



<b>FIRMS Technical Working Group e-Meeting</b>
<b>Third session, 2<sup>nd</sup> part</b>
<b>Online, 9 October, 2012</b>
<b>FINAL REPORT</b>
<b>Author: FSC Secretariat</b>

#### **OPENING OF SESSION AND THE WELCOME ADDRESS**

1. The second part of the e-meeting series was opened by Mr Taconet, at 17.10 hrs, Rome time (CET, UTC+1) on Tuesday 9 October, 2012. He welcomed the participants representatives of the following agencies: ICCAT, ICES, NAFO, SEAFO, He reported that CCAMLR, CCSBT, CECAF, IATTC, NEAFC, RECOFI and Mr. Ye, as FAO representative, have apologized for not being able to attend the virtual meeting.

#### **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. Secretariat summarized most important activities of the intersessional period and invited the participants to go through the document presented as annex to the agenda, "Review of status of TWG activities" (renamed in this report annex 3), and raise any other issue or comment.

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4. TWG acknowledged the document and didn't raise any issues.
  5. NAFO highlighted that they have changed their Annex 2 and that it will be sent to the Secretariat.

#### **REPORTING ON OTHER ACTIVITIES HAVING INCIDENCE – agenda item 4**

6. The agenda item 4 part 1 (**Harmonization Workshop – Smartfish project**) was presented by the Secretariat which summarized the aim of the workshop and the role that FIRMS will have in the process of developing a Regional Information System for the South West Indian Ocean.
7. The agenda item 4 part 2 (New ICES format for Assessment/State and Trend Section) was introduced by the Secretariat and then presented by ICES representative (Mrs Bertelsen).
8. Mr Taconet commented the structure suggesting to move in some cases parts of the Habitat description under Stock structure section. Mrs Bertelsen confirmed their choice.

#### **FIRMS THEMATIC PAGES – agenda item 5**

9. The agenda item 5.1 (**FIRMS on deep sea (high seas) resources**) was presented by the Secretariat on behalf of NAFO representative (Mrs Marshall). The need of revise the list of deep seas species and the criterion for defining Depth range for those species was raised.
10. Mrs Marshall agreed to lead and coordinate the group in this process.
11. Discussions, suggestions and definitions for depth zone to be harmonized will be stored in the dedicated Wiki page:  
  
[http://km.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:FIRMS\\_Deep\\_Seas\\_High\\_Seas\\_thematic\\_page](http://km.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:FIRMS_Deep_Seas_High_Seas_thematic_page).
12. Mr Campanis asked why for SEAFO the management type is not reflected in the thematic page, raising the need to explain that the page reflects the actual FIRMS coverage and not the absolute situation. He was also recalled that during the last TWG Mr Van Zyl expressed the will of submitting also a fisheries inventory for SEAFO in order to fill the gap. Guidelines and other documentation have been made available accordingly to SEAFO.

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13. FIRMS Secretariat also presented an example of a mapping interface for visualizing the elements of the table of the High Seas Deep Seas thematic page. A live prototype will be presented at the SC8.
  14. The agenda item 5.2 (**FIRMS on Tuna**) was then briefly presented by the Secretariat. Further harmonization through all tuna RMFOs will be lead by ICCAT representative (Mrs Pallares) regarding the information presented in the “related” boxes (right side of the page) .

**Revision and latest actions on FIRMS data model and reference terms for  
Assessment Section – AGENDA item 6**

15. The Secretariat presented latest improvement on the implementation of the Assessment section in the Excel template, schema and SWIOFC fact sheets, including the prototype proposal for the uncertainty level ranking.
16. The overall feeling is that the method presented to the TWG2 for ranking the uncertainty is too subjective for the time being and that there is the need of finding a better way.
17. Mr Pallares reported that ICCAT had a Working group on Management strategy evaluation during which they worked on this kind of definitions (both methods and uncertainty). At the end of 2012 they should be able to provide some input on this topic both on uncertainty level ranking criterion and assessment methods.
18. Mrs Bertelsen reported that ICES has revised the list of Assessment methods and the FIRMS Secretariat asked to have this revised list so that it will serve as a basis for the revision of FIRMS suggested list.

**Display of the “Fishery Life Cycle” and “Monitoring Period” within fact sheets –  
AGENDA item 7**

19. The Secretariat presented the new layout introduced to display both Fishery Life Cycle and Monitoring Period respectively in fisheries and marine resources fact sheets.
20. Mr Taconet presented the related behavior of the search, highlighting that an ancestor marine resource or fishery will be visible/accessible only through the fact sheet and not at level of search result.
21. TWG agreed on the goodness of the examples and approved the implementation as a recommendation to the SC8.

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## **Display of the Reference year – AGENDA item 8**

22. Alternative display of the reference year value was presented by the FIRMS Secretariat (see detailed presentation at [http://km.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:FIRMS\\_Data\\_Models](http://km.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:FIRMS_Data_Models)).
23. Some TWG representatives expressed in past discussions their preferences for the removal of the reference year (ICES and ICCAT) while Mrs Marshall stated that it is good for time series and she would prefer to maintain it. The best option if decided to maintain it, should be to store it within the fact sheet and not in the title.
24. Among the options stored in the above mentioned Wiki page, the 4<sup>th</sup> one has been preferred (reference year within the Main descriptors box).
25. Mr Campanis proposed instead to maintain it within data (xml level) but not showing in the fact sheet.
26. Mr Taconet expressed his feeling that finding an agreement and a common understanding on Reporting year instead of Reference year would be easier to reach and would create less discrepancies.
27. The issue will be presented for consideration at the next FSC8.

### **Conclusions:**

28. TWG agreed on the following points:
  - SEAFO will report on fisheries.
  - NAFO will coordinate the design of the North Atlantic thematic page and the collection of depth criteria for defining deep sea species among partners.
  - ICES will send their revised list for Assessment models/methods.
  - ICCAT will provide their feedback on on assessment methods and ranking criterion for uncertainty based on the result of the ICCAT Working Group on Management Strategy.
  - ICCAT will also coordinate the harmonization of the content within the “related” boxes on the Tuna thematic page.
  - FIRMS Secretariat will prepare a prototype of the mapping interface for visualizing the elements of the table of the High Seas Deep Seas thematic page presented during the TWG.

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**PLANNING FOR THE NEXT E-MEETING or addressing the next FIRMS SC8**

29. TWG agreed that two e-Meetings per intersessional period are enough to address technical issue and that the next TWG will be held after the next SC8.
30. The possibility of having a live TWG aside the SC will be considered although the feasibility must be evaluated.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS - Sustainable fisheries partnerships and FisheriesWiki**

31. Mr Taconet informed the TWG about the activities of the FisheriesWiki.org initiative, being a member of the advisory Board. FisheriesWiki.org is a program of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership, an international non-governmental organization with tax-exempt status in the United States, supporting global seafood supply chains to contribute to improved ecological sustainability of marine capture and aquaculture fisheries. FisheriesWiki.org is planned to be an open-source website, serving as the global commons encyclopedia of fisheries, providing current, accurate, detailed information on global marine capture fisheries and providing access to primary, research grade resources of utility to fisheries scientists, managers, and the seafood industry. SFP believes that Seafood purchases by major institutional buyers are being driven by public perceptions on the status of resources and management of fisheries. FIRMS being in this regard an authoritative/scientifically objective source of information, FisheriesWiki expressed a strong interested in a collaboration with FIRMS. Mr. Taconet gave his feeling that a collaboration with FisheriesWiki would be a way to promote the use of FIRMS, and could provide a shape to NatFIRMS.

Mr Taconet will propose to FIRMS partners to invite a representative of FisheriesWiki.org at FSC8, in order to discuss a possible collaboration,.

32. The meeting was closed at 19.30 pm.

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## ANNEX 1

<h3>LIST OF PARTICIPANTS</h3>
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## ANNEX 2

<b>FIRMS Technical Working Group e-Meeting</b>
<b>Third session, 2<sup>nd</sup> part</b>
<b>Online, 9 October 2012</b>
<b>PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA AND TIMETABLE</b>
<b>Author: FIRMS Secretariat</b>

**Moderator of the web-conference: FIRMS Secretariat**

**2 hours, from 17:00 hours to 19:00 hours Rome time (CET, UTC+2)**

1. **Opening of session and Welcome address**
2. **Adoption of agenda**
3. **Review of status of TWG activities** (10 min for discussion)  
Presenter: FIRMS Secretariat  
Presentation of latest and ongoing activities (Annex 1)  
*Activities of the Secretariat are summarized in Annex 1. Most relevant key points will be shortly presented, while others will be covered along the other agenda items. Participants are invited to check the annex and provide any further feedback.*
4. **Reporting on other activities having incidence on TWG's work** (20 min for discussion)
  - Harmonization Workshop - Mauritius 2 - 4 of July 2012: FIRMS in the context of the development of a Regional Information System for the South West Indian Ocean region (Smartfish project).  
Presenter: FIRMS Secretariat informing the participants  
*Presentation of the relevant outcomes on the concepts' mapping among FIRMS and the other systems available in the region.*
  - New ICES format for Assessment/State and Trend sections.  
Presenter: Ms Mette Bertelsen (ICES)  
*Presentation of the new ICES format for Assessment/State and Trend sections (see an example of ICES new format applied to FIRMS: <http://figisapps.fao.org/firms/resource/10365/en> , <http://figisapps.fao.org/firms/resource/13439/163942/en> [test server]).  
State and Trend mapping documentation at [http://km.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/FIRMS\\_Fishery\\_Resources\\_Standard\\_descriptors\\_for\\_State\\_and\\_trend#ICES](http://km.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/FIRMS_Fishery_Resources_Standard_descriptors_for_State_and_trend#ICES)*
  - Others  
*Participants are invited to mention other activities having possible incidence on the work of the TWG*

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5. **FIRMS Thematic pages**

- **FIRMS on deep sea (high seas) resources** (15 min for discussion)  
Presenter: Ms Barbara Marshall (NAFO)  
*As per FIRMS FSC7 consideration (Section 7/d par. 69), a list of species have been made available during the FIRMS TWG 3.1 for identifying all those species which should be retrieved in the deep sea thematic page.*  
*Each partner should revise the list of deep sea resources (attached Excel file – “Species DeepSea Thematic Page” worksheet) and provide the criteria for identification of suitable depth range.*  
Presenter: FIRMS Secretariat  
*Examples of a mapping interface for visualizing the elements of the table of the High Seas Deep Seas thematic page will be presented and discussed. The ongoing discussion is stored in a dedicated Wiki page: [http://km.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:FIRMS\\_Deep\\_Seas\\_High\\_Seas\\_thematic\\_page](http://km.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:FIRMS_Deep_Seas_High_Seas_thematic_page).*
- **FIRMS on Tuna** (10 min for discussion)  
Presenter: FIRMS Secretariat  
*Brief summary on the actions taken as a follow up of the FIRMS TWG 3.1. Related documentation is available at [http://km.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/FIRMS\\_on\\_Tuna\\_thematic\\_page](http://km.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/FIRMS_on_Tuna_thematic_page).*  
*Partners are expected to provide further guidelines for refining queries based on taxonomic criteria (e.g. family per area).*
- Suggestions for other possible improvements or new pages (e.g. FIRMS in the North Atlantic).

6. **Revision and latest actions on FIRMS data model and reference terms for Assessment Section** (20 min for discussion)

Chair: Ms Pilar Pallares and FIRMS Secretariat

*Brief presentation on the progress made by Secretariat on the data modeling, implementation and dissemination (SWIOFC examples <http://firms.fao.org/firms/search/institution/swiofc/en>, Analytical assessment: <http://firms.fao.org/firms/resource/13575/en>, Empirical assessment: <http://firms.fao.org/firms/resource/13602/en>).*

*The model will be presented in detail and a tentative list for possible terms for the “Type of Empirical Assessment” and “Based on” fields will be discussed. See attached Excel file (“FIRMS-Assessment” worksheet) for vocabulary currently utilized in the FIRMS fact sheets.*

*A possible criterion aimed at assigning a level of uncertainty to an assessment on the basis of the pair [quality of available data x goodness of model] will be presented and discussed. Documentation available at [http://km.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:Assessment\\_Models#Uncertainty\\_criterion](http://km.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:Assessment_Models#Uncertainty_criterion).*

7. **Display of the “Fishery Life Cycle” and “Monitoring period” within fact sheets.** (10 min for discussion)

Chair: FIRMS Secretariat

*Several years of FIRMS data contribution has demonstrated a dynamism in Marine Resource and Fishery inventories. Not only inventories grow because new knowledge is acquired, but also the inventory profile/structure is fluid (e.g. monitoring evolution of stocks and fisheries opening/closures). FSC6 and FSC7 guided the implementation which started at inventory level and now it is implemented also at fact sheet level (“Fishery Life Cycle” and “Monitoring period” boxes. Example: Fishery <http://figisapps.fao.org/firms/fishery/484/en>, Marine Resource: <http://figisapps.fao.org/firms/resource/10545/163962/en>). FIRMS Wiki documentation: [http://km.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:Marine\\_Resource#Monitoring\\_cycles\\_of\\_marine\\_resources](http://km.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:Marine_Resource#Monitoring_cycles_of_marine_resources)*

8. **Display of the Reference year** (10 min for discussion)

Chair: FIRMS Secretariat

*Mock ups will be provided for alternative scenarios for displaying the reference year within the fact sheets*

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*and for the alternative use of the Reporting Year. The outputs of the discussion will be forwarded to the FIRMS SC for final decision.*

*Mock ups: [http://km.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:FIRMS\\_Data\\_Models](http://km.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:FIRMS_Data_Models)*

9. **Planning for the next e-meeting TWG 3.3 or addressing the next FIRMS SC8**
10. **Any other business**

### Annex 3. Review of status of TWG activities

<b>TWG3.1 decisions</b>	<b>Status (July 2012)</b>
Publication of the new home page	<i>Done</i>
Deletion of the Reference year from the list of results of any query retrieving fact sheets	<i>Still pending</i>
Modification of queries for including and excluding species as per list revised (FIRMS on Tuna page)	<i>Done</i>
Creation of queries based on taxonomic criteria (e.g. family)	<i>Still pending</i>
Changing of the introductory statement of the FIRMS on Tuna page as follows: "...This page provides a global digest of the information available through FIRMS on Tuna, Billfishes and Tuna-like resources"	<i>Done</i>
Revision of the list of deep seas species, and the criteria for identification of depth range suitable the thematic page FIRMS on deep seas (high seas) resources	<i>Still pending</i>
Drafting a proposal for a mapping interface to better visualize the elements of the table of the High Seas Deep Seas thematic page	<i>Ongoing</i>
Starting to identify a criterion aimed at mapping the pair [quality of available data x goodness of model] with the level of uncertainty of the resulting assessment	<i>Done available in WIKI at <a href="http://km.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:Assessment_Models">http://km.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:Assessment_Models</a></i>
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 (as per FSC7 decision)	<i>In progress</i>
Changing the Legend of Image 1: "FIRMS Marine Resources data coverage" should be modified by specifying that Tuna data are not included	<i>Done</i>
Bulding a proposal for a new qualitative maps will be developed by the FIRMS Secretariat during the intersessional period	<i>Not yet tackled</i>
<b>FSC7 decisions</b>	
Encourage WCPFC to join the partnership in order to achieve a global coverage of Tuna bodies	<i>Not done</i>
Populating FIRMS with new data	<i>Started for SWIOFC, Done for GFCM (and partially still in progress), Done for CECAF, coming soon: RECOFI fishing activities, FAO Review of the state of world marine fishery</i>
Updating the Annex 2 for FAO, ICCAT, NAFO, SEAFDEC	<i>Done for ICCAT</i>
Creation of new thematic pages	<i>Not yet tackled</i>
Publication of data coverage maps should be done cautiously, with iterative steps	<i>In progress</i>
THE RESOURCES-TO-FISHERIES CONTINUUM: starting a virtual merging of the two modules marine resources and fisheries with a joint search interface should be accessible from the home page for retrieving both Marine Resource and Fishery	<i>Partially done through an active map in the homepage</i>

fact sheets.	
Inclusion of Monitoring cycles of Marine resources section in the Standards section of the IMP, as part of the Marine resources data dictionary	<i>Not done</i>
Revision of some comments received during the meeting (RECOFI feedback) on the use of some terminology to be evaluated and if accepted their integration in the Guidelines section of the IMP.	<i>Stored in Wiki, waiting for feedback</i> <a href="http://km.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:FIRMS_Inventor_y_Guidelines_and_Templates">http://km.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:FIRMS_Inventor_y_Guidelines_and_Templates</a>
Creation of a new thematic page was proposed for the North Atlantic to express the science to management decision making process, among NAFO, NEAFC, ICES, DG MARE and ICCAT (with reference with Agenda Item 8c). NAFO will lead the discussion.	<i>Not yet tackled</i>
Removing “Demersal” in the title to avoid potential confusion with the definition. The high-sea fisheries for this page would include non-demersal species found in depths greater than 200 meters such as mackerel or deep sea squid.	<i>Done</i>
Investigating reference year identification mechanisms and will propose solutions.	<i>On going</i>
Production of alternative scenarios for displaying the reference year within the fact sheets. Provision of a disclaimer and/or definitions of reporting year and reference year.	<i>On going</i>
Removal of the year in the list of fact sheets generated by the search engine. It would remain visible in the actual fact sheet.	<i>Not yet tackled</i>
Contributions by Partners for updating FIRMS web-based sections of the Global review. Consequently, the Secretariat will modify the Global review fact sheets by integrating live links to the more detailed RFBs’ fact sheets	<i>Not yet tackled</i>
Developing of a standard protocols addressing the involvement of Nations through RFBs, for review by the TWG	<i>Not yet tackled. One more case study will be the inclusion of Malaysia’s inventory in SEAFDEC</i>
Coordination among the concerned actors of the development of a thematic page on the theme “science to management process in the North Atlantic”. NAFO will the lead in a substantive discussion.	<i>Not yet tackled</i>
Upon DG MARE’s confirmation of its intended contribution during 2012, two or three case studies regarding socio-economic data will be developed under the coordination of the Secretariat, with the participation of ICCAT, ICES, NEAFC and possibly CECAF.	<i>Not yet tackled</i>
A communication strategy will be iteratively developed through the FIRMS Wiki, and FIRMS partners will be invited to	<i>Not yet tackled</i>

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contribute.

The FIRMS home page should be made more dynamic and informative from the perspective of users expectations.

Partners are encouraged to actively contribute to FIRMS outreach within their own constituency, and the Secretariat will assist this process by making available a toolbox of promotional material.