

FIRMS Technical Working Group e-Meeting
Fourth session, 4th part
Online, 5 February, 2015
REPORT
Author: FSC Secretariat

OPENING OF SESSION AND THE WELCOME ADDRESS

1. The Fourth FIRMS e-Technical Working Group (e-TWG) was opened by Mr Gentile, at 17.00 hrs., Rome time (CET, UTC+2) on Thursday 5 February 2015. He welcomed the representatives of the following agencies: IATTC, ICCAT, NAFO, SEAFO and WioFish, and briefly introduced the participants.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2. The main agenda item was on the renewal of the FIRMS website, a second discussion following a first debate held during e-TWG 4.2 (July 2014).
3. The agenda was adopted.

RENEWING OF THE FIRMS WEBSITE - SECOND DISCUSSION

4. Participants were invited to consult the FIRMS Wiki page http://figisapps.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Renewing_the_FIRMS_website to follow the introduction delivered by Mr Taconet and for downloading the presentation prepared by the FIRMS Secretariat with the contribution of Emmanuel Blondel (FAO Consultant, GIS expert). The presentation was delivered by Mr Gentile.
5. The introduction highlighted the need of offering 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. The new user interface will be designed with the primary concern to respond to users' needs. In terms of users, the analysis made on FIRMS communication strategy (FSC8, see FIRMS WIKI at http://figisapps.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/FIRMS_communication_strategy) was recalled: the following main target audiences have been identified as:

- RFBs and their member states;
- Governmental fisheries agencies;
- Global or Regional marine science networks in support to state of the environment and ecosystem;
- INGOs and NGOs influencing seafood consumers and industry on sustainable fisheries.

Therefore 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.
6. Within such context, a presentation on the FIRMS Stocks & Fisheries map viewer was delivered. This presentation introduces a mapping application capable to display stocks, fisheries and other relevant layers in a given area, upon user requests. The main components of the interface, how these could be assembled and examples of underlying competency questions were illustrated and discussed.
 7. The need was expressed to distinguish clearly resource from fishery information, including to provide different entry points to access biological information and management aspects, e.g. management measures.
 8. 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.
 9. Query selectors should be tailored to each thematic area, with the understanding that each thematic area will eventually constitute one entry point. According to the type of user, some selectors could be in fact more relevant than others, e.g. a search by RFB may be relevant to a fishery manager less for a biologist.

10. Similarly, indicators would be created dynamically on the basis of the users search.
11. The Chimaera website <http://smartfish.d4science.org/>, a portal to South West Indian Ocean Fisheries data developed under the SmartFish regional fisheries programme was introduced and briefly navigated. The portal provides access to information and data published in three existing distinct information systems. These systems are: WIOFish (a regional knowledge base of Western Indian Ocean fisheries), FIRMS (specifically disseminating Marine resources from the Western Indian Ocean) and StatBase (a regional fisheries statistics database disseminating national datasets of Western Indian Ocean countries). The Chimaera portal offers a unique entry point to these information systems, using cutting-edge technologies and standards (e.g. an ontology based search engine). Selected thematic areas and dedicated search interfaces are provided on state of species, state of marine resources, fisheries management, fisheries activities, catch statistics and socio-economic information.
12. Participants received positively the underlying philosophy of the Chimaera portal and foresee similar features in the new FIRMS application.
13. 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.
14. 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.

The idea of federate search across different systems was also introduced as possible mean for accessing such linked data.

PARTNERS REPORTING ON OTHER ACTIVITIES

15. No other activities were indicated.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

16. The Secretariat informed the participants about the completed implementation of the FIRMS FSC8 decision FSC8/D6.11: change of display of the reporting year and the reference year in the fact sheets and its underlying logic. Examples were provided.

17. The Secretariat informed the participants about the audio conferencing facility available at the coming FSC9 meeting (Swakopmund, Namibia, 23-24, and 27 February 2015) to allow those Partners not able to attend the meeting to participate remotely. Ms Marrow and on behalf of Mr Hinton, and Ms Everett expressed their interest.

18. The Secretariat reported about Elena Balestri who left the team at the end of 2014 and expressed sincere gratitude for the work done in about ten years of dedicated activity.

19. The meeting was closed at 18:20 PM.

ANNEX 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX 2 - ANNOTATED AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

FIRMS Technical Working Group e-Meeting
Fourth session, 4th part
Online, 5-02-2015
PROVISIONAL 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. Renewing the FIRMS website - second discussion**
We would like to go more in details on the upgrade of the FIRMS website with focus on new user-oriented functionalities. The TWG 4.2 discussion indicated that 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. Among the new facilities discussed, the TWG welcomed the idea of a map viewer integrating different layers (FAO Major fishing areas, RFB competence areas, Species distributions, Stock monitoring areas, Fishing areas, EEZs, bathymetries, etc. Some initial requirements are compiled at http://figisapps.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Renewing_the_FIRMS_website#Stocks_26_Fisheries_map_viewer - Log in required).
- 4. Partners reporting on other activities**
- 5. Any other business**