



Partnership Arrangement Explanatory Notes

The attached 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:

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.



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

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.

NOW THEREFORE the ¹(*The North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization, NASCO*), (hereinafter, the 'Partner') 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 in detail the 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 Or replace throughout with an institution acronym.

- 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"). The Secretariat will have the following responsibilities:

- 3.1.1 to support the FSC, in the performance of its functions and responsibilities which are described in Article 5 of this Arrangement;
- 3.1.2 to implement decisions of the FSC in accordance with the Information Management Policy and the Rules of Procedures adopted by the FSC;
- 3.1.3 to coordinate and administer financial inputs, in conformity with FAO Financial Rules and Regulations, for 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 purposes;
 - 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.
- 3.1.7 where required, to receive and process information inputs from a 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 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 will be constituted of one member nominated by each Partner, including FAO in its capacity of Partner.
- 5.3.2 The FSC will be activated when the FIRMS Partnership enters into force.
- 5.4 In administrative matters, the FSC will:
- 5.4.1 meet at regular intervals, as appropriate or required in accordance with its Rules of Procedure.
- 5.4.2 adopt its Rules of Procedure and any amendment thereof;
- 5.4.3 make decisions according to the Rules of Procedure 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, with a view 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 is within 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 the inactivity of the Partner in FIRMS; and
- 5.4.6 discuss with and advise its members and FIRMS Secretariat 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 of 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 of signature of five Partners.

- 5.7.2 A Partner may withdraw from this arrangement, after giving three months notice to the FIRMS Secretariat which 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:

Signature:  Name: Mary Colligan

Position: President Date: 24 September 2013

For and on behalf of: **The North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization, NASCO.**

Signature:  Name: Arni M. Mathiesen

Position: Assistant Director-General,
Fisheries Department, Food
and Agriculture Organization of
the UN Date: 16 DEC 2013

Secretariat: on behalf of the FIRMS Partnership

For and on behalf of:

(Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)

Annex 1

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

	<i>Institutional Partner</i>	<i>Date of Signature</i>
1	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)	2 December 2003
2	Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)	19 December 2003
3	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)	30 January 2004
4	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) – Fisheries Department	2 February 2004
5	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)	2 February 2004
6	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)	2 February 2004
7	Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)	22 October 2004
8	Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)	14 December 2004
9	Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT)	31 May 2005
10	Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)	6 February 2006
11	North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)	1 March 2007
12	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)	1 March 2007
13	South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO)	1 March 2007

Annex 2 to the Partnership Arrangement between the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (representing the FIGIS-FIRMS Partnership)

1. Data and statistical information

NASCO's objective is to contribute through consultation and cooperation to the conservation, restoration, enhancement and rational management of salmon stocks subject to the Convention, taking into account the best scientific evidence available to it.

Types of information to be contributed:

Reports: Reports of the Annual Meetings of NASCO's Council and regional Commissions that include discussions and decisions on regulatory measures for salmon fisheries will be submitted for inclusion in FIRMS. Supporting scientific documents, including the ICES advice to NASCO and the reports of the meetings of NASCO's International Atlantic Salmon Research Board (IASRB) and its Scientific Advisory Group, will also be provided.

Data: Catch and other data reported to NASCO by its Parties, including unreported catches and catch and release. Links will be provided to the NASCO database of salmon rivers and to the IASRB metadatabase of salmon survey data and sample collections of relevance to mortality of salmon at sea.

Biology, ecology, fisheries and other information: Should NASCO develop an annual 'state of the salmon', or other status report including both scientific and socio-economic information, this will also be made available to FIRMS.

Fishery Regulation and Management Measures: Information on regulation and management of fisheries for Atlantic salmon in the NASCO Convention area will be included in FIRMS including details of NASCO regulatory measures by NASCO Commission area (see Table 1 below) and through links to the Implementation Plans and Annual Progress Reports developed by NASCO's Parties and jurisdictions made available on the NASCO website.'

Scope of information to be contributed:

NASCO will report the above mentioned type of information for the NASCO Convention area.

Documentation and Standards to be used in this Partnership Agreement

Sources of information will be documented, and links to electronic versions of source material will be provided when available. A link to the NASCO website will be provided for detailed information not suitable for posting on FIRMS.

Bibliographical sources:

Bibliographical sources for NASCO reports will be documented. Detailed reports will be included by website link on the FIRMS website. They may also be directly located on the NASCO website.

Ownership and responsibilities:

The information contributed to FIRMS remains under the full ownership and responsibility of NASCO. Therefore, the ownership presented as a header of each fact sheet, if developed, will clearly include 'North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization' or its acronym 'NASCO' as the organization and data owners institutional entity. The acronym for the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization used throughout FIGIS-FIRMS will be 'NASCO'. Furthermore, NASCO will be the owner of all descriptions of itself, and all text outlining its responsibilities and accomplishments, wherever presented by pages linked to, or referenced by, FIRMS, including pages developed by other organizations or entities within, such as UN/FAO/FIRMS. This shall be accomplished by establishment of appropriate editorial and ownership security privileges within FIRMS. In cases where an item has joint ownership, all entities shall show a clear indication of ownership on fact sheets.

Transmission protocols and dissemination channels:

NASCO reports which serve as background documentation for information will be published on the NASCO website. Links to these reports and relevant texts under NASCO ownership will be made available to the FIRMS website, using a combination of the tools offered by the system. Transmission is planned to be within three months following publication by NASCO of its reports on the NASCO website.

2. Data and information security

All contributions from NASCO will be in the public domain. Additional information is available at the NASCO website.

3. Collaborative institutions

NASCO is the FIRMS signatory partner and there are no collaborative institutions.

4. Additional entitlements

NASCO Secretariat staff will be entitled to participate in workshops or special courses organized by the FIRMS Secretariat (FAO) in the use of electronic publishing tools used in the FIRMS-FIGIS.

When required, this Annex may be revised by mutual consent.

Table 1: Fisheries for which regulatory measures/decisions are currently agreed by NASCO, that will be reported in FIRMS, and their contributing salmon stocks (SW = sea winter)

NASCO Commission Area	North Atlantic Salmon fishery	Contributing stocks
West Greenland Commission area	West Greenland	North American non-maturing 1SW salmon Southern European non-maturing 1SW salmon
North-East Atlantic Commission area	Faroe Islands	Northern European maturing 1SW salmon Northern European non-maturing 1SW salmon Southern European maturing 1SW salmon Southern European non-maturing 1SW salmon