

Status of the FIGIS-ASFA cooperation

(by M. Taconet, FAO)

The June 2001 ASFA board meeting (Brest) requested that FAO works out the elements of a protocol for interoperability between FIGIS and ASFA, including a geographical interface to query ASFA records. A first visit to CSA in October 2001 permitted the elaboration of a workplan. This workplan and related costs was submitted to the July 2002 ASFA board meeting (Rome) which approved the allocation of a Trust Fund amounting to USD 20,000.

Between July 2002 and June 2003, FIGIS developed a first prototype of the Geographical Query tool (see URL in footnote¹), and contributed to the elaboration of the Fisheries ontology where AGROVOC, FIGIS and ASFA terms are integrated. In June and October 2003, M.Taconet paid 2 visits to CSA in order to examine the progress and to discuss next steps, referring to the initial workplan (see Annex 46 of ASFA board meeting 2003 report) .

The activities that took place during the period June 2003-September 2005 were still pursuing the objectives reported at the last ASFA board meeting:

- ✓ customising the FIGIS geographical query tool into a CSA-ASFA web-service: ASFA subscribers hitting the CSA-ASFA search interface will besides the text query fields be able to get the FIGIS geographical query tool in such a way that the geographical criteria returned from the FIGIS tool will be combined with the other non-geographical ones. The geographical query tool will initially include the ASFA Sea codes layer, the FIGIS statistical area layer (allowing the inclusion of common names such as Georges Bank), and the country layer (this layer will eventually be extended by a sub-national administrative boundaries third zooming level layer).
- ✓ being able to access from a species or a stock fact sheet ASFA abstracts relevant to that species or that stock. In order to avoid falling in the caveats of issues related to system security, this service will initially be only available to FAO users. Other users will only get demo sets.

These objectives are nearly achieved, and a progress status summary is hereby presented:

- the geographical query tool is now considered in a beta test stage and will be demonstrated to the ASFA board meeting in order to receive feedback and enable finalisation of the graphic interface. Close interaction is on-going with CSA in order to firm-up the interactions between the CSA site and the FIGIS site;
- the dynamic links from FIGIS species fact sheets to CSA/ASFA data base are implemented on the FIGIS intranet site in order to get feedback from FI professionals, and will be demonstrated to the ASFA board meeting for comments and suggestions. Considering that in principle only ASFA registered users may have access to CSA/ASFA records, the conditions under which this intranet version can be made available on the internet has to be discussed by the board.

The list of actions which were agreed upon to reach these two objectives are updated with a completion status in Annex-1 of this document. On-going activities for the development of the necessary GIS layers and customisation of the FIGIS geographical query tool are being charged on the ASFA Trust Fund. Expenses incurred as of September 2005 amount to \$11,715 for a total amount of \$20,000 agreed initially. It is suggested that the remaining funds be used to finalise the tool taking into account ASFA board meeting comments and CSA systems' requirements, and to support the preparation and integration of additional GIS layers of interest to ASFA in FIGIS. As far as dynamic links from FIGIS fact sheets to CSA/ASFA website is concerned, remaining funds would as well cover a move towards an internet service controlling effective user access rights.

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Workplan agreed with CSA to make operational the CSA-ASFA geographical query tool, and to allow an access to ASFA records from species and stocks fact sheets.

September 2005 update

objective	What	Who	Status
	Standardisation of ASFA DB		
	integrate standard country codes (ISO) in CSA database	CSA	in progress
	agree on a standard for continents (either name or a code), and implement if necessary the standard in CSA DB	CSA- FIGIS	OK – UN standard
	integrate standard ASFIS species 3alpha codes in CSA database	CSA	in progress
	Integration of FIGIS geographical query tool in CSA-ASFA query scenarios		
	work out detailed specifications for this integration to occur (split/integrated window; CSA's IDS session parameter; session closing requirements; URL syntax to be constructed in the FIGIS geogr. Q. tool; need for codes only, or codes + names to be sent to the IDS side, ...)	CSA	OK
	discuss these specifications with FIGIS	CSA- FIGIS	OK
	Customisation of the FIGIS geographical query tool		
	develop the ASFA Sea Codes GIS layer	FIGIS	OK
	develop the KIMS/KIDS GIS project for ASFA: this KIMS project will initially include ASFA Sea codes layer, FIGIS statistical area layer (allowing the inclusion of common names such as Georges Bank), and continent and country layer (this layer will eventually be extended by the sub-national administrative boundaries third zooming level layer).	FIGIS	OK
	Note: the prototype version was developed in 2003 based on the KIMS GIS software. The new version destined for production was re-engineered during 2004-2005 based on the KIDS GIS software.		
	develop the front end interface according to specifications agreed with CSA-ASFA	FIGIS	in progress
	Adaptation of the CSA/ASFA web site interface		
	adap the front end interface in order to integrate the FIGIS geographical query tool, according to specifications agreed with FIGIS	CSA	No
	direct Query of ASFA abstracts from FIGIS species and stocks fact sheets, for FAO users		
	Provide specifications for the URL string	CSA	OK
	integrate in its interface the dynamic construction of the query tool	FIGIS	OK