

FIRMS Technical Working Group e-Meeting
Fifth session, 2nd part
Online, 1 December, 2015
REPORT
Author: FSC Secretariat

OPENING OF SESSION AND THE WELCOME ADDRESS














1. The Fifth 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+1) on Tuesday 1st of December 2015. He welcomed the representatives of the following agencies: ICCAT, NAFO, and WECAFC.
2. Being unable to attend the call, CCAMLR and FAO provided off-line feedback on the matters treated in the current TWG. Such comments were stored in the FIRMS Wiki as described hereafter.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

3. The agenda was presented and adopted.
 - Traffic light approach for the FIRMS State & Trend standard indicators, a first implementation for review
 - FIRMS Stocks & Fisheries map viewer, a first prototype for review
 - BlueBRIDGE project and Global Record of Stocks and Fisheries, an update of the progress made so far
 - Updating the FIRMS brochure
 - Any other business

Traffic light approach for the FIRMS State & Trend standard indicators, a first proposal

4. The proposal documented at http://figisapps.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/FIRMS_Fishery_Resources_Standard_descriptors_for_State_and_trend#Traffic_light_approach (log-in required) was presented by Mr Gentile and discussed.
5. The group verified that the proposal document contained the changes agreed in the previous meetings, including the “Uncertain / Not assessed” icon.

High fishing mortality				
Moderate fishing mortality				
No or low fishing mortality				
	Pre-exploitation biomass or high abundance	Intermediate abundance	Low abundance	Depleted
Uncertain / Not assessed				

6. Mr Ramm (CCAMLR) provided comments off-line documented at http://figisapps.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:FIRMS_Fishery_Resources_Standard_descriptors_for_State_and_trend#Traffic_light_approach (login required). In that regard the group pointed out the importance to keep it simple and the convenience of a simple traffic light approach for communication purposes, while for management purpose this could not be enough, and in that case there are other sections of the reports which can be consulted. Icons with arrows to reflect the direction of the approach to the reference point were considered, but it would be difficult to find a criterion for the automatic display, hence some additional manual input would be required. Matrix of lights (overall status, biological reference point, ecosystem approach, fishery management strategy/system) were also considered and the suggestion was to start with the overall status and leave the others for future actions.
7. Mr Ye (FAO) provided comments off-line. The single color applied to the combination of the two dimensions does not give clear indication of any considerable difference between the exploitation rate and the abundance level, e.g. as a consequence of a management action. Two icons, in place of one, could be considered to better rendering the situation; more details are available at http://figisapps.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/Talk:FIRMS_Fishery_Resources_Standard_descriptors_for_State_and_trend#Traffic_light_approach (login required). Since

this proposal was not discussed during the meeting, FIRMS partners are invited to evaluate it for being finally debated during the next TWG meeting.

8. The target audience was also discussed for such iconic indicators, being finally defined as for general public, therefore it would be advisable to keep them as simple and intuitive as possible.
9. Examples of fact sheets (ICCAT, NAFO, ICES, in a restricted environment not publicly available) were presented to illustrate possible output combinations for the traffic light approach.
10. TWG participants finally approved the color scheme, the underlying logic and the display within the Marine Resource fact sheets including the move of the “Biological state and trend” section on top of the Marine Resource fact sheet. ICCAT and NAFO approved the display of the traffic light icons in their fact sheets. Final implementation in the public domain will take place after one more round of revision to be held in the next TWG meeting.

FIRMS Stocks & Fisheries map viewer, a first prototype for review

11. A prototype for the resources and fisheries map viewer was presented and discussed <http://figisapps.fao.org/figis/geoserver/factsheets/firms.html>.
12. Participants showed their conformity with the look and the potential of the tool.
13. Regarding visual clustering of multiple resources/fisheries, it was suggested:
 - the possibility to zoom in the region along the area of interest when clicking the placemarks;
 - opening the information pop-up in a dedicated panel of the screen without overlapping the resource/fishery selected area.
14. Mr Taconet (FAO) highlighted two possible areas of development: different scales of representation (e.g. RFBs vs FAO reporting scale), and combined display of stocks and fisheries as multiple layers in the same map.
15. Mr Ye (offline comment) suggested the possible addition of indicators facilities, i.e. pie charts indicating the percentage of overfished resources by FAO major fishing areas.

16. Participants expressed their will to play with the tool to provide more comments.

BlueBRIDGE project and Global Record of Stocks and Fisheries (GRSF), an update of the progress made so far

17. Mr Gentile summarized the actions made so far. The GRSF is a component of the BlueBRIDGE project, specifically the task n.2 of the workpackage n. 5 “Blue Assessment”. A summary of the overall project can be downloaded here:

<http://goo.gl/8JBNJR>

18. Dedicated calls were made with colleagues from the RAM Legacy Stock Assessment Database and FishSource to get an overview of their data (content, coverage, structure...) and to get details on how to programmatically explore the databases. The harvested content would contribute to the “FIRMS-RAM-FishSource” ontology which will be used to feed the GRSF. In doing that, and through case studies (e.g. stocks and fisheries in the Northwest Atlantic), the three data models (FIRMS, RAM, FishSource) will be also compared to find communalities for the description of stocks and fisheries records.

Some clarifications were also made for access rules and specific policies in place for possible content redistribution.

19. Mr Taconet highlighted the need to involve the FIRMS partners in guiding the development, and in this spirit FIRMS-TWG / BlueBRIDGE / iMarine Advisory Board back-to-back meetings, were launched in Rome and adhesions are sought.

Updating the FIRMS brochure (<ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/brochure/FIRMS/>)

20. Mr Hinton (IATTC) is expected to work on the shared GoogleDoc of the brochure; once completed and possibly revised by other FIRMS colleagues, Ms Pacey will finalize the layout including new images, and a PDF version will be made available. Translations will be provided once the product is completed and approved.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

21. Ms. Nancie Cummings (NOAA) reported about her attendance at the WECAFC VIIIth SAG meeting (Panama, 7-8 November 2015) on behalf of the FIRMS Secretary and NOAA. At the VIIIth SAG an update on the activities and achievements fostered by the WECAFC-FIRMS collaboration was delivered (meeting document

WECAFC/SAG/VII/2015/7).

The WECAFC-FIRMS regional database project, funded by DG-MARE (EU), aims to strengthen reporting capacities among regional and national experts on the status of stocks and fisheries under regional Fishery Management plans (FMPs).

The process is demand driven (i.e., supplying data for supporting existing management plans) and should lead to developing a regional database for data sharing and fisheries assessments, and to identify weaknesses and recommend support to national data collection and data management where necessary.

One such example of national support to data collection and dissemination is the FAO's Technical Cooperation Project in Bahamas. It was noted that the target FIRMS audience included Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs), national agencies of governments, Officers working on global analyses quantifying the state of fishery resources, international NGOs (e.g., Sustainable Fisheries Partnership, Ocean Trust), and the general public. The process functions to increase visibility, provide a dissemination capacity, foster information exchange, be responsive to needs of fishery management plans (FMPs) particularly in the effort towards identifying minimum data requirements and capacity building, and to provide information via a regional dashboard on status indicators (e.g., CLME+). There was much discussion in the regional database project and also the activities relating to improving data sharing in the region. The SAG was requested to provide feedback on relevant aspects of the WECAFC-FIRMS Partnership development and related projects in particular to support mobilization of national participation in the upcoming WECAFC-FIRMS regional data base workshop and the preparation of national inventories of fisheries and identification of data collection deficiencies and gaps.

The PPT can be downloaded at <http://goo.gl/JmT8MM> (iMarine workspace).

22. Mr Taconet informed the group that Mr Neil Campbell will leave in few months his chair role of the FIRMS SC, he made compliments for his activities and regret for his departure. He also raised the need to address the vacancy and how to proceed. In the meantime Nancie Cummings is available for the interim, being the vice-chair of the FIRMS SC.
23. No other topics were discussed.
24. The meeting was closed at 6:20 p.m.

ANNEX 1

<h3>LIST OF PARTICIPANTS</h3>

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ANNEX 2 - ANNOTATED AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

FIRMS Technical Working Group e-Meeting
Fifth session, 2nd part
Online, 1-12-2015
PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA AND TIMETABLE
Author: FIRMS Secretariat

From 17:00 hours to 18:00 hours Rome time (CET, UTC+1)

- 1. Opening of session and introduction**
- 2. Adoption of agenda**
- 3. Traffic light approach for the FIRMS State & Trend standard indicators, a first implementation for review**

Following the display of the FIRMS State and Trend standard descriptors together with the partners' indicators (approved as FSC9/D7.1 and implemented on April 2015), during FSC9 it was also agreed to move towards the "traffic light approach" where possible (approved as FSC9/D7.2). TWG5.1 discussed the first proposal documented at http://figisapps.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/FIRMS_Fishery_Resources_Standard_descriptors_for_State_and_trend#Traffic_light_approach (Log in required) and provided guidelines on its implementation. The secretariat implemented the underlying logic for the colour scheme and examples will be provided and discussed during the call.
- 4. FIRMS Stocks & Fisheries map viewer, a first prototype for review**

The development of the FIRMS Stocks & Fisheries map viewer is related to FSC9 decision D9.4, in the context of renewing the FIRMS website. The initial discussions took place at TWG4 and FSC9, a mock-up was discussed at TWG5.1 and the Secretariat has now developed a first prototype for review.
- 5. BlueBRIDGE project and Global Record of Stocks and Fisheries, an update of the progress made so far**

Related to FSC9 decision D9.5, the Secretariat will briefly inform on the progress made so far in collaboration with colleagues of FishSource and RAM Legacy Stock Assessment database.
- 6. Updating the FIRMS brochure**

NAFO volunteered to update the FIRMS brochure (available at <ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/brochure/FIRMS/>). IATTC, SEAFO and WECAFC volunteered for the revision of the text.
- 7. Any other business**