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Author: Michael Hinton (IATTC)

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<ftp.fao.org/FI/brochure/FIRMS/>

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Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS)

WHAT IS FIRMS?

Partnership

The Fisheries Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS) provides decision-makers and others with high-quality, authoritative information on global marine fisheries resources.

This information provides them the means to develop informed fisheries and marine resource policies in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. FIRMS is a partnership of intergovernmental fisheries organizations with competence for resource assessment and conservation. The partners have committed to ensuring that the information that they develop and validate are published or linked on the FIRMS website, thus providing a single point from which to obtain information and to link to original source materials.



Fisheries are a global fundamental source of food, livelihood and trade. Conservation and protection of aquatic resources requires cooperative, careful stewardship. The good news is that nearly half of all stocks are fully-exploited and producing catches close to their maximum sustainable limits. However, there are indications that overall the state of world fishery resources and their ecosystems are deteriorating. To stop and reverse this trend – achieving sustainable harvest of all fisheries resources – coordinated action must be taken by national, regional, and international institutions and organizations. FIRMS provides the reliable, relevant and up-to-date information on the global scale that is required to make this possible.

FIRMS was established in February 2004 to meet this need for information. In so doing, FIRMS participates in the development and promotion of global standards for collection, compilation, validation and dissemination of data and information on management of marine resources. The success of FIRMS with partners responsible for assessment and management at the international level has fostered a desire for an analogous formal partnership of national fisheries management and scientific institutions agreeing to report and share information on fisheries resources for which they have competence.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES

The Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, adopted by FAO Members on 31 October 1995, contains a broad set of principles and methods for developing and managing fisheries and aquaculture. A voluntary, nonbinding instrument, the Code is widely recognized as the global standard for setting out the aims of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for the coming decades.

Within the framework of the Code, International Plans of Action on Seabirds, Sharks, Fishing Capacity and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, as well as the Strategy for Improving Information on Status and Trends in Capture Fisheries, have been developed as complementary instruments to promote further the objectives of responsible fisheries.

WHAT DOES FIRMS OFFER?

Inventory of stocks and fisheries

FIRMS works as a monitoring system for capture fisheries. It is conducted under the general framework of the 2003 FAO Strategy for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Capture Fisheries (Strategy-STF), which was endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly.

The unique fisheries resources monitored by FIRMS partners ranges from pan-Oceanic stocks and fisheries, to those occurring on smaller, more localized scales. Each partner agrees to provide regularly on the information needed by decision makers for species and fishing areas for which they have primary responsibility. In this way, FIRMS contains a unique and comprehensive vision of the current state of the world's international fisheries. As the partnership has grown and is growing, so has the number of marine resources included in the global inventory.



FIRMS information is presented in synthesized “Fact Sheets” and “State of Resources Summaries” in a common format that makes information of interest to be easily located for any resource in the inventory. For each resource, the FIRMS website pages include images and species descriptions, maps of geographical distributions, general biological and habitat characteristics, scientific assessment results, statements of status and trends, and management and conservation considerations. Every Fact Sheet is sourced with a partner’s relevant links, providing transparent traceability, and when validated by

the partner, they may also include related references and observations from other sources.

HOW DOES FIRMS WORK?

Shared concepts and standards

FIRMS has established core concepts, definitions and data presentation formats and standards to ensure consistency and to provide a basis for a common understanding of the information presented on the FIRMS website. These protocols and standards in reporting were developed by the Partners in order to enhance the overall authoritative value and quality of the information shared in FIRMS.

Marine Resource Fact Sheet Search Print PDF XML

Stock status report 2015
Bigeye tuna - Eastern Pacific (EPO) Citation

Owned by Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) – More Locate in inventory

Related observations

Species:
Thunnus obesus

FAO Names: en - Bigeye tuna, fr - Thon obèse(=Patudo), es - Patudo, ru - Тунец большеглазый

Geographic extent of Bigeye tuna - Eastern Pacific (EPO)

Main Descriptors
Considered a single stock: Yes Spatial Scale: Regional
Management unit: Yes Reference year: 2014

Table of Contents
Habitat and Biology - Geographical Distribution - Water Area Overview - Exploitation - Assessment - Biological State and Trend - Source of information

FIRMS is powered by the Fisheries Global Information System (FIGIS) and benefits from its content management system and information exchange protocol features. Information provided by Partners through streamlined protocols is published on the Web for general access. FIRMS provides partners with the appropriate tools and training to ensure controlled dissemination of high-quality and updated information.

Partners are committed to providing the best scientific evidence on the status and trends of fishery resources and fisheries and to provide statements on the quality of any data posted. For each collection of Fact Sheets, the FIRMS Data Quality Assurance statements describe the set of criteria applied, enabling users to evaluate FIRMS information content.

a) STRATEGY FOR IMPROVING INFORMATION ON STATUS AND TRENDS IN CAPTURE FISHERIES

Strategy-STF, adopted by FAO in 2003 and supporting the principles of the Code of Conduct, provides a framework, strategy and plan to improve the knowledge and understanding of fishery status and trends as a basis for fisheries policy-making and management for the conservation and sustainable use of aquatic resources.

WHAT IS FIRMS' FUTURE?

National partners

A partnership of national management and scientific institutions is needed to provide compiled, consistent, quality information on the status of marine resources that do not fall under the competence of an international body or regional fisheries management organization. This partnership, a National FIRMS, would fulfill the need for easily accessed, consistent, and validated data on marine resources not reported in FIRMS. When in place, the total of information in the International- and National-FIRMS also would highlight resources which are unmonitored, and thus providing policy-makers the starting points for identifying new areas for action and priority. With both International- and National FIRMS partnerships in place would directly support both international and national plans of action for responsible fisheries, as well as bolstering actions needed to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals.

The FIRMS secretariat and system maintenance are both part of the FAO Regular Programme. However, strengthening and expanding the FIRMS concept to include partnerships with national level management and scientific resources will require additional financial resources to fund necessary conferences and workshops, and to keep systems infrastructure up to date and maintained.

The experience gained through establishing the FIRMS partnership of regional fishery bodies with FAO as secretariat has provided the experience and basis from which to build a strong and trusted platform that will serve well at the national level.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
FIRMS Secretariat
Fisheries and Aquaculture Department
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy
E-mail: FIRMS-Secretariat@fao.org
<http://firms.fao.org>

FIRMS PARTNERS

Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)

Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)

Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE)

FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT)

International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)

North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO)

North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)

Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)

South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)