

A role for FIRMS in support to SDG14.4.1 “Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels”

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Outline

1. International framework for SDG and SDG14.4.1 status
2. FAO's action as custodian of SDG indicator 14.4.1
3. A role for FIRMS
4. Action requested by FSC10



Sustainable Development Goals



Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



- 14.1 Marine Pollution
- 14.2 Sustainably manage and protect coastal ecosystems
- 14.3 Minimize and address Ocean Acidification
- 14.4 Effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing IUU fishing
- 14.5 Conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas
- 14.6 Prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute IUU fishing
- 14.7 Increase the Economic benefit SIDS
- 14.a Scientific knowledge
- 14.C conservation and sustainable use
- 14.b Small scale fisheries

SDG 14.4 – monitoring progress towards achieving sustainable fisheries



Target 14.4 states: “By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics”.

Progress towards this target will be measured and monitored through the SDG indicators, of which → SDG 14.4.1 “Proportion of fish stocks within sustainable levels”



Overarching SDG process and role of FAO

UNSD requirement on SDGs

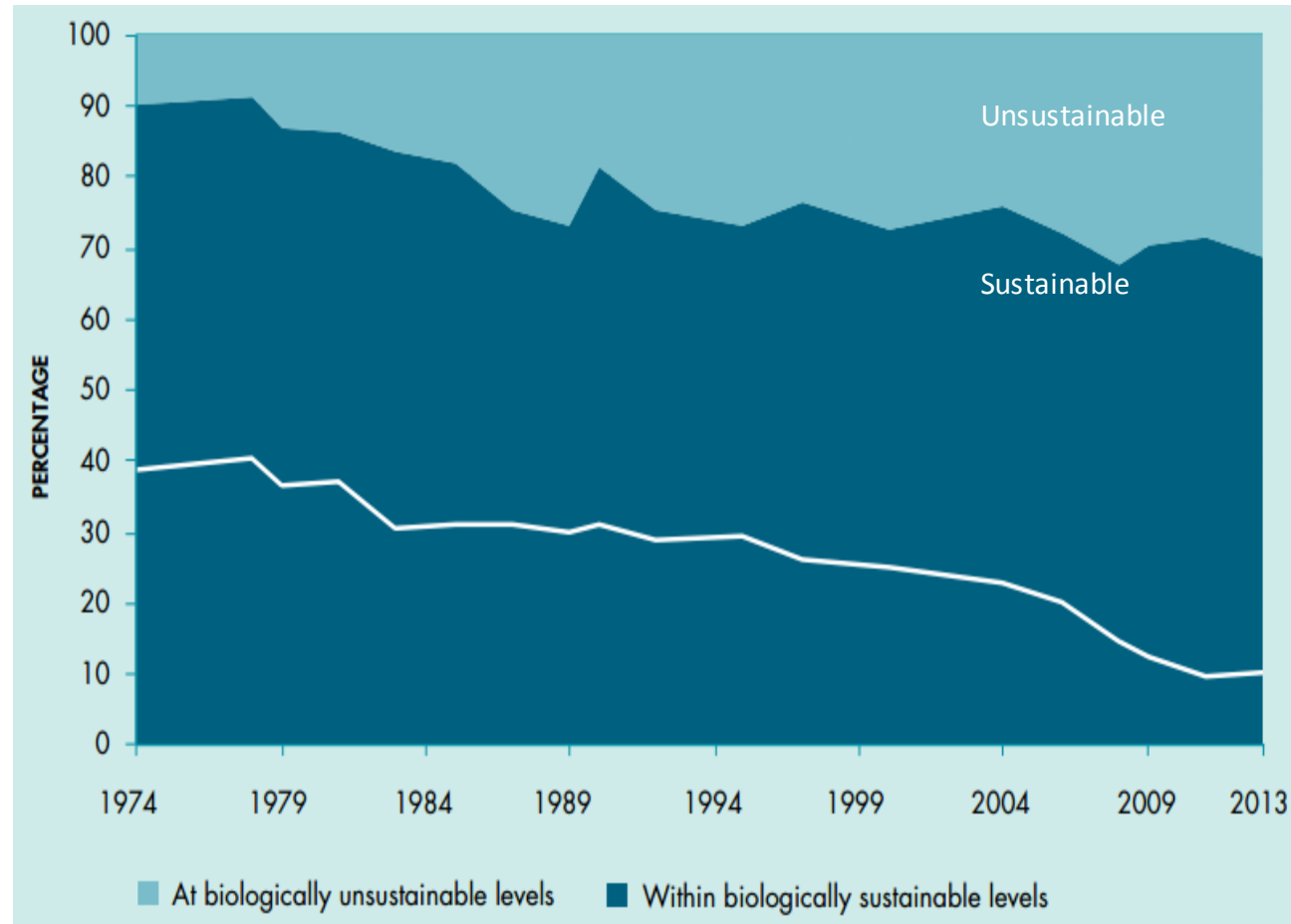
the SDG process is driven by countries, countries are chiefly responsible for gathering data and reporting on their indicators

Role of FAO as custodian agency of 21 SDG indicators

- technical advisory and policy role (international instruments)
- facilitate the process, provide technical support, and build capacity
- help ensure that national data are comparable and aggregated at subregional, regional and global levels
- overall reporting on progress to UNSD

FAO SOFIA - Global Trends in World Marine Fish Stock since 1974

- FAO regularly reports as part of its biennial SOFIA publication the state of fish stocks at global level
- This global level indicator needs to be adapted in order to become an indicator compliant with UNSD guidelines, i.e. owned and reported by countries.



- 70% sustainable in 2013
- ~30% overfished in 2013
- The decreasing trend has not been resolved



Scope: individual stocks which can be potentially reported under SDG14.4.1

National stocks:

- countries undertake their own stock assessment;
- where lacking capacity, FAO or other organizations can help

Regional/shared/straddling Stocks:

- are under RFMO/RFBs mandate
- should be excluded from countries assessment inside EEZs

Regional/shared/straddling Stocks out of RFMO/RFB mandate:

- FAO could come-up with a framework proposing various options regarding attribution rules.
- COFI could be used to endorse one of the options

FAO's action as custodian of SDG target 14.4.1

FAO is developing a capacity building plan for of its member countries

identification of a **suitable set of DLM** stock assessment methods

guidelines on the monitoring framework

development of an e-training curriculum

convening of a **global expert workshop** involving regional experts:

- methods will be peer reviewed for endorsement,
- experts will be trained as trainers,
- reporting framework and options will be reviewed

FAO's action as custodian of SDG target 14.4.1



COFI33 key milestone for countries to reach agreement

the overall reporting methodology

the methods ..., what species ... , how data collected ... , who should do the assessment ... , ... reporting framework

the role of RFBs:

- in facilitating the capacity building process,
- in ensuring consistency in an inventory based approach (should this option be selected).

FAO's action as custodian of SDG target 14.4.1

COFI33 key milestone for countries to reach agreement

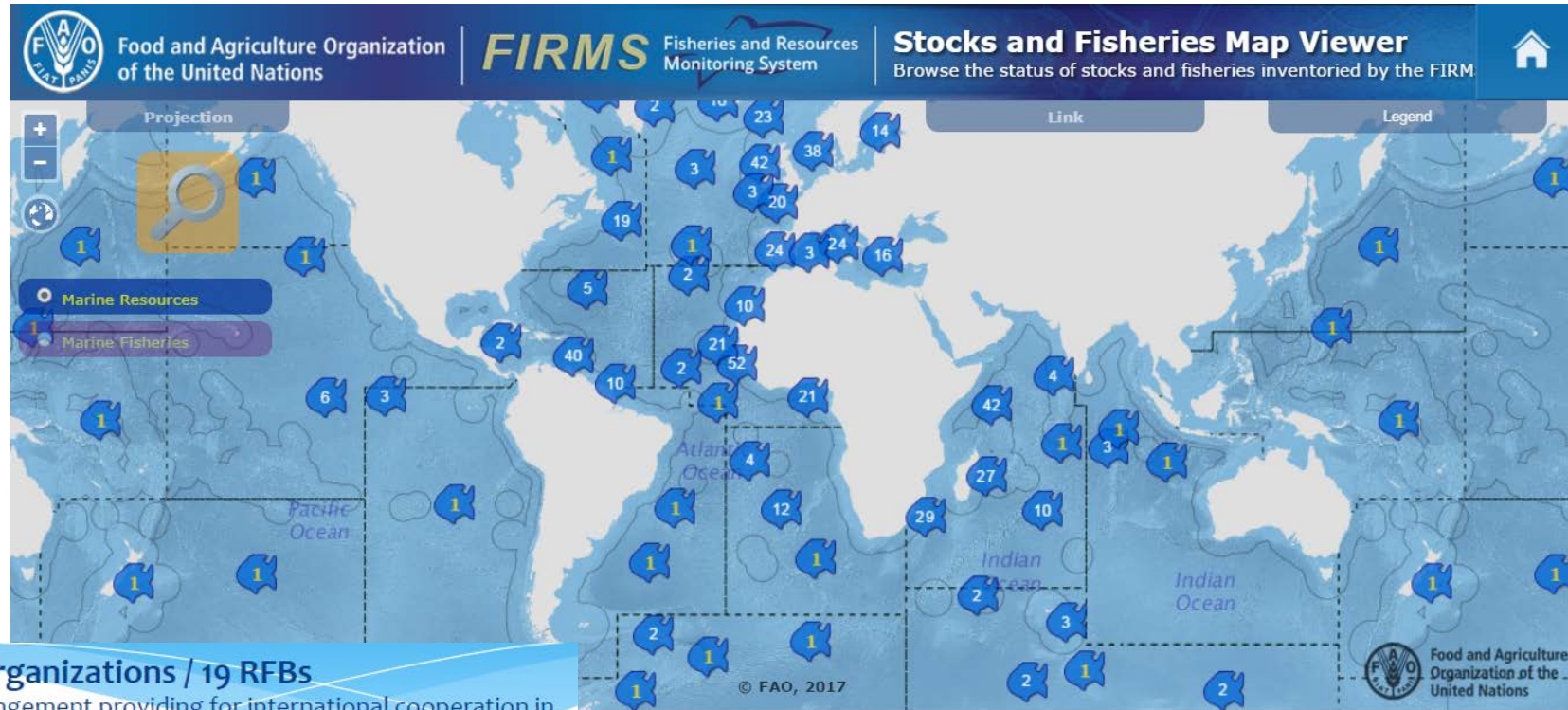
Baseline: Ownership of consistent and comparable reporting lies in countries.
Ensuring comparability and consistency globally

As Option for COFI33: a standards' based inventory mechanism:

- traceability and transparency
- comparability across national ... regional ... global level
- to strengthen SOFIA's indicator on the state of stocks

Review of **FIRMS as dissemination instrument** supporting the above

Key reference instrument to help FAO fulfil its custodianship role



❖ 14 intergovernmental organizations / 19 RFBs subscribed the Partnership Arrangement providing for international cooperation in the development and maintenance of FIRMS



FIRMS is an information sharing partnership to facilitate the monitoring of stocks status among

- 14 International organizations
- 19 RFBs

Key reference instrument to help FAO fulfil its custodianship role

FIRMS mandate and coverage

Mandate to promote development and extension of fisheries status and trends reporting to all fisheries resources (Article 1.1 of the FIRMS Partnership Arrangement)

On-going efforts: timeliness, increase coverage

FIRMS Standards (IMP):

facilitate transparency and comparability among single stock status reports
provide a unique reference framework for implementation of SDG14.4.1

FIRMS database:

shared stocks under RFBs mandates

But also under RFBs monitoring capacity

national stocks / assessment units

status of national fisheries



Key reference instrument to help FAO fulfil its custodianship role



NatFIRMS: an expansion of FIRMS to national level

FSC6 stated about NatFIRMS

- NatFIRMS development can be initiated;
- a separate entity, operational context will require many interactions with FIRMS
 - Coordination and interoperability
 - Role of each FIRMS partner important
- nations may decide to contribute information to FIRMS via RFBs
- Agreed that maximum benefit of NatFIRMS would likely be realized ... under the following priorities:
 - maintaining high levels of support for FIRMS;
 - focusing capacity building in developing regions.

Key reference instrument to help FAO fulfil its custodianship role



The Global Record of Stocks and Fisheries (GRSF)

An opportunity to provide concrete ground for NatFIRMS in the context of SDG14.4.1 framework

GRSF goals

- register a comprehensive list of distinct stocks and fisheries
- offer key services to:
 - stakeholders involved in “regional/global state of stocks indicators”
 - public and private actors involved in eco-labelling, traceability and sustainable fisheries
- FSC9 supported the project idea
 - CCAMLR, FAO, NAFO, and WECAFC have represented FIRMS

Key reference instrument to help FAO fulfil its custodianship role



NatFIRMS – GRSF – SDG14.4.1 together create momentum

Opportunity for FAO to propose to COFI members:

a transparent, inventory and standards' based monitoring framework for SDG14.4.1

with agreed rules aiming at comparability among countries and consistency across scales

which would strengthen SOFIA's global indicator on the state of stocks by building more systematically on both regional and national level stocks



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1. Identify issues which might arise when disseminating national inventories of stock status jointly with RFBs regional level inventories
 2. Review GRSF including current status and further development plans:
Workflow and procedures, data services, data sharing, business model, role of FIRMS Secretariat and FIRMS Partners
 3. Provide guidance regarding the specific role of FIRMS in facilitating the SDG14.4.1 outreach, capacity building, and consistency
 4. advise on conditions and steps which should be followed for FIRMS and GRSF to effectively provide a monitoring framework for SDG14.4.1
 5. formulate an overall position statement encompassing the above considerations :
For FAO management considerations
For use during the development process of the SDG14.4.1 reporting framework