

UPDATE OF THE PROPOSED PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN ICCAT AND FIGIS-FIRMS

ICCAT Secretariat¹

SUMMARY

The Fisheries Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS) is a project for the global dissemination of information on fisheries coordinated by FAO. This document provides information on current and potential collaboration between ICCAT and FAO on this project. Since the last update, ICCAT has participated in a training session, and the Partnership Arrangement has been finalized for signature and the basis for a FIRMS Steering Committee established. In 2003, the SCRS should advise the Commission if it recommends that ICCAT be a signatory to the FIRMS Partnership Arrangement, and if so, the timetable for ICCAT's implementation of the Partnership.

RÉSUMÉ

Le Fisheries Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS) (système de suivi des ressources halieutiques) est un programme, coordonné par la FAO, visant à la dissémination globale de l'information sur les pêcheries. Le présent document fournit des informations sur la collaboration actuelle et potentielle entre l'ICCAT et la FAO sur ce programme. Depuis la dernière évaluation, l'ICCAT a participé à une session de formation, et l'Accord de partenariat a été finalisé pour être signé, tandis que les bases ont été posées pour l'établissement d'un comité d'orientation du FIRMS. En 2003, le SCRS devrait faire savoir à la Commission s'il recommande que l'ICCAT soit signataire de l'Accord de partenariat du FIRMS et, dans l'affirmative, indiquer les délais prévus pour que l'ICCAT mette en œuvre le partenariat.

RESUMEN

El Sistema de Seguimiento de Recursos Pesqueros (FIRMS) es un proyecto para la difusión global de la información sobre pesquerías coordinado por FAO. Este documento proporciona información sobre la colaboración actual y potencial entre ICCAT y la FAO en este proyecto. Desde la última actualización, ICCAT ha participado en una sesión de formación, se ha completado el Acuerdo de Asociación que está listo para la firma y se ha establecido el Comité Directivo de FIRMS. En 2003, el SCRS deberá asesor a ICCAT sobre si debe ser parte firmante del Acuerdo de Asociación FIRMS, y de ser así, sobre el calendario de implementación de la asociación por parte de ICCAT:

KEYWORDS

Fisheries monitoring, Information dissemination

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1 Introduction

FIGIS (Fisheries Global Information System, www.fao.org/fi/figis) is a distributed web-based network encompassing fisheries resources, biology, technology, aquaculture and trade. FIGIS is being developed by FAO. It is intended to support the global analysis of fisheries issues by offering a single and unique entry point to strategic data, information, analyses and reviews of issues and trends on a broad range of fisheries subjects.

As a network, FIGIS interconnects a number of subsystems such as:

- FIRMS: The Fishery Resources Monitoring System. This is a global aquatic resource monitoring system made up of modules on species, resources, fisheries and fisheries management systems. FIRMS draws together a unified partnership of international organizations, regional fishery bodies and national scientific institutes collaborating within a formal agreement who are willing to report and share information on fishery resources.
- GLOBEFISH: Contains information on international fish trade.
- ASFA: The Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstract, a bibliographical database.
- Other Subsystems: For example, on Aquaculture, Trade and Marketing, and Research.

ICCAT is already a partner in ASFA. This document is a follow-up on Restrepo and Taconet (2001) and Restrepo and Palma (2002), dealing with the possibility of ICCAT also becoming a partner in FIRMS.

2 2003 update

During the past two years, the ICCAT Secretariat, together with staff from other regional organizations (RFBs), has collaborated with the FAO in developing a prototype of FIRMS (Restrepo and Palma 2003; Restrepo and Taconet 2001). This exercise started with the building case studies based on different stocks (see 2.2.2). In 2003, there have been two *Ad Hoc* Meetings on the Establishment of the Fisheries Resources Monitoring System to develop a Partnership Arrangement (see 2.1) and the Secretariat has also participated in a training session (see 2.2.1). The collaboration with FAO and other RFBs has been made through visits by FAO staff to the ICCAT Secretariat, through the participation of ICCAT staff in the *Ad Hoc* Meetings and other meetings where FIGIS/FIRMS has been discussed, in a dedicated training session at FAO headquarters (4 days), and by correspondence.

The potential of having harmonized presentation of stock status reports across the various fisheries Commissions is very worthwhile. In addition, the possibility of extending the application to Fishery Management Systems, could have considerable application to ICCAT.

2.1 Partnership Arrangement and formation of Steering Committee

In 2003 (28 February, and 30 June - 1 July), there were two *Ad Hoc* Meetings on the Establishment of the Fisheries Resources Monitoring System. The goal was to finalize the FIRMS Partnership Arrangement and draft the Rules of Procedure for the FIRMS Steering Committee (FSC). Following the second meeting, the revised draft Arrangement was circulated and is attached as **Appendix 1**. It is anticipated that in autumn 2003, expected partners would sign the Partnership Arrangement and suggest a timetable for the implementation of the FIRMS Partnership.

The start-up of the FIRMS Partnership requires initial membership by five Partners in addition to FAO that are members of the Coordinating Party on Fisheries Statistics (CWP). The FSC will be activated when the FIRMS Partnership has entered into force.

2.2 Implementation

FAO has requested that potential Partners should suggest a timetable for the implementation of the FIRMS Partnership.

2.2.1 Training

The ICCAT Secretariat has participated in a one-week training session and now has a better idea of the time commitment and benefits of the Partnership Arrangement. Training consisted of an introduction to the FIRMS

system, instruction on the use of XML, and processing 2 ICCAT Executive Summaries into FIRMS fact sheets (BET and SWO). Discussions also took place regarding ICCAT's use of the FIRMS system.

The 2003 training session was very informative and useful as a first use of the FIRMS system. The FIRMS tool is impressive and has tremendous potential. While FIRMS is still at the development stage, it is recognized that considerable development has already taken place, and feedback to the FIGIS team following the session was directed at "fine-tuning" for the ICCAT application.

2.2.2 Sample fact sheets

Initially, the ICCAT – FIRMS collaboration started with the building of case studies based on different stocks, and for ICCAT, the North and South Atlantic albacore Executive Summaries (1999) were used as a template, and FAO staff created the XML code for a resource object on Atlantic albacore. On 6 March 2003 ICCAT Head Scientists were sent the web site link for the ICCAT albacore case study as prepared by the Secretariat and FAO (http://www.fao.org/fi/figis/resrsc/stockres_1.jsp). During the training session at FAO Headquarters (31 March to 4 April), preparation of draft of Atlantic bigeye and Atlantic swordfish fact sheets was initiated.

The FIGIS team has indicated that the ICCAT Executive Summaries have a structure that lends itself well to the FIRMS Fact Sheets. The real value-added of the XML system is the ability to use deep levels of tagging (coding). This means for instance that the estimates of MSY, or the assumptions associated with assessments can be tagged, then at some point in the future, this information can be easily and elegantly extracted in a time series. Initially ICCAT could start with the high level of tagging, and possibly consider deeper tagging at a later time (could be easily added with the on-line editing feature).

During the training and since, considerable concern has been expressed by the Secretariat that under the present FIRMS display (Resource Sheets and Stock Sheet), the presentation of ICCAT Executive Summaries will not be consistent for species with single and multiple stocks in the Atlantic. Species with only one stock in the Atlantic have only one associated fact sheet. Species with multiple stocks per species require that 2 fact sheets be consulted per stock. A proposed compromise is to have one sheet per resource, but that it can include multiple stocks.

2.3 Resource Requirements

Converting ICCAT Executive Summaries to the FIRMS Fact Sheets requires two types of skills: (1) Sufficient knowledge of XML to tag (code) the Executive Summaries, and (2) Sufficient understanding of the contents of Executive Summaries so as to ensure that their integrity is not compromised while converting them to FIRMS Fact Sheets. The best-suited position within the current Secretariat structure to tackle this task is that of Scientific Editor, provided that sufficient training is received for the former type of skill.

A summary of the initial and annual costs for ICCAT to join the FIRMS Arrangement as a Partner is given in the table below. Initially, setting up the Fact Sheets is expected to take 1-2 months (2 or more days per stock). In future years, if the Executive Summaries and FIRMS system stay stable, then templates can be developed and the time may be reduced to 2-3 weeks (1/2 day per stock). However, if XML is only used 2-3 weeks of the year by the Scientific Editor, then there will be a learning curve each year. Another cost is the travel required to be an active Partner with a role in the FIRMS Steering Committee (FSC). If ICCAT does become a Partner, it is very important to participate in the meetings of the FSC because this body will make important decisions such as formulate an Information Management Policy, accept new Partners, set standards for Quality Assurance, etc.

| ITEM | Initial cost | Long-term cost | Comments |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Training | 1 week, €1,500 travel | Same as initial every time editor changes | Training may be also needed when system changes substantially, <i>e.g.</i> , every 5 years. Scientific Editor has already received initial training. |
| Initial XML coding | 1-2 months | N/A | |
| Template maintenance | N/A | 2-3 weeks per year | |
| FSC Participation | N/A | 1 week per year, €1,500 travel | Participation in annual meetings of FIRMS Steering Committee |

2.4 Benefits

An obvious benefit to becoming a FIRMS Partner is the use of state-of-the-art electronic publishing tools. In the medium to long-term, implementation of deep-level tagging to the Executive Summaries could facilitate quick and sophisticated analyses of the history of assessments for a given stock. More immediately, the main benefit to ICCAT would be the achievement of a more global dissemination of its assessment summary reports in a standard format. In addition, ICCAT would maintain a more direct ownership over some of the information that agencies such as FAO (via FIGIS) disseminates.

3 Next steps

In 2003, the SCRS should advise the Commission if it recommends the implementation of the FIRMS Partnership. The following should be considered during the 2003 SCRS meeting:

- (1) Review the FIRMS draft Fact Sheets (http://www.fao.org/fi/figis/resrsc/stockres_1.jsp) to determine that the integrity of the Executive Summaries can be maintained in the FIRMS system.
- (2) Review resource requirements and consider if the costs compensate the potential benefits. If necessary, consider whether additional resources are needed (*e.g.*, out-sourcing and the consequent increase in funding by the Commission).
- (3) Discuss ICCAT's level of participation in the FIGIS/FIRMS program, commitment to signing the Partnership Arrangement this autumn, and proposal for the timetable of ICCAT's implementation of the Partnership (**Appendix 1, Appendix 2**).

4 Conclusions

The ICCAT Secretariat considers that FIGIS is an excellent tool to distribute over the Web information about fisheries resources, biology, technology, aquaculture and trade. Thus, FIRMS provides a good opportunity for ICCAT to disseminate summary information on ICCAT's resources to a wider audience, making use of an advanced web-based network and of FAO's efforts to develop it. The summary resource status information that ICCAT would contribute to FIRMS is essentially that already contained in the Executive Summaries, making sure that wording and definitions are not changed from those that are agreed to by ICCAT scientists during a long and complex process.

It should be recognized that ICCAT already has an efficient publication and information distribution schedule. Further, it is important to note that ICCAT has limited resources that are barely sufficient to fulfill its mandate. Nevertheless, joining a formal partnership for distributing stock status information with FIRMS is seen as very useful. Furthermore, ICCAT and FAO already have a general Agreement for collaboration and a formal partnership would be consistent with this Agreement.

References

- RESTREPO, V.R. and C. Palma. 2003. On a proposed partnership between ICCAT and FIGIS-FIRMS. Col. Vol. Sci. Pap. ICCAT 55: 315-317.
- RESTREPO, V.R. and M. Taconet. 2001. Testing phase for the participation of ICCAT in the design of the Fisheries Resources Monitoring System. Col. Vol. Sci. Pap. ICCAT 52: 1927-1932.

Final Draft FIRMS Partnership Arrangement

Partnership Arrangement providing for international cooperation in the development and maintenance of the Fisheries Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS)

The attached final draft Partnership Arrangement is essentially in three parts and consists of:

1 Preamble

Recognising the origins of the need to develop the FIRMS through a variety of partnerships.

2 Articles

- Article 1. Objectives of the Partnership Arrangement
- Article 2. Principles of the Partnership Arrangement
- Article 3. Partners Responsibilities
- Article 4. Partners Benefits and Rights
- Article 5. Institutional Arrangements

3 Annexes

These two Annexes currently contain ‘Notes’ that will not be included in the text of the Partnership Arrangement.

Annex 1. Current FIRMS Partners on the date of signature by the two Parties.

To be updated and revised on each new Partnership Arrangement.

Annex 2. Outline and detailed arrangements on the nature of information and the conditions under which it is made available under this partnership arrangement, including any institutional collaborations and additional entitlements that a partner may wish to include.

To be defined entirely according to the requirements of the parties, not necessarily the attached guideline, within the scope of, but not limited to, the FIRMS Information Management Policy.

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries:

- provides guidance which may be used where appropriate in the formulation of international agreements and other legal instruments, both binding and voluntary;
- calls for the promotion of international cooperation and coordination in all matters related to fisheries, including information gathering and data exchange, and fisheries research, management and development; and
- recognises that the special requirements of developing countries in implementing the Code need to be taken into account.

RECOGNIZING that partnerships between international and national institutions will assist in meeting the objectives of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, including the implementation of International Plans of Action approved by the Committee of Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the FAO Strategy for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Capture Fisheries.

RECOGNIZING ALSO that such partnerships may occur at many levels, including

- global and regional fisheries organisations and arrangements (Regional Fishery Bodies);
- national agencies and research institutions; and
- global and regional network partners providing complementary information.

NOTING that international and national fisheries institutions have a wide variety of mandates and responsibilities, which may change over time, and that Partnerships should be in conformity with such mandates and responsibilities and adapt to new and changing institutional circumstances, as appropriate. Also noting that the Regional Fishery Bodies have a general obligation to disseminate information on the status of fisheries and fish stocks, or to provide assistance to their member countries for that purpose.

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the (**Note:** *agreement, memorandum of understanding, or exchange of letters concerning these recognitions; and noting the appropriate detail*) that exists between the partners to this arrangement.

NOW THEREFORE the (*Institution name*), (hereinafter, the ‘Partner’¹) and the FAO, as a partner acting in the interest of furthering the objectives of FIRMS, have agreed to enter into this Partnership Arrangement:

- to establish the rights, responsibilities and obligations of the Partners; and
- to specify the detailed provisions on the nature, scope and conditions under which information is made available.

Article 1. Objectives of the Partnership Arrangement

1.1 The principal objective of the FIRMS Partnership Arrangement (“the Arrangement”) is to establish a framework between the Partners as listed in Annex 1 that will promote development and extension of fisheries status and trends reporting to all fisheries resources by:

- 1.1.1 building a community of responsible institutions that will report in an objective way on fisheries status and trends, thus contributing to the promotion of responsible fisheries management; and
- 1.1.2 developing, sharing and maintaining services for the collation, management and dissemination of information through a System for Fisheries Resources Monitoring (FIRMS), hereafter referred to as the “FIRMS Partnership”.

Article 2. Principles of the Partnership Arrangement

2.1 The Arrangement is based on the following principles:

- 2.1.1 information on fisheries is shared and appropriately disseminated;
- 2.1.2 information contributions related to fisheries remain within the full control and ownership of the Partner which has primary monitoring or management responsibility over resource and fishery units, including control of what and when information is made available, and how it is processed; and
- 2.1.3 whenever possible, the Partner will maintain the documentation on information sources, ownership, data origins and collection methodologies, and on their rules on dissemination and publication.

Article 3. Partners Responsibilities

3.1 FAO will provide the Secretariat to the FIRMS Steering Committee (“FSC”) with the following responsibilities:

- 3.1.1 to support the FSC, the roles and responsibilities of which are described in Article 5;
- 3.1.2 to implement decisions of the FSC in accordance with the Information Management Policy and Rules of Procedures adopted by the FSC;
- 3.1.3 to coordinate and administer financial inputs, in conformity with FAO Financial Rules and Regulations, to the development of FIRMS and for the conduct of this partnership;
- 3.1.4 to maintain databases for the presentation of fishery information;
- 3.1.5 to make available the information provided under this Arrangement to Partners and other interested parties as may be decided upon by the FSC;
- 3.1.6 to supervise the implementation of FIRMS Partnership services, including
 - 3.1.6.1. the application of systems of information quality control for presentation and consistency purpose;
 - 3.1.6.2. the development and implementation of software and information methodologies; and
 - 3.1.6.3. the development and implementation of training tools and methods, and the conduct of training, as appropriate.

¹ Or replace throughout with an institution acronym.

- 3.1.7 where required, to receive and process information inputs from the Partner, in particular for developing country institutions;
 - 3.1.8 where required, to collate, control and process information on the status and trends of fisheries; and
 - 3.1.9 to seek to ensure that the FIRMS Partnership will include global level information on the status and trends of fisheries in accordance with information management policies adopted by the FSC.
- 3.2 The Partners will contribute to FIRMS according to their mandate. To this effect the Partners will be responsible *inter alia*, for:
- 3.2.1 presenting for inclusion in FIRMS databases fishery assessment and management reports, statistics and other related information in a timely manner and according to its own policies on ownership, transparency and quality assurance, as referred to in Annex 2;
 - 3.2.2 collating fishery information, or establishing databases jointly with FAO or with others;
 - 3.2.3 in general to ensuring collaboration with and participating in the work of the FSC, including in the identification of information that will complement each Partner's information sources and prevent duplication, and in attending meetings of the FSC.

Article 4. Partners Benefits and Rights

- 4.1 The general benefits of the Arrangement are to enable the Partners:
- 4.1.1 to assist them in fulfilling their commitment to improving transparency and accuracy of information on the status and trends of fisheries, while respecting confidentiality and security under which the information has been submitted, in ways that satisfy the owners of information concerned.
 - 4.1.2 to make available to the public, through dissemination channels referred to in Annex 2, information on fisheries status and trends in ways that provide background for, and facilitate interpretation of, fishery resources assessments and fishery management advisory reports. This information covers, *inter alia*:
 - 4.1.2.1. the distribution and population dynamics of a fishery resource;
 - 4.1.2.2. the techniques, nature, conduct and production of the fisheries for that resource;
 - 4.1.2.3. the fishery management systems in place or being developed, and
 - 4.1.2.4. indicators of the effect of such management.
- 4.2 In addition to what may be provided for in Annex 2, the Partner will, for FIRMS purposes, have access to:
- 4.2.1 FIRMS tools for the editing, dissemination and maintenance of information;
 - 4.2.2 FIRMS information and databases beyond the restrictions normally applied under FAO dissemination policy, e.g. to geographic information system (GIS) layers or other value-added products;
 - 4.2.3 FIRMS Secretariat services for training in the use of information tools and standards, for use of the shared software library and other information products.

Article 5. Institutional Arrangements

- 5.1 Eligibility of partners
- 5.1.1 National institutions, mandated by a national government, and intergovernmental bodies, that hold responsibilities for the preparation or publication of fisheries information relevant to the framework of the partnership may become a Partner.
 - 5.1.2 Only one institution per country endorsed by its national government may become a FIRMS Partner. That institution may act as focal point to other institutions in a given country, as appropriate.
- 5.2 A Partner will cease to be a FIRMS Partner and deemed to have withdrawn from the Arrangement following a declaration made by the FSC in accordance with article 5.4.5.
- 5.3 FIRMS Steering Committee (FSC)
- 5.3.1 The FSC is constituted of one member nominated by each Partner, including FAO in its capacity of Partner.
 - 5.3.2 FAO will provide the Secretariat to the FSC.
 - 5.3.3 The FSC will be activated when the FIRMS Partnership has entered into force.
- 5.4 In administrative matters, the FSC will:
- 5.4.1 meet at regular intervals, as appropriate or required.
 - 5.4.2 adopt its rules of procedures and any amendment thereof;
 - 5.4.3 make decisions according to the Rules of Procedures within the scope of this Partnership Arrangement.

- 5.4.4 identify potential partners that will contribute to the achievement of the FIRMS objectives, and prioritise their eligibility, intending to ensure that:
 - 5.4.4.1. their fisheries information reporting complements what FIRMS already covers;
 - 5.4.4.2. their internal information policies are in conformity with quality assurance rules and standards provided for in the FIRMS Information Management Policy referred to in 5.5.4;
 - 5.4.4.3. their mandate fits the FIRMS thematic scope; and
 - 5.4.4.4. the additional workload generated can be absorbed by the FIRMS Secretariat.
- 5.4.5 declare a Partner as having withdrawn from the Arrangement based on inactivity of the Partner in FIRMS ; and
- 5.4.6 discuss and advise on any other matters pertaining to FIRMS.
- 5.5 In technical matters, the FSC will:
 - 5.5.1 monitor the development and performance of FIRMS and advise on improvements;
 - 5.5.2 consider Partners’ requests on additional analyses or presentations;
 - 5.5.3 discuss, advise and take decisions on further system developments;
 - 5.5.4 formulate, adopt and keep under review the Information Management Policy;
 - 5.5.5 review and comment upon the resources made available for the furthering of FIRMS objectives whether in kind or financial, and advise the FIRMS Secretariat on their allocation.
- 5.6 Cost sharing the FIRMS Partnership
 - 5.6.1 FAO will cover the costs of FIRMS development, FSC administration and the provision of the Partner entitlements under the Arrangement through regular and trust fund arrangements, to the extent that these funds allow and in accordance with its financial rules and regulations.
 - 5.6.2 The Partner will cover the costs of information contributions to FIRMS, attendance at FSC meetings and additional FIRMS services, which might include information system functionality or customisation for the specific use of the Partner, to the extent that funds have been allocated thereto.
- 5.7 Entry into force, amendment and termination of this arrangement
 - 5.7.1 The Arrangement will enter into force on the date following the signature of five Partnership Arrangements.
 - 5.7.2 A Partner may withdraw from this arrangement, after giving three months notice to the FIRMS Secretariat who will inform the other Partners.
 - 5.7.3 FAO may terminate its service as the FIRMS Secretariat. FAO will give twenty-four months notice to FSC before this termination.
 - 5.7.4 The Arrangement may be amended or terminated with the consensus of all Partners.
 - 5.7.5 The FSC will hold a first session within one year from the date of entry into force of this arrangement.

Article 6. Miscellaneous

- 6.1 Annex 2 is an arrangement specific to each signing Partner and may be reviewed and amended as appropriate by the signing Partner in collaboration with the FIRMS Secretariat.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Partners affix their signatures:

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| <i>Signature:</i> | <i>Name:</i> |
| <i>Position:</i> | <i>Date:</i> |

For and on behalf of: **The (Partner- name):**

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| <i>Signature:</i> | <i>Name:</i> |
| <i>Position:</i> | <i>Date:</i> |

For and on behalf of: **Secretariat: on behalf of the FIRMS Partnership
(Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)**

Note: The following two Annexes will be attached to the Partnership Arrangement to be discussed between the new Partners. ‘Note’ text is indicative, not for inclusion in the signed document.

Annex 1. Current FIRMS Partners on the date of signature by the two Parties.

Note: *To be revised for each new Partnership Arrangement*

| | <i>Institutional Partner</i> | <i>Date of Signature</i> |
|------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | | |
| 2 | | |
| 3 | | |
| 4 | | |
| 5 | | |
| ... | | |

Annex 2. Outline and detailed arrangements on the nature of information and the conditions under which it is made available under this partnership arrangement, including any institutional collaborations and additional entitlements that a partner may wish to include.

Note: *Fisheries data and statistical information will be provided by the FIRMS Partners mandated to develop and use it in ways that support their work programmes, and which are reported to the public in ways that can also be achieved through the FIRMS Partnership.*

This Annex is a specific text to be agreed by the signatory partners. The following is a general outline of the possible contents of the Annex in relation to important issues that the signatory partners need to agree in support of the main text of the arrangement, including but not limited to the following:

- Data and statistical information:***
Types and scope of information to be contributed. Considerations will be made on the standards to be used in this Partnership Agreement, referring to the FIRMS Partnership's Information Management Policy.
- Metadata and information management:***
Methods of collection; bibliographical sources, ownership and responsibilities, including criteria and methods used in authentication and verification; processing methods and transmission protocols; timeliness and frequency of updates; and dissemination channels.
- Data and information security:***
Confidentiality, transparency and feedback.
- Collaborative institutions:***
The institutions that a partner wishes to be included in aspects of this arrangement, and the related information ownership and responsibilities details.
- Additional entitlements:***
When further partnership efforts need to be extended this item may be revised by mutual consent.

Note: *This Annex may be structured in any way that the partners wish to agree, not necessarily as above.*

DRAFT Annex 2: Information to be contributed to FIGIS-FIRMS by the ICCAT Standing Committee on Statistics and Research (SCRS) on behalf of ICCAT

1. Summaries of resource status ("Species Executive Summaries")

Types of information to be contributed. The information to be prepared, processed and contributed to FIRMS is basically the contents of the ICCAT Executive Summaries from the ICCAT SCRS Report. Executive Summaries contain the latest SCRS advice to the Commission, including information on the biology, description of fisheries (including catches), state of stocks, outlook and management advice of tuna and tuna-like stocks in the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas. The contributions from ICCAT to FIGIS-FIRMS do not include the basic datasets that are used for the analyses conducted by the ICCAT Secretariat, the SCRS or its subsidiary bodies.

Scope of information to be contributed. The above information will be provided for those tuna and tuna-like stocks in the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas, under ICCAT's mandate, for which the SCRS prepares Executive Summaries.

Standards to be used in this Partnership Agreement. The information to be contributed by ICCAT will conform, whenever possible, to the Information Management Policy established by the FIRMS/FIGIS Steering Committee. The contributions from ICCAT to FIGIS-FIRMS must be managed using standards that do not alter the integrity of the Executive Summaries.

2. Metadata and information management

Methods of collection and processing. ICCAT's SCRS generally meets annually in October and prepares Executive Summaries for the major ICCAT stocks, and provides advice to the Commission in the form of the adopted SCRS Report. These Executive Summaries are based on detailed analyses that are conducted by various working groups.

The text of the ICCAT Executive Summaries is carefully drafted and agreed to by scientific representatives from ICCAT Contracting Parties. The processing and management of this information within FIGIS/FIRMS will be conducted in such a way that the integrity of the Executive Summaries will be fully maintained.

Bibliographical sources. The main bibliographical source for the contributions to FIRMS is the annual ICCAT SCRS Report, published in the ICCAT Biennial Report Series and available on the ICCAT website and accessible from FIGIS-FIRMS fact sheets. Referring to the FIRMS (*proposed*) standards, the cover page element appearing at the header of the fact sheet will consist of this bibliographical reference for a given annual publication.

Ownership and responsibilities. The information contributed to FIRMS resides under the full ownership (hence responsibility) of the ICCAT SCRS. Therefore, and referring to the FIRMS (*proposed*) standards, the ownership presented as header of each stock fact sheet will clearly include "ICCAT Standing Committee on Research and Statistics" as the data owner institutional entity, and the "International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas" (acronym ICCAT) as the body under which this institutional entity operates. Furthermore, the FIRMS collection under which the FIGIS-FIRMS system provides user access editing rights is entitled "ICCAT SCRS Reports" (acronym ICCAT SCRS). Methods used in authentication and verification of this information lie on one side on the FIGIS-FIRMS security mechanisms, including a role for an ICCAT editor and an ICCAT approver. These actors will in sequence ensure that FIRMS fact sheets under ICCAT SCRS ownership will be updated and linked to the latest version of the SCRS Report and other relevant documents after this report (or relevant sections of this report, and other relevant documents) is (are) published in the ICCAT Biennial Report Series and posted on the ICCAT web-site.

Processing methods. n/a

Transmission protocols and dissemination channels. The master ICCAT SCRS Report will be published in hard copy in ICCAT's Biennial Report Series and also posted on ICCAT's web site. Links to relevant sections of these reports and relevant section of texts will be added in various topics of the FIGIS-FIRMS fact sheets under ICCAT SCRS ownership using a combination of the tools offered by the system (XML editing uploading – on-line editing). Conditional on the availability of resources at the ICCAT Secretariat, transmission schedule is

planned to be within 12 months following the formal adoption of the Executive Summaries by the SCRS. SCRS Reports remain on the ICCAT website for one year before being removed from public access, but are available widely in libraries (including the FAO library) in hard copy.

3. Data and information security

All contributions provided by ICCAT will be on the public domain. Therefore, no confidentiality issues are foreseen. Transparency of the processes is guaranteed by the ICCAT SCRS sequence of events.

4. Collaborative institutions

The ICCAT is the FIRMS signatory partner and as such doesn't include any collaborative institution.

5. Additional entitlements

ICCAT staff will be entitled to participate in workshops or special courses organized by the FIRMS Secretariat (FAO) on the use of the electronic publishing tools used in FIGIS. When further partnership efforts need to be extended this item may be revised by mutual consent.