



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations



# REGIONAL FISHERY BODY<sup>1</sup> SECRETARIATS' NETWORK

## **Eighth Meeting**

### **Videoconference**

**24 February 2021 (16:00-19:00 hrs CET)<sup>2</sup>**

**25 February 2021 (00:00-03:00 hrs CET)**

## **FISHERIES AND RESOURCES MONITORING SYSTEM (FIRMS) SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES (2019-2020)**

### **MESSAGE FROM THE FIRMS SECRETARY**

The Secretariat of the Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System Partnership (FIRMS) <http://firms.fao.org> would like to say thank you to all Partners for the kind collaboration and timely data contributions throughout 2019 and 2020. These two years were particularly productive for FIRMS and its partners. With the new Collaborative Arrangement mechanism signed by three national or NGO resource partners, and the uptake under the FIRMS governance umbrella of two applications (FIRMS Tuna Atlas, Global Record of Stocks and Fisheries), we believe that FIRMS successfully consolidated its foundations to support its expansion steps. In fact, three new regional fishery bodies (RFBs) partners joined FIRMS and other RFBs are warmly invited to join the partnership which will increase the contribution of the international community to the UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals. Through a collective work, FIRMS can have the ambition to support the monitoring of SDG14.4.1 through harmonized web-based stocks inventories. As well, it can contribute to responsible consumers' behavior by providing easy access to status of stocks and fisheries through the uptake of unique identifiers in traceability schemes of fishery products. Please contact us at [FIRMS-Secretariat@fao.org](mailto:FIRMS-Secretariat@fao.org). And we would like to take this opportunity to update you on the main achievements for the 2019-2020 period.

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Team Leader Information and knowledge management,  
Fisheries Division,  
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<sup>1</sup> Documents can be consulted at <http://www.fao.org/fishery/nems/41296/en>

<sup>2</sup> Rescheduled from 11 and 17 July 2020.

## New and updated partnership instruments

- [FIRMS Partnership Arrangement](#)
- [FAO-FIRMS Collaborative Arrangement](#)
- [FIRMS Rules of Procedure](#)

## New partners

- Signing of three new partners: Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC), Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA), and South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO).
- Signing of three Collaborative Arrangements: Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas (FORTH), Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD), and Sustainable Fisheries Partnerships (SFP).
- [Signed MoU between FAO and National Research Council of Italy](#) - Institute for Computer Science and Technologies (CNR-ISTI) for iMarine in support to sustainable fisheries.
- Letter of intent by the Hilborn Lab, School of Aquatic and Fisheries Sciences, University of Washington.

## FIRMS 2019-2020 outreach activities

The FIRMS Secretariat and/or FIRMS partner representatives participated in the following outreach activities:

- Eleventh meeting of the Working Group on Fisheries Management, Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI), Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 19-21 February 2019.
- Fourth meeting of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) Scientific Committee, Yokohama, Japan, 25-29 March 2019.
- Fourth Scientific Committee Meeting of the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC), NPFC-FIRMS Partnership, Jeju, Republic of Korea, 23-26 April 2019.
- CEEAF-PESCAO Inception meeting, Akosombo, Ghana, 24-26 April 2019.
- Twenty-sixth session of the Coordinating Working Party on fishery statistics, Rome, Italy, 15-18 May 2019.
- Tenth session of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG), Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC), Electronic SAG, 4 June 2019.
- Sixth Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA), Mauritius, 1-5 July 2019.
- Eleventh WIOMSA symposium, Mauritius, 1-6 July 2019.
- Tenth Session of the Regional Commission for Fisheries, RECOFI side event, Rome, Italy, 10 July 2019.
- Seventeenth session of the WECAFC, Florida, USA, 15-18 July 2019.
- Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS) Training and Dissemination Workshop, Online, Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute KMFRI-Dolphin Hall, Kenya, 4 September 2019.
- Fishing Data East Africa (FIDEA) Inception Workshop, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 16-17 September 2019.
- Twenty-second session of the Fishery Committee for the Central Eastern Atlantic (CECAF) Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP), Gabon, 17-19 September 2019.
- Blue-Cloud Kick-off meeting, TBC, Pisa, Italy, 2-4 October 2019.
- 72nd Annual Gulf & Caribbean Fisheries Institute, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, 4-8 November 2019.
- International Symposium on Fisheries Sustainability, Rome, Italy, 18-21 November 2019.
- Third Meeting of the WECAFC/ Caribbean Regional Fishery Mechanism (CRFM)/ French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea (IFREMER) Working Group on Shrimp and Groundfish of the North Brazil-Guianas Shelf Paramaribo, Suriname, 26-27 November 2019.

- Second meeting of the WECAFC- Caribbean Regional Fishery Mechanism (CRFM)-OSPESCA Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group (FDS-WG), online, 12-16 October 2020.
- Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA), 7th Meeting of the Parties of the South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (MoP7), online, 17-20 November 2020.
- North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC), 5th NPFC Scientific Committee Meeting, online, 24-27 November 2020.
- 4th Meeting of the WECAFC/CRFM/ French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea (IFREMER) Working Group on Shrimp and Groundfish of the North Brazil-Guianas Shelf, Online 18-19 November 2020.

### **FIRMS Secretariat 2019 -2020 meetings**

- FIRMS Technical Working Group e-Meeting, TWG 6.2 online, 2 April 2019.
- FIRMS Steering Committee Meeting Eleventh Session, FSC11, Rome, Italy, 13-14 and 18 May 2019.
- FIRMS and Fisheries Statistics Training, Rome February 17-19, 2020.
- FIRMS and fishery statistics capacity development data workshop, Online 26-30 October 2020.
- FIRMS Technical Working Group e-Meeting on the Tuna Atlas, Online 22, 25 and 26 February 2021.

### **Web products**

- Pilot release of the Global Record of Stocks and Fisheries (GRSF)
  - Browse the [Catalogue of GRSF records](#).
  - Browse the GRSF records through the [Map viewer](#).
- Pre-release of FIRMS Global Atlas of Tuna and Tuna-like species.
- Release of the FAO [SmartForms mobile App](#) (data hub and registration available [here](#)).

#### **About the FIRMS Tuna Atlas**

The FIRMS Tuna atlas is going to be released soon (first quarter 2021) offering a first online access to globally harmonized Tuna fisheries datasets, outcome of a partnership gathering the five Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna [CCSBT], Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission [IATTC], International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas [ICCAT], Indian Ocean Tuna Commission [IOTC], Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean [WCPFC]), FAO and the Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD), in close collaboration with the Coordinating Working Party of Fishery Statistics (CWP). The FIRMS Tuna atlas is expected to be maintained on a yearly basis, with a growing range of global datasets produced and harmonized as joint effort of the above organizations.

#### **About the Global Record of Stocks and Fisheries (GRSF)**

The pilot release of the GRSF was published in November 2019 in occasion of the FAO International Symposium on Fisheries Sustainability.

The GRSF is a global repository of uniquely identified stocks and fisheries resulting from collation and merging of records across multiple data sources: FIRMS (Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System), RAM (RAM Legacy Stock Assessment Database) and FishSource (Program of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership). Forth provides the enabling knowledge base infrastructure.

In a growing data-dependent world, with communities seeking for the best available scientific evidence to apply the most effective management measures, the GRSF is the digital answer offering key services in support of: 1) stakeholders involved in global/regional/national state of stocks indicators – particularly for SDG 14.4.1 “Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels” (2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development A/RES/71/313), and 2) public and private actors involved in seafood traceability and certification including catch documentation schemes, ecolabelling schemes, food safety, sustainable fisheries.

As of today, the database publicly disseminates information for more than 1 800 stocks and a pilot dataset of about 100 fisheries, while the database contains for reviewing an additional 1 600 stocks and over 10 000 fisheries.

## Communication and standards

- New [FIRMS Poster](#)
- New FIRMS communicational material
- Updated [Information Management Policy](#) and FIRMS Marine Resource data model in support to SDG 14.4.1

## New stocks and fisheries reports

- 268 Marine Resource fact sheets produced [Reporting year 2020: 36, 2019: 148, 2018: 84]
- 26 Fishery fact sheets produced [Reporting year 2020: 7, 2019: 10, 2018: 9]

Browse the status of stocks and fisheries inventoried by the FIRMS partners through the [FIRMS Map Viewer](#)

