

<b>FIRMS Technical Working Group e-Meeting</b>
<b>Fourth session, 3<sup>rd</sup> part</b>
<b>Online, 14 October, 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 (third part) was opened by Mr Gentile, at 17.05 hrs., Rome time (CET, UTC+2) on Tuesday 14 October 2014. He welcomed the representatives of the following agencies: CECAF, IATTC, ICCAT, NAFO, WECAFC and WIOFish.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

2. The agenda items, mainly focused on “Inventories’ template improvement” was presented.
3. It was notified that a point on “First implementation step of rules for Reference year/Reporting year” was added to the agenda.
4. The agenda, including changes, was adopted.

**INVENTORIES’ TEMPLATE IMPROVEMENT**

5. Ms Balestri recollected that, during the WECAFC–FIRMS workshop on marine resources and fisheries inventories (Corpus Christi, the United States of America, 1–2 November 2013), it was requested to add to fisheries’ fact sheets some section for reporting evaluations on data reliability and fishery importance. The solutions conceived, under no circumstances mandatory, store at

[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) (log in required) were presented to the participants.

6. The discussion resulted in the following conclusions:
  - On Data Reliability, though an indicator of data reliability could be attributed for any section of the fact sheet or fishery indicator, the intention of maintaining parsimony in the overall page was suggested. The group preferred the option 2, a dedicated section for a qualitative description of information exposed in the fact sheet.
  - Furthermore, it was suggested by the group to avoid the use of standard values to rank the concept of data reliability and to consequently remove the field **DATA RELIABILITY/Level** from the Excel template. The TWG agreed to keep only the free text expected for the field **DATA RELIABILITY/Description**.
  - On Fishery importance, the two cells proposed, **FISHERY IMPORTANCE/Viewpoint** and **FISHERY IMPORTANCE/Description**, were recognized as useful, while a common objection was raised against the red stamp (or equivalent layout) highlighting the fishery as important on top of the fact sheet.

#### **FIRST IMPLEMENTATION STEP OF RULES FOR REFERENCE YEAR/REPORTING YEAR**

7. Mr Gentile presented the implementation of the new fact sheet layout for Reference year starting from a recollection of the options presented at FSC8 ([http://figisapps.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:FIRMS\\_Data\\_Models#Reporting\\_Year\\_vs.\\_Reference\\_Year](http://figisapps.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:FIRMS_Data_Models#Reporting_Year_vs._Reference_Year), log in required). The option 4, preferred by FSC8, was implemented in a restricted area of the FIRMS website and introduced to the group.
8. The new layout was endorsed while a problem on the definition was pointed out. The one reported on mouse over, "Reference year: *The year for which the status of the target object (e.g. Marine Resource, Fishery...) has been evaluated*" (FIRMS TWG2, 2008)", was recognized as outdated.
9. A discussion followed, ICCAT and CECAF volunteered to formulate two definitions for reference year to be applied respectively to the Marine Resource and Fishery modules. The new proposals will be circulated as soon as the reported will be dispatched and by any means by the end of October. Any other proposal will be welcome and stored in the Wiki page for further evaluation.

10. To speed up and to accomplish such long awaited change, the new display of the reference year value will be released together with the new definitions. Further reformulation could take place in occasion of the next FSC9.

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

11. Mr Gentile reported the progress on NASCO side: new Fishery fact sheets are in progress.

#### **SCHEDULING NEXT FIRMS SC9**

12. Participants were reminded to express their date preference through the Doodle system for the next FIRMS SC9 which will be hosted by SEAFO.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

13. Despite of having tested in advance the meeting connection, CECAF and WECAFC representatives had difficulties to follow since they were not able to hear some sections of the meeting and they requested to mention such issue in the report.

14. The meeting was closed at 18:25 PM.

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## ANNEX 1

<h3>LIST OF PARTICIPANTS</h3>
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**Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF)**

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**ANNEX 2 - ANNOTATED AGENDA AND TIMETABLE**

<b>FIRMS Technical Working Group e-Meeting</b>
<b>Fourth session, 3<sup>rd</sup> part</b>
<b>Online, 14-10-2014</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. Inventories' template improvement**

*In response to specific requests by partners, proposals will be presented and discussed on the topics listed below (see at: [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) - Log in required). Any approved change will be reflected in the FIRMS inventory templates, guidelines and data dictionary, and in the Fishery fact sheets.*

Enriching data reporting with optional fields:

  - Reliability of Fishery data
  - Fishery importance

Possible addition of reference terms:

  - Horizontal distribution: Creek
  - Sea floor physiography: Knoll, Trench, Bank, Ridge, etc.
- 4. First implementation step of rules for Reference year/Reporting year**

*FSC8/D6.11: Reporting year will be used in place of Reference year for differentiating observations and for the display of the year value in the fact sheet. Reference year, semantically part of the assessment section, will be optional and will be displayed less prominently. The Secretariat will implement the new rules in close coordination with the Partners. Past observations will still display both values although properly switched. (see Wiki at: [http://figisapps.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:FIRMS\\_Data\\_Models#Reporting\\_Year\\_vs\\_Reference\\_Year](http://figisapps.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:FIRMS_Data_Models#Reporting_Year_vs_Reference_Year) - Log in required)*

Presentation of some examples of fact sheets
- 5. Partners reporting on other activities**
- 6. Any other business**