



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

NPFC 9th Scientific Committee Meeting | 17-20 December 2024 | Tokyo, Japan

NPFC-2024-SC09-OP11

FIRMS

FISHERIES AND RESOURCES
MONITORING SYSTEM

About FIRMS supporting FAO SOFIA Status of Stocks Index biennial updates

FIRMS TWG9, 10-13 December 2024

Related to Agenda item 10 - Cooperation with other organizations

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FIRMS Secretariat, December 2024

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Outline

- **Main outcomes of the FIRMS TWG9 meeting (10-13 Dec. 2024)**
- **NPFC data contribution in FIRMS**
- **Some key points on the updated FAO State of Stocks Index (SoSI)**
- **The new FIRMS system and website**



Supporting FAO SOFIA State of Stocks Index (SoSI) biennial updates

December 2024

FIRMS TWG9/2024/1



联合国
粮农组织

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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منظمة
الغذاء والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System

FIRMS

FIRMS Technical Working Group Meeting

Ninth session

Supporting FAO SOFIA State of Stocks Index (SoSI) biennial updates

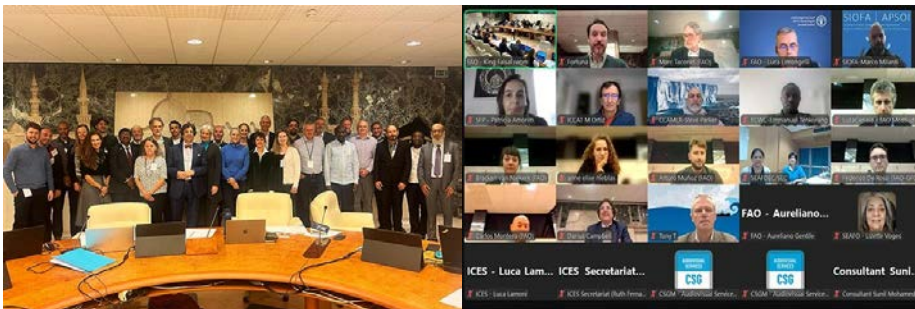
Meeting place: Hybrid, Online and FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy
10 – 13 December 2024

*55 participants from 21 partner RFBs or
Organizations,
and 2 invited organizations*

Objectives of the Meeting

Following the 13th FIRMS Steering Committee (London, June 2023) this TWG run through the operationalization of the SoSI updates:

- Partners commitments to support a subset of the **SoSI Reference list of stocks**
- Practical arrangements – **FIRMS data calls**
- Collaborations for Capacity building and convergence with SDG reporting



Supporting FAO SOFIA State of Stocks Index (SoSI) biennial updates

Conclusions and Recommendations

- The TWG reviewed the majority of **SoSI Reference list of stocks** for quality control with the goal of disseminating it through the FIRMS website [June 2025 at UN Ocean Conference (UNOC)]
- The TWG gained understanding of:
 - the **minimum data requirements** for contributing to SoSI
 - the relationship between FIRMS, FAO SDG 14.4.1 questionnaire and the SOSI report
 - the **FIRMS template** and workflow for reporting
- To ensure **timely** update of SoSI, FIRMS partners will report to FIRMS through a **data call** occurring every two years
 - This is run in parallel with the data call for countries reporting on SDG14.4.1

Supporting FAO SOFIA State of Stocks Index (SoSI) biennial updates

FIRMS data call

The FIRMS data call aims at ensuring timely reporting by FIRMS Partners as per their commitments to support the FAO State of Stocks Index (SoSI) which will be published on a biennial basis as part of the SOFIA publication.

- The FIRMS data calls will take place **every two years** in November (exceptionally delayed to January 2025 for this first call) with a deadline of 30 April of the following year, as this will provide the time frame necessary for upload to FIRMS and to assign **Unique Identifiers** for any new assessed stocks.
- The regular update of stock status reports by FIRMS Partners can take place at **any time** convenient to the partner during the year.
- Partners report on all monitored stocks:
 - **Updating statuses** or indicating if previous **assessments** remain **valid**.
 - Giving **priority** on stocks included in the SOFIA State of Stocks **Index**.
- The FIRMS **Marine Resources inventory data format** – an Excel spreadsheet - is used by the partners for the data call with **focus** on the **SoSI minimum data requirements** as regards to the time dependent data.
- **Unique stock identifiers** are crucial for efficient workflow. All identifiers for the initial FAO SoSI, published in June 2025, will be available in FAO/FIRMS system.
- FIRMS Partners, based on their IT capabilities, are encouraged to provide data via **web services** or similar methods for FIRMS template and SoSI data compilation.

FIRMS Technical Working Group Meeting Ninth session

Supporting FAO SOFIA State of Stocks Index (SoSI) biennial updates

NPFC data submission in FIRMS is in progress

North Pacific armorhead	English – North Pacific armorhead, Russian – кабан-рыба, Japanese – クサリソボダイ, Chinese – 胸五棘鯛, Korean – 북방돔돔
Splendid alfonso	English – splendid alfonso, Russian – низкотелый берикс, Japanese – キンメダイ, Chinese – 红眼金鯛, Korean – 빛금눈돔
Pacific saury	English – Pacific saury, Russian – сайра, Japanese – サンマ, Chinese – 秋刀魚, Korean – 공치
Neon flying squid	English – Neon flying squid, Russian – Кальмар Бартрама, Japanese – アカイカ, Chinese – 柔鱼, Korean – 빨강오징어
Japanese flying squid	English – Japanese flying squid, Russian – тихоокеанский кальмар, Japanese – スルメイカ, Chinese – 太平洋褶柔鱼, Korean – 살오징어
Chub mackerel	English – Chub mackerel, Russian – Японская скумбрия, Japanese – マサバ, Chinese – 鲐鱼, Korean – 고등어
Blue Mackerel	English – Spotted mackerel, Blue mackerel Russian – пятнистая скумбрия, Japanese – コマサバ, Chinese – 澳洲鲐, Korean – 망치고등어
Japanese sardine	English – Japanese sardine, Russian – Дальневосточная сардина, Japanese – マイワシ, Chinese – 拟沙丁鱼, Korean – 정어리
Sablefish	English – Sablefish, Black cod, Russian – Угольная рыба, Japanese – ギンダラ, Chinese – 裸蓋魚, Korean – 은대구
Skilfish	English – Skilfish, Russian – эрилепис или морской монах Japanese – アブラボウズ, Chinese – 白斑裸蓋鱼, Korean – 큰은대구

Marine Resources Fact Sheets

On a voluntary basis, FIRMS partners contribute reports on stock status according to their mandate, policies and capacities. Best practice shared by FIRMS partners aims at timely updates, and FIRMS has a biennial data call to ensure latest reports are submitted for use in SOFIA State of Stocks. See FIRMS partners geographic coverage on Marine resources at [FIRMS Stocks and Fisheries Map Viewer](#).

Search Marine Resource fact sheets [Browse FIRMS partners contributions](#)

In this search tab, stock status reports can be searched by simple full text search and/or by applying filters or sorting. Or opt for the advanced search using aquatic resources name, species, area, stock status or other components.

Custom search

Species: "alfonso"

Refine search

By Year	Title	Reporting year
2023 (1)	Alfonso - South East Atlantic	2023
2016 (1)	Alfonso - Southern Indian Ocean	2023
	Deepwater demersal resources - Southwest Pacific	2023
By Partner	Alfonso - Northeast Atlantic	2016


Marine Resources

North Pacific armorhead
Splendid alfonso
Pacific saury
Neon flying squid
Japanese flying squid
Chub mackerel
Blue (spotted) mackerel
Japanese sardine
Sablefish
Skilfish

Fisheries

Bottom trawl fishery
Bottom gillnet fishery
Bottom longline fishery
Seamount long-line fishery
Pacific saury fishery
Chub mackerel fishery
Neon Flying Squid fishery
Japanese Flying Squid fishery
Japanese sardine fishery

Northwestern Pacific 61, 71
Northwestern Pacific 61, 71
Northwestern Pacific 61, 71
Northeastern Pacific 67, 77
Northwestern Pacific 61, 71
Northwestern Pacific 61, 71
North Pacific NPFC
North Pacific NPFC
Northwestern Pacific 61, 71



Supporting FAO SOFIA State of Stocks Index (SoSI) biennial updates

FAO SOFIA Global Fish Stocks Status Monitoring - The new SoSI methodology and data flow

A synoptic evaluation of what a regions fish stock status maybe, as well as an overall indicator of how the global state of fish stocks is progressing with respect to MSY-based reference points.

Improvement should include: (1) better/updated coverage of global fisheries; (2) more accurate / precise assessments; and (3) more transparent frameworks and reports.

Data used

- From National and RFBs databases, FAO SDG 14.4.1 questionnaire, regional and national experts,
- Reliability categories for stock status (Tiers)
- Tier 1: Assessment Output/SDG 14.4.1 *[Tier1 Reported Assessment from country or RFB]*
- Tier 2: Unassessed Stocks – Catch data from FAO FishStatJ *[Tier2 SRA+ Type; catch and auxiliary data]*
- Tier 3: Weight of evidence stocks, economic, social, interviews etc. *[Tier3 Limited data and auxiliary info (Expert judgement)]*

Supporting FAO SOFIA State of Stocks Index (SoSI) biennial updates

FAO SoSI preliminary figures for area 61

A total of **98** stocks were considered

56 stocks assessed with Tier 1 data

35 stocks assessed with Tier 2 data

7 insufficient data or skipped

Data from China Japan, Korea, Russia,
NPFC

FAO SoSI preliminary figures for area 71

A total of **269** stocks were considered

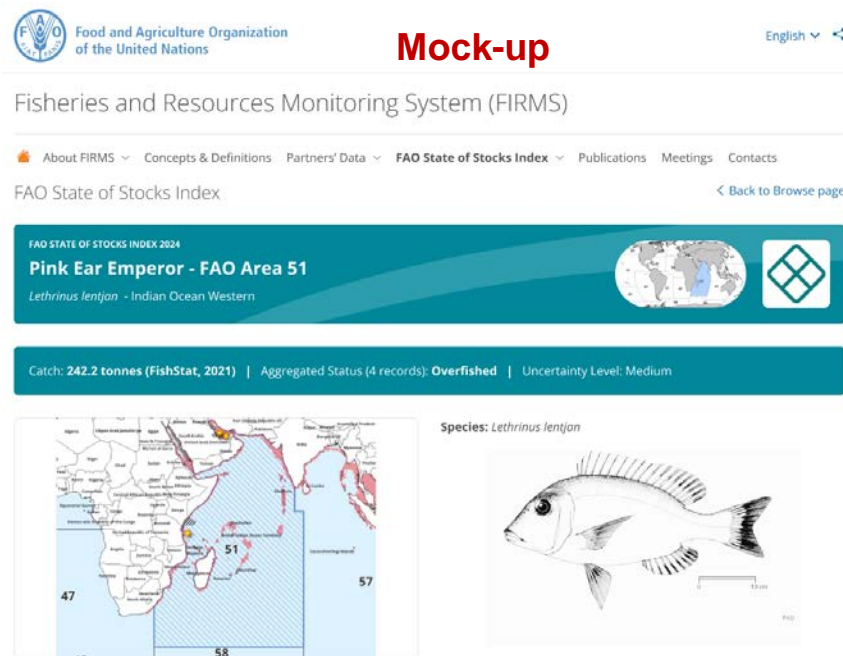
28 Assessed with Tier 1

51 Assessed with Tier 2

190 Assessed with Tier 3

Data from Brunei, Cambodia,
Fiji, Guam, Indonesia, Malaysia,
Marshall Islands, Nauru, New
Caledonia, Northern Australia,
Palau, Philippines, Solomon
Islands, China, Thailand,
Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Vietnam,
Wallis and Futuna, High seas

Source: Rishi Sharma, FIRMS TWG9, Dec. 2024



Recalling the FIRMS FSC13 formulation of needs Operationalize FIRMS in support of SoSI

Timeliness in reporting and
processing!!

Countries/RDB/RFMOS
streamline reporting



Enough capacity
to turn datasets
rapidly –
Timeliness of
results –Enabling
conditions



Analysis streamlined
for SOS Tier 1, 2 or
3//Alignment of
countries reporting
preferences and what
goes into FIRMS



Building on trust
and merging
workflows across
countries and
teams.



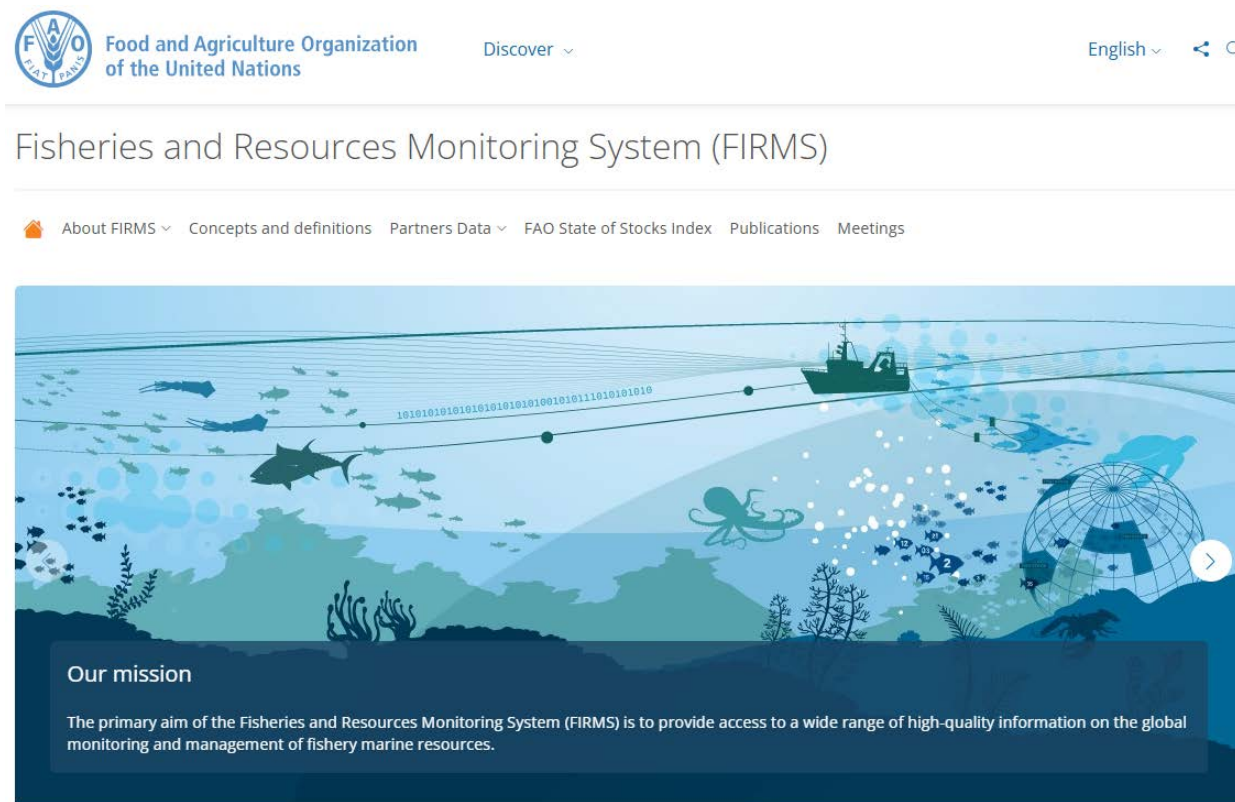
FAO work with
partners on the
ground is critical

Other News from FIRMS

FIRMS new system and website



BoBP-IGO joined the FIRMS Partnership (Dec. 2024)





Food and Agriculture
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FIRMS

FISHERIES AND RESOURCES
MONITORING SYSTEM

Fisheries are a fundamental source of food, livelihood and trade all around the globe. Conservation and protection of aquatic resources requires cooperative, careful stewardship. Two thirds of all stocks are sustainably fished with catches up to maximum sustainable limits, while 82 percent of catches by weight are from sustainable sources. However, there are indications that overall, the state of world fishery resources and their ecosystems are deteriorating. To stop and reverse this trend – achieving sustainable harvest of all fisheries resources – coordinated action must be taken by national, regional, and international bodies. FIRMS provides such coordinated action on the global monitoring of fishery resources by collating reliable, relevant and up-to-date information that is necessary to inform evidence-based policies and actions.

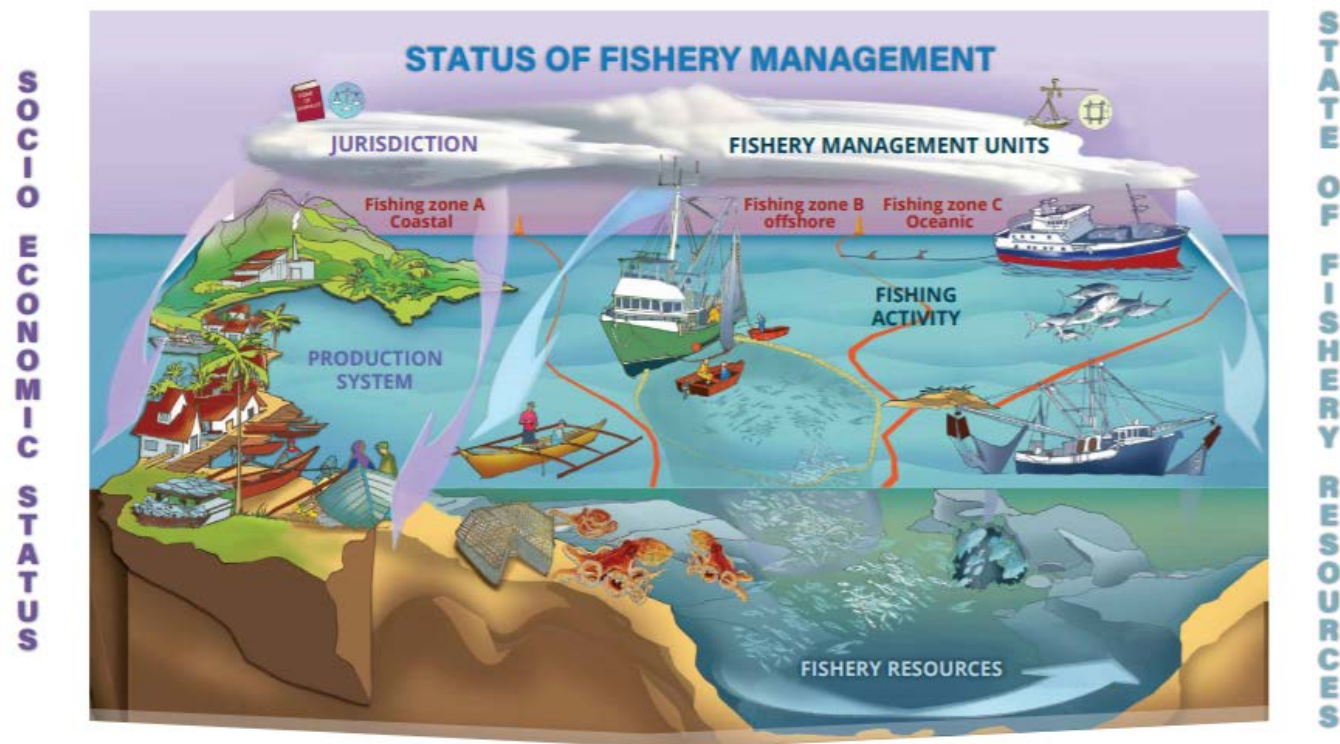
Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

The Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, adopted by FAO Members on 31 October 1995, contains a broad set of principles and methods for developing and managing fisheries and aquaculture. A voluntary, nonbinding instrument, the Code is widely recognized as the global standard for setting out the aims of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for the coming decades.

Within the framework of the Code, four International Plans of Action and the Strategy for Improving Information on Status and Trends in Capture Fisheries, as well as voluntary international guidelines and binding instruments such as the Ports State Measures Agreement, have been developed as complementary instruments to promote further the objectives of responsible fisheries.



<https://www.fao.org/3/cc4342en/cc4342en.pdf>



<https://firms.fao.org>



Thank you ▪ Merci
Благодарю ▪ ¡Muchas gracias!
謝謝 ▪ شكرا

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