



<b>FIRMS Steering Committee Meeting</b>
<b>Ninth Session</b>
<b>Swakopmund, Namibia, 23-24 and 27 February 2015</b>
<b>SUMMARY OF TWG4 RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
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TWG 4 was held during the period intercurring between the FSC8 and FSC9 (Feb. 2013 – Feb. 2015). Similarly to TWG3, it was split in four parts held as e-meetings.

During the four sessions the following themes were presented and discussed:

- TWG 4.1 – 15 May 2014
  - Planning schedules and content of the next e-meetings
  - Displaying state and trend standard descriptors
  - Partners reporting on other activities
- TWG 4.2 – 17 July 2014
  - Renewing of the firms website - first discussion
  - Partners reporting on other activities
- TWG 4.3 – 14 October 2014
  - Inventories' template improvement (Data reliability, Fishery importance)
  - First implementation step of rules for reference year/reporting year
  - Partners reporting on other activities
- TWG 4.4 – 5 February 2015
  - Renewing of the firms website - second discussion

Here below a summary of the **Recommendations** for the FSC9.

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### Displaying State and Trend Standard descriptors (TWG 4.1)

FIRMS Wiki page:

[http://figisapps.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:FIRMS\\_Fishery\\_Resources\\_Standard\\_descriptors\\_for\\_State\\_and\\_trend#Displaying\\_State\\_26\\_Trend\\_Standard\\_descriptors\\_-\\_Proposals\\_for\\_the\\_TWG\\_4.1](http://figisapps.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:FIRMS_Fishery_Resources_Standard_descriptors_for_State_and_trend#Displaying_State_26_Trend_Standard_descriptors_-_Proposals_for_the_TWG_4.1)

1. TWG reported a positive feedback on the proposed solution which is considered as agreed and will be submitted to the next FSC9 for **final adoption and public release**.
2. Concerning **State and Trend graphs**, the importance of an automatic generation based on web services, was highlighted and agreed in principle.
3. The need for **accessing definitions** for both the standard terms and the non-standard terms used by partners, as well as how these are mapped, was highlighted. In case of complex Values like “F2011/FMSY = 1.04 range (0.38-1.32)” some additional explanations are expected to be provided by the partners in the text.

### Inventories' template improvement (TWG 4.3)

FIRMS Wiki page:

[http://figisapps.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:FIRMS\\_Inventory\\_Guidelines\\_and\\_Templates](http://figisapps.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:FIRMS_Inventory_Guidelines_and_Templates)

4. Indicator of **data reliability**: addition of a new free text field.
5. **Fishery importance**, viewpoint and description: addition of two new free text fields.

### First implementation step of rules for reference year/reporting year (TWG4.3)

FIRMS Wiki page:

[http://figisapps.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:FIRMS\\_Data\\_Models](http://figisapps.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:FIRMS_Data_Models)

Following decision FSC8/D6.11 (February 2013), the Reporting year is from February 2015 used in place of Reference year for differentiating observations and for the display of the year value in the fact sheet.

6. TWG 4.3 drafted **new definitions** for reference year and reporting year which should be finalized.

#### Reference Year

- Option 1, limited to Marine Resource: “The last year considered in the assessment”.
- Option 2: "The Reference year for which the status of the target object (e.g. Marine Resource, Fishery...) has been evaluated and results of the status validated

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for the first time at national level or at regional level if the target object is shared”.

- Option 3: “The year for which the status of the target object (e.g. Marine Resource, Fishery...) has been evaluated.” The year might be eventually followed by an index (e.g. 1999a) (TWG2, 2008).

### **Reporting Year**

- Option 1: “The Reporting year for which the status and trends pertaining on a Marine resource or Fishery were reviewed by the scientific meeting (or equivalent scientific validation process) and reported to the fact sheet”.
- Option 2: “The year in which the scientific meeting (or equivalent scientific validation process) reviewed the status of the target object (e.g. Marine Resource, Fishery...) of the Fact Sheets.” The year might be eventually followed by an index (e.g. 1999a) (TWG2, 2008).

### **Renewing of the FIRMS website (TWG 4.2 – TWG 4.4)**

FIRMS Wiki pages:

- [http://figisapps.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Renewing\\_the\\_FIRMS\\_website](http://figisapps.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Renewing_the_FIRMS_website)
- [http://figisapps.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/FIRMS\\_user\\_feedback](http://figisapps.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/FIRMS_user_feedback)
- [http://figisapps.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/FIRMS\\_communication\\_strategy](http://figisapps.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/FIRMS_communication_strategy)

7. The renewal should be more focused on **layout design** and new **user interface facilities**.
8. Offer new ways to give access and to consume the FIRMS content, not only through accessing the full reports but also with alternative interfaces and mechanism to offer quick access to **summary status and trends of stocks and fisheries**.
9. The new user interface will be designed with the primary concern to respond to **users' needs**.
10. The new FIRMS website and interfaces should:
  - **Facilitate search** and browsing across stocks and fisheries information;
  - Offer **thematic areas of users interest**;
  - Build interfaces to answer to **competency questions of interest** to users;
  - Provide **summary indicators of stock status** at regional or global level;

- Offer **federate search mechanisms** to dig into different information systems.
11. Concerning the layout, TWG suggested to put emphasis on the following points:
- **Less institutional** “look and feel” (e.g. use of bright colors);
  - Complexity should be reduced in favor of a **taste of dynamicity and neatness**;
  - Being **more informative** through a wider use of nice images, icons and infographics;
  - Easier and clearer **access** points.
12. Concerning the new facilities, TWG welcomed the ideas of:
- A **map viewer** integrating different layers (FAO Major fishing areas, RFB competence areas, Species distributions, Stock monitoring areas, Fishing areas, EEZs, bathymetry, etc.);
  - **Simple search** in the homepage;
  - Better **identification of the two modules’ contexts** with dedicated easier search;
  - Regularly updated **news box** for achievements (new fact sheets, FIRMS meetings, new partnerships, etc.).
13. The need of **assessing costs and resources** to be involved in the renewal process was evidenced.
14. It was considered that, **enabling crossover among FAO information domains** (such as FIRMS, VME, Catch statistics, etc.) avoiding the duplication of efforts, would constitute a valuable effort.
15. A first draft of a **user survey** was presented for evaluation.

#### **FIRMS Stocks & Fisheries map viewer (TWG4.4)**

FIRMS Wiki :

[http://figisapps.fao.org/FIGISwiki/images/IntroductionFIRMS\\_Stocks\\_Fisheries\\_map\\_viewer\\_TWG4.4\\_5Feb2014.pdf](http://figisapps.fao.org/FIGISwiki/images/IntroductionFIRMS_Stocks_Fisheries_map_viewer_TWG4.4_5Feb2014.pdf)

16. Better identification of the two **modules’ contexts**, distinguish clearly resource from fishery information providing different entry points to access biological information and management aspects, e.g. management measures.

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17. The search tool should give the possibility to **save parameters and filters settings** for further interactions later in time. Also the history of searches could be stored for being reutilized.
  18. Query selectors should be **tailored** to each thematic area, with the understanding that each thematic area will eventually constitute one entry point.
  19. **Indicators** would be created dynamically on the basis of the users search.
  20. TWG participants received positively the underlying philosophy of the **Chimaera portal** and foresee similar features in the new FIRMS application.
  21. **Small Scale Fisheries** (SSF) is also matter of interest for FIRMS and the challenge would be to deliver services for indicators capable to describe those realities.
  22. The different compounds of information regarding international fisheries need to **link each other**, such as:
    - Stocks and resources and related summary status;
    - Catch statistics;
    - Management measures;
    - Biodiversity and associated geospatial information;
    - Socio-Economic information.
  23. The idea of **federate search** across different systems was also introduced as possible mean for accessing such linked data.