



<b>FIRMS Steering Committee Meeting</b>
<b>Ninth Session</b>
<b>Swakopmund, Namibia, 23-24 and 27 February 2015</b>
<b>ANNOTATED AGENDA AND TIMETABLE</b>
<b>Author: FIRMS Secretariat</b>

**MEETING PLACE: SEAFO HQ**

**Day 1, Monday 23-02-2015**

All day: 09:00 hours to 18:00 hours

**1. Opening session and Welcome address**

**2. Adoption of agenda**

**3. FIRMS membership**

- a) FIRMS, 10 years after  
*Commemorating ten years of activities; sharing Members views: where does FIRMS stand, where does FIRMS go?*
- b) Progress on the development of FIRMS Partnership  
*NASCO, CECAF/FCWC, WECAFC/[CRFM and OSPESCA], SWIOFC/WIOFish*
- c) Review of new perspective Partners  
*E.g. BCC, CPPS, SPRFMO, WCPFC*

**4. Review of Annex 2**

- a) Proposed information contributions of new Partner(s)  
(Doc. NASCO Partnership arrangement)  
*Including NASCO Annex 2*
- b) Proposed modifications by existing Partners  
(Doc. WECAFC - Annex 2)  
*New annex formulation for FAO/WECAFC*

**5. FIRMS branding** (Doc. FIRMS FSC9/2015/4d)

- a) A mature framework for data collection, in data poor contexts  
(Doc. FIRMS FSC9/2015/Inf.10)  
*The long experience, which brought FIRMS in developing well-structured methodology, protocols and standards to increase the data coverage and to respond to the need of some partners to channel national data, has resulted in the recognition of FIRMS as a tool for supporting data assemblage and sharing in data poor contexts. In the same contexts, FIRMS has been seen as useful branding to also encompass the function of a Regional Data Base supporting data collation and analysis for stock assessment and fishery management needs.  
SC9 is invited to acknowledge this important function, support its evolution and consider whether the article 1.1.2 of the Partnership Arrangement could be enriched accordingly  
([http://ftp.fao.org/FILEDOCUMENT/FIGIS\\_FIRMS/Partnership\\_Arrangement/FIRMS\\_Partnership\\_Arrangement.pdf](http://ftp.fao.org/FILEDOCUMENT/FIGIS_FIRMS/Partnership_Arrangement/FIRMS_Partnership_Arrangement.pdf)).*
- b) FIRMS and the long-term governance of the VME DataBase  
*Persons to be involved are Deep Seas RFMOs members of FIRMS*

## 6. Review of FIRMS activities during the intersession

(Doc. FIRMS FSC9/2015/2a)

- a) Report on intersession activities
- b) Key topics regarding status of the FIRMS website
  - Marine Resource and Fishery modules - progress on populating the data base
  - Fact sheets' layout/template improvement  
*E.g. new FIRMS name and logo, new handling of reporting year vs. reference year.*

## 7. Report of e-Technical Working Group 4

Summary report of e-TWG 4

(Doc. FIRMS FSC9/2015/3 and related info documents Inf. 7.a, b, c, d)

*Including TWG recommendations for final endorsement by FSC9*

## 8. FIRMS Information Management Policy (IMP) – FSC8 version

(Doc. FIRMS FSC9/2015/5)

*Report latest updates and raise any issue*

## 9. Review of strategic aspects - enabling more timely information, broadening geographic/thematic coverage, target audience/communication and partnerships

- a) Enabling more timely and comprehensive information
  - Partners' reports on the status of the developments towards the dynamic feed of the FIRMS database  
*ICES and GFCM data submission workflow based on SharePoint technology and XML web services*
  - New horizons for a FIRMS distributed data base  
*Expanded knowledge base through semantic technologies – presentation of the Chimaera portal*

### Day 2, Tuesday 24-02-2015

All day: 09:00 hours to 18:00 hours

## 9 (...)

- b) Review of FIRMS-related project proposals / ideas

*Addressing FIRMS target audience in the context of different contexts of use/reuse of FIRMS information*

- Towards a Global Record of Stocks and Fisheries - Benefits and role for FIRMS (Doc. FIRMS FSC9/2015/4a)  
*Towards a federation of information sources on stocks and fisheries for a more comprehensive coverage and global web-services; serving user communities willing to:*
  - facilitate traceability and certification of fishery products  
*Collaboration with iNGOs and private sponsorships for enhancing traceability of fishery products; Interested iNGOs are: Sustainable Fisheries Partnerships, Ocean Trust*
  - improve global/regional indicators on the status of fishery resources  
*E.g. Collaboration between FIRMS and RAM legacy database. Focal person to be involved: Mr Ye, ICES representative, RAM legacy db representative*
- TCP/RAF/FCWC: Strengthening routine fisheries data collection in West Africa (Doc. FIRMS FSC9/2015/Inf.9)  
*Interest in FIRMS expressed by Sub-Regional Fisheries organizations as a tool supporting data collation and dissemination (e.g. FCWC, COREP, CSR) - Focal person to be involved: Mr Sedzro*
- Decision Support Systems of LME projects (CLME+ project) (Doc. FIRMS FSC9/2015/4c)  
*Implementation and usage of FIRMS in different regions is increasingly associated to the support to priority national or regional fishery management plans. The CLME+ project is presented as one such example; In the context of MDGs and SDGs, this project also constitutes a strategic opportunity to promote and share fisheries data in the context of LME initiatives, and to develop collaborative capacities with other organizations in the endeavour to develop and maintain a "Regional State of the marine ecosystems and associated living marine resources" reporting capacity. Focal person to be involved: FIRMS Secretariat, WECAFC representative, BOBLME representative*

- c) Directions for FIRMS website revision

- New layouts
- New search facilities and user interfaces

- 
- d) A role for FIRMS in the iMarine initiative  
(FIRMS FSC9/2015/4b)

*The iMarine initiative has involved / been presented to a number of FIRMS members through outreach events and development of applications (e.g. VME-database, NEAFC2ICES VMS data transfer, Chimaera portal, Tuna Atlas, mobile Apps for observer on board). This initiative promotes and contributes to the development of Metadata standards, policies and best practices for data exchange and sharing, and operates a platform for scientific collaborative work in the field of the EAF. Questions were raised by those RFBs involved in iMarine regarding the sustainability of the initiative, and its governance. The White Paper on iMarine sustainability is here shared as information document, and can be used to trigger feedback from FIRMS members who might wish to consider how FIRMS might benefit from this initiative, and which role FIRMS or its Members could take in its governance.*

**10. Intersessional work plan**

**11. Planning for the next session of FSC (FSC10)**

**12. Any other business**

**13. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson**

**Day 3, Friday 27-02-2015**

Morning: 10:00 hours to 12:00 hours

**14. Adoption of the Report and Close of Session**