventories but still the need of some criteria to rank the uncertainty was highlighted.

18. The TWG group agreed on the following decisions:

- trying to develop criteria aimed at mapping the pair [quality of available data x goodness of model] with the level of uncertainty of the resulting assessment.
- revising the table of Assessment model/methods presently available in FIRMS, using ICES's list as a starting point and then collecting other partner's feedback.
- Ms Pallares and Mr Ye, in close interaction with FIRMS Secretariat, will take a lead on that issue.

IMPROVING THE “FIRMS DATA COVERAGE” WEB PAGES – agenda item 6

19. The agenda item 6 was introduced by Mr Gentile who presented the modifications in the Data coverage section of FIRMS website and described the qualitative maps that the FSC7 agreed to publish.

20. Mr Hinton expressed his concern of the possible misunderstanding potentially caused by the fact that maps are qualitative while the table presented in Status of inventories and Status of reporting present quantitative data.

21. Noticing the absence of fisheries data coverage for SEAFO Mr Van Zyl expressed the intention of reporting also an inventory of SEAFO fisheries.

22. The TWG agreed on the following decision:

- Legend of Image 1: "FIRMS Marine Resources data coverage" should be modified by specifying that Tuna data are not included.
- A proposal for new qualitative maps will be developed by the FIRMS Secretariat during the intersessional period.

REPORTING ON OTHER ACTIVITIES – agenda item 7

23. For Agend item 7 two short presentations were delivered by Ms Marshall, on her participation to “Science & Sustainability Forum” organized by Oceans Trust, and by Mr Taconet who was invited to be one of 12 members serving in the Scientific

Advisory Group of FisheriesWiki. A summary of their intervention is available at http://km.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/FIRMS_communication_strategy#Outreach. In relation with the FIRMS communication strategy, M. Taconet pointed out that these developments clearly indicate an audience for FIRMS consisting of these civil society groups willing to shape seafood consumers opinion on the principle of sustainable fisheries, based on scientific evidence and credible management frameworks.

PLANNING FOR THE NEXT E-MEETING TWG 3.2 – agenda item 8

24. The TWG agreed on having a new e-meeting in June and to use the Doodle pool for identifying the most suitable date.
25. The meeting was closed at 19.30 pm.

ANNEX 1

<h3>LIST OF PARTICIPANTS</h3>

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ANNEX 2

FIRMS Technical Working Group e-Meeting
Third session, 1st part
Online, 14 March 2012
ANNOTATED AGENDA AND TIMETABLE
Author: FIRMS Secretariat

From 17:00 hours to 19:00 hours Rome time (CET, UTC+1)

- 1. Opening of session and Welcome address**
- 2. Adoption of agenda**
- 3. Updating of the FIRMS Home page**
Chair: FIRMS Secretariat
 - Communicating better: validating the addition of a map search interface:
<http://firms.fao.org/firms/en/draft> (login required usr: figis ; psw: visitor).
*An active world map showing the FAO major fishing areas has been added. A query associated to each area is retrieving all the available FIRMS Marine Resource and Fishery fact sheets.
This proposal was described and requested for action during the FSC7 meeting – Agenda item 9 “Target audience and communication strategy” and it is also related to the Agenda item 6 “The Resources-to-Fisheries continuum”.*
 - Suggestions for other possible improvements.
- 4. FIRMS Thematic pages**
 - **Refining of the “FIRMS on Tuna” thematic page**
Chair: Ms Pilar Pallares (ICCAT)
*As per FIRMS FSC7 consideration (Section 7/d par. 69), a list of species have been made available together with this provisional agenda for identifying all those species which should be retrieved in the Tuna page.
Once finalized the species list, the queries in the page will be updated consistently and the title will possibly be modified by including the “tuna-like” term.*
 - **FIRMS on deep sea (high seas) resources**
Chair: Ms Barbara Marshall (NAFO)
*Same as above, a list of species have been made available together with this provisional agenda for identifying all those species which should be retrieved in the the deep sea thematic page.
The word “demersal” has been already removed from the page title as per FSC7 report (Decisions in Section 7/d).*
 - Suggestions for other possible improvements.

5. **Revision of FIRMS reference terms for Assessment Models and Assessment Methods**

Chair: FIRMS Secretariat

As per FIRMS FSC7 (par. 64 and following decisions), a list of current controlled terms has been made available for revision. A summary of the ICES scheme is also provided. Currently in FIRMS, Assessment Model Type is a fixed list of controlled terms while Assessment Methods are undefined: any value can be entered. This was done for simplifying the data model and consequently the data submission. In order to assist in evaluating quality of assessment, an enrichment of these lists is expected.

FIRMS Secretariat will chair this agenda item triggering the discussion by introducing again the issue and including the new example provided by ICES and RECOFI. The follow up of the discussion is supposed to be driven in a next TWG e-meeting by Ms Pilar Pallares (ICCAT) and Mr Yimin Ye (FAO) as per FSC7 Report (par.64 and following decisions). Background information is available in FIRMS Wiki at http://km.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:Marine_Resource#Quality_assurance_related_to_information_on_Resources.2Fstocks_Assessments (login required usr: figis ; psw: visitor).

6. **Improving the “FIRMS Data coverage” web pages.**

Chair: FIRMS Secretariat informing the participants

Communicating better: together with the improvements of the qualitative data coverage maps (see FIRMS FSC7 par. 29 and related decisions) the related web pages have been restructured and updated. A gateway page “FIRMS Data coverage” gives access to three sub-pages: “Partners' contributions”, “Status of inventories” and “Status of reporting”.

7. **Reporting on other activities**

Chair: FIRMS Secretariat and Ms Barbara Marshall (NAFO) informing the participants

Along the promotion of NatFIRMS (FSC7 Report Section 8 par. e):

- NAFO as a FIRMS partner promoted FIRMS and the NatFIRMS idea at the “Science & Sustainability Forum” organized by Oceans Trust.
- Mr Marc Taconet (FIRMS Secretariat) was invited to be one of 12 members serving in the Scientific Advisory Group of FisheriesWiki.

8. **Planning for the next e-meeting TWG 3.2**

9. **Any other business**