

FIRMS Technical Working Group e-Meeting
Fourth session, 1st part
Online, 15 May, 2014
REPORT
Author: FSC Secretariat

OPENING OF SESSION AND THE WELCOME ADDRESS

1. The Fourth Session of the FIRMS Technical Working Group (TWG) e-meeting (first part) was opened by Mr Taconet, at 17.05 hrs., Rome time (CET, UTC+2) on Thursday 15 May, 2014. He introduced WECAFC representatives, newcomers to the FIRMS Technical Working Group, and welcomed them together with representatives of the following agencies: NAFO, SEAFO and WECAFC. He reported that 9 other partners sent their excuses for their unavailability to attend the session.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2. Mr Gentile, designated coordinator of the e-meeting, presented the two items in the agenda and described the new logic behind the organization of the TWG e-Meetings. The suggestion is to have more focused and short meetings, possibly with sub-group of partners particularly interested in specific topics.
3. The agenda was adopted and the approach agreed.
4. Particular emphasis was given to the lack of participation among the FIRMS partners to the TWG evidencing the need of stressing its importance and insisting for a larger adhesion.

5. On this issue, the TWG agreed that e-meetings should be accompanied with other solutions allowing partners to provide comments on selected topics during the intersessional periods (i.e. online forum).

PLANNING SCHEDULES AND CONTENT OF THE NEXT e-MEETINGS

6. Meeting document “TWG e-Meetings tentative scheduling” was presented to the auditors in support to this agenda item. Candidate themes to be discussed in the next sessions are:

- FIRMS Thematic pages
- Inventories’ improvement
- Policies on Data Sharing
- Updating of the FIRMS Website

Details are available as Annex 3 of this report.

7. TWG agreed on the following decisions:
 - Clustering the items as follows: “Inventories’ improvement” to be discussed with “Policies on data sharing”; “FIRMS Thematic pages” together with “Updating of the FIRMS Website”. An alternative solution proposed was to treat the item “Updating of the FIRMS Website” in a separate meeting due to its importance and relevance.
 - Scheduling the next two e-Meetings on late June (18, 19 or 20) and on late July-August. Doodle application will be used as soon as possible to dispatch possible alternatives in order to identify the most suitable dates.
 - A proposal was made for holding a live TWG back-to-back with the FIRMS SC9 (envisaged for February 2015) taking advantage of the larger participation of the partners at the SC. The feasibility of this proposal will be assessed while working on the details of FIRMS and CWP agendas.

DISPLAYING STATE AND TREND STANDARD DESCRIPTORS

8. The agenda item 4 (“**Displaying State and Trend Standard descriptors**”) referred to the decision FSC8/D7.11 of the SC8 as part of the Agenda item 7 (Review of

strategic aspects - enabling more timely information, broadening geographic/thematic coverage, target audience/communication and partnerships).

9. A proposal was presented and feedback collected. Details of the proposal are available at: http://km.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:FIRMS_Fishery_Resources_Standard_descriptors_for_State_and_trend
10. A presentation on further possible graphic ways to exploit and expose those indicators was presented. Power point presentation is available for downloading at: http://km.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:FIRMS_Fishery_Resources_Standard_descriptors_for_State_and_trend#Further_developments
11. 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. Concerning State and Trend graphs, the importance of an automatic generation based on web services, was highlighted and agreed in principle.
12. 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.

PARTNERS REPORTING ON OTHER ACTIVITIES

13. Secretariat reported the following activities on behalf of non-attending partners:
 - Publication of new Marine Resource and Fishery fact sheets by CCAMLR
 - Publication of new Fishery fact sheets by CECAF (Angola)
 - Indirect participation to the “FAO/CECAF Working Group on the Assessment of Small Pelagic Fish - Subgroup South. Pointe Noire, Congo 17-23 March 2014)
 - On-going discussion about automatic procedures for the dynamic update of ICES fact sheets

SCHEDULING FIRMS SC9

14. The next FIRMS SC9 is proposed to take place in February 2015 and be hosted by SEAFO. SEAFO and FIRMS Secretariat are formalizing the related agreement. FSC9 will be held back to back with the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP).
15. The possibility of adding additional days for a FIRMS TWG will be taken into consideration in the process of scheduling. Starting to draft an agenda as soon as possible was stressed in order to refine the duration and the scheduling.

16. Doodle application will be soon used to assess possible meeting date alternatives in order to verify the most suitable period for the meetings.
17. The meeting was closed at 18.30 pm.

ANNEX 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX 2 - ANNOTATED AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

FIRMS Technical Working Group e-Meeting
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Online, 15 May 2014
ANNOTATED AGENDA AND TIMETABLE
Author: FIRMS Secretariat

From 17:00 hours to 18:00 hours Rome time (CET, UTC+2)

- 1. Opening of session and introduction**
- 2. Adoption of agenda**
- 3. Planning schedules and content of the next e-Meetings**
Revise the working document dispatched with this agenda proposing consistent scheduling
- 4. Displaying State and Trend Standard descriptors**
FSC8/D7.11: A request for a proposal for the display of state and trends descriptors will be made to the TWG
- 5. Partners reporting on other activities**
- 6. Any other business**
 - Scheduling FIRMS SC9**
Proposal of February 2015 as suitable date for "FIRMS-SC9" and "CWP - Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics" back-to-back meetings.

ANNEX 3 - TWG eMeetings tentative scheduling

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1. Introduction

The TWG, is kindly asked to screen the following topics (based on FSC8 Report - Intersessional work plan), suggesting clustering criteria and identifying focal points for each item.

Tentative group of interest are indicated, nevertheless all the TWG members are welcome to attend any of the TWG's session.

2. Topics to be scheduled along the TWG4 e-Meetings

2.1. FIRMS Thematic pages

(Topic relevant particularly to All)

- **Refining of the “FIRMS on deep sea (high seas) resources” thematic page**

Chair: TBD

As per FIRMS decision FSC8/D6.1-3

- **Adding new thematic pages**

Chair: Ms Barbara Marshall (NAFO)

As per FIRMS decision FSC8/D5.1 et al. partners are kindly suggested to propose other thematic pages

- *North Atlantic (FSC8/D6.6)*
- *Fishery management in FIRMS*
- *etc.*

- **Suggestions for other possible improvements**

As per FIRMS decision FSC8/D6.4-7(e.g. Tuna page)

2.2. Inventories' improvement

(Topic relevant particularly to CECAF, WECAFC, RECOFI)

Within the context of the revision of FIRMS inventory template, guidelines and data dictionary to tackle specific requests by partners, here follows some proposals:

- *Enriching data reporting with optional fields (WECAFC):*
 - *Level of confidence in Fishery data*
 - *Relevance of Fishing activity to the fishery sector*
 - *Socio-economic contribution of the fishery sector to the economy of the country*

2.3. Policies on Data Sharing

(Topic relevant particularly to All)

FSC8/D7.5: Copyrights and licensing issues with focus on:

- *Content reutilization*
- *Acknowledgement of ownership and authorship including Personal author citation*

Output of this discussion will be compiled in the FIRMS Wiki, and the FIRMS Secretariat will review the type of licensing solution which could be applied in the FIRMS context and share the results with the next TWG for recommendations.

2.4. Updating of the FIRMS website

(Topic relevant particularly to All)

First live discussion to identify possible improvements to get requirements and Identification of main improvements to be implemented and prototype ideas for discussion.

Presenting a draft user questionnaire.

- **Website layout**
restyle of the site
- **New functionalities**
 - **FIRMS map viewer**
Suggestions on the possible development of a map viewer integrating different layers (FAO Major fishing areas, RFB competence areas, Species distributions, Stock monitoring areas, Fishing areas, EEZs, bathymetry, etc.).
 - **New search interfaces and synoptic reports**
Similarly to the “State & Trend Summaries” search page, other interfaces may be developed to facilitate users’ access to FIRMS data
 - *etc.*