

**Annex 2 to the
Partnership Arrangement between the
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and the
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

**Information to be contributed to FIGIS-FIRMS
by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)**

Created: February 2004

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1. Summaries of resource status ("Species Executive Summaries")

Types of information to be contributed. The information to be prepared, processed and contributed to FIRMS is basically the contents of the ICCAT Executive Summaries from the ICCAT SCRS Report for the major species: see Table A2.1. Executive Summaries contain the latest SCRS advice to the Commission, including information on the biology, description of fisheries (including catches), state of stocks, outlook and management advice of tuna and tuna-like stocks in the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas. The contributions from ICCAT to FIGIS-FIRMS do not include the basic datasets that are used for the analyses conducted by the ICCAT Secretariat, the SCRS or its subsidiary bodies.

Scope of information to be contributed. The above information will be provided for those tuna and tuna-like species and oceanic pelagic sharks stocks in the ICCAT Convention area for which the SCRS prepares Executive Summaries.

Standards to be used in this Partnership Agreement. The information to be contributed by ICCAT will conform, whenever possible, to the Information Management Policy established by the FIRMS/FIGIS Steering Committee. The contributions from ICCAT to FIGIS-FIRMS must be managed using standards that do not alter the integrity of the Executive Summaries.

2. Metadata and information management

Methods of collection and processing. Details of ICCAT data collection and compilation are provided in its various reports. Further information and links to detailed information may be found at <http://www.iccat.int>. In partial summary, the sources of data used in assessments and research of ICCAT include:

- Task I statistics: Nominal annual catch by species, region, gear, flag, and where possible, separated between EEZ and High Seas. In general, responsibility for reporting catch and landings data rests on flag states.
- Task II statistics: Catch and fishing effort statistics for each species by small area (1x1 degree rectangles for most gears, 5x5 degree rectangles for longlines), gear, flag, and month. Task II data also include actual size frequencies of samples measured for each species by small area, gear, flag and month.
- Other Data. Other data, usually provided by scientists, are used for assessments. Examples include tag release-recapture data; life-history studies; and, relative indices of abundance over time.

Depending on the mandate of the Commission, Species Working Groups meet every 2-5 years to update a stock assessment using the most up-to-date information available. ICCAT's SCRS generally meets annually in October and prepares Executive Summaries for the major ICCAT stocks, and provides advice to the Commission in the form of the adopted SCRS Report. A species' Executive Summary may be subject to major revisions only when an updated assessment has been made for that species in that year; otherwise, the Executive Summaries change little from year to year, primarily to reflect recent fishing activities.

The text of the ICCAT Executive Summaries is carefully drafted and agreed to by scientific representatives from ICCAT Contracting Parties. The processing and management of this information within FIGIS/FIRMS will be conducted in such a way that the integrity of the Executive Summaries will be fully maintained.

Bibliographical sources. The main bibliographical source for the contributions to FIRMS is the annual ICCAT SCRS Report, published in the ICCAT Biennial Report Series and available on the ICCAT website and accessible from FIGIS-FIRMS fact sheets. Referring to the FIRMS (*proposed*) standards, the cover page element appearing at the header of the fact sheet will link to this bibliographical reference for a given annual publication.

Ownership and responsibilities. The information contributed to FIRMS resides under the full ownership (hence responsibility) of the ICCAT SCRS. Therefore, and referring to the FIRMS (*proposed*) standards, the ownership presented as header of each stock fact sheet will clearly include “ICCAT Standing Committee on Research and Statistics” as the data owner institutional entity, and the “International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas” (acronym ICCAT) as the body under which this institutional entity operates. Furthermore, the FIRMS collection under which the FIGIS-FIRMS system provides user access editing rights is entitled “ICCAT SCRS Reports” (acronym ICCAT SCRS). Methods used in authentication and verification of this information lie on one side on the FIGIS-FIRMS security mechanisms, including a role for an ICCAT editor and an ICCAT approver. These actors will be responsible for ensuring that the FIRMS fact sheets are reasonably up-to-date with respect to the ICCAT SCRS reports.

Processing methods. n/a

Transmission protocols and dissemination channels. The master ICCAT SCRS Report will be published in hard copy in ICCAT's Biennial Report Series and also posted on ICCAT's web site. Links to relevant sections of these reports and relevant section of texts will be added in various topics of the FIGIS-FIRMS fact sheets under ICCAT SCRS ownership using a combination of the tools offered by the system (XML editing uploading – on-line editing). Conditional on the availability of resources at the ICCAT Secretariat, transmission schedule is planned to be within 12 months following the formal adoption of the Executive Summaries by the SCRS and the Commission. Currently, all historical ICCAT reports are available in electronic form in the ICCAT web site.

3. Data and information security

All contributions provided by ICCAT will be on the public domain. Therefore, no confidentiality issues are foreseen. Transparency of the processes is guaranteed by the ICCAT SCRS sequence of events.

4. Collaborative institutions

The ICCAT is the FIRMS signatory partner and as such doesn't include any collaborative institution.

5. Additional entitlements

ICCAT staff will be entitled to participate in workshops or special courses organized by the FIRMS Secretariat (FAO) on the use of the electronic publishing tools used in FIGIS. When further partnership efforts need to be extended this item may be revised by mutual consent.

Table A2.1. List of stocks and resources for reporting under the FIRMS partnership arrangement between the ICCAT and FAO. All stocks are of the "highly migratory" type.

RESOURCE	STOCKS (Units)	Comments
Yellowfin tuna in the Atlantic	1) Atlantic YFT	A single report for the stock and resource
Bigeye tuna in the Atlantic	1) Atlantic BFT	A single report for the stock and resource
Skipjack in the Atlantic	1) Eastern Atlantic SKJ 2) Western Atlantic SKJ	Two different reports, one for each stock
Albacore in the Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea	1) Northern Atlantic ALB 2) Southern Atlantic ALB 3) Mediterranean ALB	Three different reports, one for each stock
Bluefin tuna in the Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea	1) Western Atlantic BFT 2) Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean BFT	Two different reports, one for each stock
Blue marlin in the Atlantic	1) Atlantic BUM	A single report for the stock and resource
White marlin in the Atlantic	1) Atlantic WHM	A single report for the stock and resource
Sailfish (and spearfish) in the Atlantic	1) Western Atlantic SAI 1) Eastern Atlantic SAI	Two different reports, one for each stock
Swordfish in the Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea	1) Northern Atlantic SWO 2) Southern Atlantic SWO 3) Mediterranean SWO	Three different reports, one for each stock
Blue shark in the Atlantic	1) North Atlantic BSH 2) South Atlantic BSH	Two different reports, one for each stock
Shortfin mako in the Atlantic	1) North Atlantic SMA	A single report for the stock
Porbeagle in the Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea	1) Northwestern Atlantic POR 2) Northeastern Atlantic and Mediterranean POR 3) Southwestern Atlantic POR	Three different reports, one for each stock

Total Resources: 13. Total management units (stocks): 22.