

## FIRMS latest developments and updates

**December 2013**

*Dear FIRMS colleagues and users,*

*this e-Bulletin highlights the latest developments and updates in FIRMS. You are most welcomed to distribute it to your community.*

*Best regards*

*The FIRMS secretariat team*



**FIRMS Welcomes NASCO** - The **North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO)** has become the 14<sup>th</sup> member of the FIRMS Partnership. NASCO is an international organization, established by an inter-governmental Convention in 1984. The objective of NASCO is to conserve, restore, enhance and rationally manage Atlantic salmon through international cooperation taking account of the best available scientific information.



About **300 reports** have been updated during this year with the latest information on state of stocks and status & trends of fisheries and their management. Updates mostly cover the following regions

- **Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF)**
- **Eastern Pacific (IATTC)**
- **Indian Ocean including the Gulf area (RECOFI)**
- **Mediterranean Sea (GFCM)**
- **Northeast Atlantic (ICES)**
- **Northwest Atlantic (NAFO)**
- **Southeast Atlantic (SEAFO)**



The entire content of the recently published "**Review of the state of the world marine fishery resources**" (FI Technical Paper 569) has been published within FIRMS website in the form of 21 new fact sheets (18 marine resources and 3 fisheries) representing the updated contribution of the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department to the partnership. Through relevant links to FIRMS partner's State and Trend summaries now enabled within each of these marine resource fact sheet, FIRMS allows users to track down to regional and local sources the evidence underlying FAO's global statements on the state of marine resources.

This collection of fact sheets is advertised in the FIRMS home page through the highlight "FAO Review of the state of the world marine fisheries resources" linking to the introductory chapter "**Global overview of marine fishery resources**".



### **WECAFC-FIRMS workshop on Resources and Fisheries inventories**

This workshop involving officers from national, sub-regional and regional organizations was the fourth of this kind in the FIRMS initiative. It came after the ones held in CECAF, RECOFI and SWIOFC areas, and confirmed the heterogeneity of the regions and the need of adapting such experiences to the nature of the places and the political and geographical realities. Participants were fisheries experts from Anguilla, Barbados (CERMES), El Salvador, France (Guyana and Martinique), Trinidad

and Tobago, the United States of America, CRFM, CLME Project, GCFI, CFMC, SICA/OSPESCA, CNFO-CU, the FIRMS' Secretariat, the Technical Secretary of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) and two FAO technical support staff also attended the meeting.

Major outcomes:

- Clarification of FIRMS framework and the group's appraisal of its value addition and potential for Return on Investment;
- Outlines of a possible collaboration framework between WECAFC, CRFM and OSPESCA for supporting the FIRMS data sharing framework at sub-regional and regional level; and related roles and responsibilities including at Member State level;
- Identification of a minimum set of data that will constitute the base for the initial WECAFC data contribution;
- Road map for an effective and fruitful collaboration of all the parties involved (FIRMS, WECAFC, CRFM, OSPESCA and CLME project), including for the required funding support.



**Chimaera portal** - with the support of the SmartFish and iMarine projects, FIRMS, WIOFish and STATBASE are collaborating to develop '*Chimaera*', a regional portal which will provide users with comprehensive and consistent access to fisheries information available in the South West Indian Ocean region. A running prototype of the portal will be presented at the end of January 2014 in a stakeholder workshop.

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Comments? Please write to [FIRMS-Secretariat@fao.org](mailto:FIRMS-Secretariat@fao.org)

