

<b>FIRMS Technical Working Group e-Meeting</b>
<b>Fourth session, 2<sup>st</sup> part</b>
<b>Online, 17 July, 2014</b>
<b>REPORT</b>
<b>Author: FSC Secretariat</b>

**OPENING OF SESSION AND THE WELCOME ADDRESS**

1. The Fourth Session of the FIRMS Technical Working Group (TWG) e-meeting (second part) was opened by Mr Gentile, at 17.00 hrs., Rome time (CET, UTC+2) on Thursday 17 July, 2014. He welcomed the representatives of the following agencies: ICCAT, NAFO, SEAFO and WECAFC. He reported that four other colleagues sent their excuses for their unavailability to attend the session.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

2. The agenda items, mainly focused on “Renewing of the FIRMS website” was presented and it was also reported that the sessions on “Inventories’ improvement” and “Policies on data sharing”, planned for the end of June, were postponed to September due to lack of concerned participants.
3. The agenda was adopted.

**RENEWING OF THE FIRMS WEBSITE - FIRST DISCUSSION**

4. The renewal of the FIRMS website was recommended during the FSC8 (Section 9. INTERSESSIONAL WORK PLAN) and even before, in the FSC7, through the suggestion of upgrading selected component of the website including search interfaces, integrated map viewer, *etc.* Further evidences for the renewal were identified among the results of the past web trend analysis (*i.e.* high bounce rate,

limited number of returning visitors *etc.*).

The following FIRMS-Wiki pages were introduced in order to trigger the discussion:

- [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/Renewing\\_the\\_FIRMS\\_website](http://figisapps.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Renewing_the_FIRMS_website)

Selected topics will be added to the forum for wider discussion (*e.g.* User survey).

5. The overall site structure is still considered as satisfactory and it was suggested that the renewal should be more focused on layout design and new user interface facilities.
6. 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.
7. 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.*).
8. It was pointed out that, while waiting for the development of a dedicated and auto feeding news box, the current one should be updated more frequently.
9. Renewal of the website will proceed through identification and compilation of requirements and establishment of priorities.
10. Immediate actions should be the implementation of what was already decided during the FSC8:
  - New FIRMS name and logo (FSC8/D7.8);
  - Use and display of the reporting vs. reference year (FSC8/D6.11).
11. In addition, participants representing WECAFC and CRFM reported the intention to return in the next few weeks the results of *ad hoc* investigation conducted on the FIRMS website among their colleagues (NOAA, NMFS, SEFSC and CRFM).

12. The need of assessing costs and resources to be involved in the renewal process was evidenced.
13. 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.
14. A first draft of a user survey was presented for evaluation. The idea was positively received by the TWG. It was agreed to have it automatically popping up at first access of new users for a to-be-established period of time.
15. Questions will be stored in the forum to get further feedback from partners.
16. The results of the ongoing discussion on website renewal will drive the Secretariat in the compilation of the requirements and in producing mockups for the FSC9.

#### **PARTNERS REPORTING ON OTHER ACTIVITIES**

17. NAFO reported that a proposal for updating mapping rules between the NAFO stock status indicators and the FIRMS State and Trend standard descriptors was presented at the last NAFO Scientific Council. This proposal was not discussed in details due to a lack of time and therefore will be presented again during the next meeting in September.
18. Secretariat reported the following activities on behalf of non-attending partners:
  - Publication of new Marine Resource fact sheets by CECAF;
  - Ongoing contacts with IOTC representative to study a way for streamlining the process of data contribution to FIRMS;
  - The first draft fishery fact sheet for NASCO is in progress;
  - Concerning WECAFC, two prototype fishery fact sheets were finalized for Saint Lucia, contact was established with the national expert for Trinidad and Tobago and the way forward agreed during a meeting with the WECAFC Secretary.

#### **SCHEDULING NEXT TWG E-MEETING, SESSION 4.3**

19. The next FIRMS TWG 4.3 e-Meeting, focused on "Inventories' improvement", will be held in September. Since this topic is of particular interest for colleagues of CECAF, WECAFC and RECOFI, the date will be especially agreed with them. A wider participation is anyway desirable and welcome.
20. CRFM expressed the preference to hold it during the first two weeks of September.
21. The meeting was closed at 18:20 PM.

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## ANNEX 1

<h3>LIST OF PARTICIPANTS</h3>
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**ANNEX 2 - ANNOTATED AGENDA AND TIMETABLE**

<b>FIRMS Technical Working Group e-Meeting</b>
<b>Fourth session, 2<sup>nd</sup> part</b>
<b>Online, 17 July 2014</b>
<b>PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA AND TIMETABLE</b>
<b>Author: FIRMS Secretariat</b>

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

- 1. Opening of session and introduction**
- 2. Adoption of agenda**
- 3. Renewing of the FIRMS website- first discussion**

*Partners will be asked to identify main aspects for improving the FIRMS website (search interfaces, maps, etc.). Primary objective of this renewal is outreaching a wider spectrum of users. Expected output of this discussion is a list of prioritized requirements*

Candidate topics for discussion

  - 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*
  - User questionnaire  
*Evaluation of the usefulness and identification of most meaningful questions for its compilation*
- 4. Partners reporting on other activities**
- 5. Any other business**

Feedback on the team discussion (forum) recently activated as per TWG4.1 recommendation (<https://workingwith.fao.org/fi/firms>)

*Partners will be asked to provide some feedback on the new tool introduced and to suggest possible topics to be discussed in the forum*