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# F . A . M . E

Master's program on

## FUNDAMENTAL AND APPLIED MARINE ECOLOGY

VLIZ (vzw)  
VLAAMS INSTITUUT VOOR DE ZEE  
FLANDERS MARINE INSTITUTE  
Oostende - Belgium

**Director : Dr. M. H. Daro**

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**Brussels, September 1991**

# **CONTENTS**

- I. INTRODUCTION**
- II. ORGANIZATION**
- III. PROGRAM**
- VI. SOCIO-CULTURAL PROVISIONS**
- V. F.A.M.E. FOLLOW-UP**
- VI. PERSPECTIVES**
- VII. APPLICATION PROCEDURES**
- VIII. FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS**

**Appendix 1. : List of F.A.M.E. co-operators**

**2. : Overview of F.A.M.E. participants and theses presented**

## I. INTRODUCTION

Oceanographic research in Belgium has been developed since 1970. It is conducted in a interdisciplinary way: several university laboratories and institutes, working in specialized fields, interact in the framework of joint programs. The results are integrated into general, ecological management supporting models such as the "Mathematical Model of the North Sea". Since 1978, the I.Z.W.O. (Institute for Marine Scientific Research), organized, with the financial support of the N.F.W.O. (National Foundation for Scientific Research), a Postgraduate program on marine ecology (I.Z.W.O. 3de cyclus Mariene Ecologie). This postgraduate program is given by specialists from the different Belgian universities and institutes and concerns various disciplines. It is designed to inform Belgian Ph.D. students on the principles and on-going progress in the various marine research fields.

Basically the same principle was developed into the postgraduate course F.A.M.E. which started in 1985.

F.A.M.E. is open to scientists (Bachelors or Masters in Science) wanting to specialize in the field of marine ecology. The program is sponsored by A.B.O.S., the Belgian Organization for Developments Co-operation.

The scope of F.A.M.E. is to offer a diversity of topics in marine ecology of interest to any scientist who wants to broaden his knowledge in general marine ecology or specialize in one of the fields covered by the program. Students from EEC countries can take a selection of F.A.M.E. courses within the ERASMUS program. As many participants come from developing countries, tropical marine ecological courses are also well represented in the offer.

Belgian students can take the complete program or a number of selected courses in combination with the I.Z.W.O., postgraduate program.

The courses are given in English by specialists from different universities and institutes (see program), concerned with different disciplines (Biological, Physical and Chemical Oceanography). **A good knowledge of English is a prerequisite for participation.**

After two years successful students obtain the degree of "Master in Fundamental and Applied Marine Ecology". Further contacts and co-operation between the ex-F.A.M.E. students and the F.A.M.E. lecturers are pursued.

## **II. ORGANIZATION**

Universities and institutes participating in the F.A.M.E. program are :  
(in alphabetical order) :

- B.M.M. : Unit for the Management of the Mathematical Model of the North Sea and the Scheldt Estuary.
- D.I.H.O. : Delta Institute for Hydrobiological Research (Yerseke, The Netherlands)
- I.Z.W.O. : Institute for Marine Scientific Research
- K.U.L. : Catholic University of Leuven
- K.U.N. : Catholic University Nijmegen (Nijmegen, The Netherlands)
- L.U.C. : University of Limburg.
- M.O.W. : Ministry of Public Works
- N.I.O.Z. : Nederlands Instituut voor Onderzoek der Zee (Texel, The Netherlands).
- R.N.H. : State Museum Natural History (Leiden, The Netherlands)
- R.U.C.A. : State University of Antwerp
- R.U.G. : State University of Ghent
- R.V.Z. : Belgian Fisheries Institute.
- U.I.A. : University of Antwerp
- U.Lg. : University of Liège.
- U.N. : University of Nairobi (Nairobi, Kenya)

The host institution is the V.U.B. : Free University of Brussels.

Co-ordination of the program, practical exercises and administration are carried out by the F.A.M.E. personnel (two assistants and one secretary). Management is conducted by the daily committee. (2 V.U.B.-F.A.M.E lecturers and F.A.M.E. personnel).

Regular contacts with the students are part of the decision making process.

General management decisions are made by the general assembly (all F.A.M.E. co-operators) or by the F.A.M.E. committee (one representative of each university or institute).

The list of F.A.M.E. co-operators is given in appendix 1.

### **III. PROGRAM**

The F.A.M.E. program starts each year in October

During the first year, the students take a number of compulsory and optional theoretical courses on various ecological topics. Practical exercises and excursions are given on a specific subject or during an integrated exercise (+15). Evaluation is based on exams on the different courses and reports on practical exercises.

During the second year, students take a number of optional courses and carry out a research program, which is reported upon in a thesis. After successfully completing the program, students obtain the degree of "Master in Fundamental and Applied Marine Ecology".

#### **First year.**

##### **1. Compulsory courses :**

	<u>Hours</u>		
	<u>Theoretical courses</u>	<u>Practical exercises</u>	<u>Professor (Institute)</u>
<b><u>Mathematics</u></b>	15 h	15 h	Ronday (ULg)
<b><u>General Oceanography :</u></b>			
Partial Biological Oceanography	15 h	15 h	Heip (DIHO)
Partial Physical Oceanography	15 h	15 h	Ronday (ULg)
Partial Chemical Oceanography	15 h	15 h	Dehairs (VUB)
<b><u>Statistics</u></b>	15 h	15 h	Bergmans (VUB)/ Herman (DIHO)
	<u>75 h</u>	<u>75 h</u>	

##### **General practical exercises & excursions :**

120h

Total  
compulsory hours 1st. year.  
270h

## 2. Optional courses :

- Number of courses and hours required : Minimal 10 courses of 15h :

Total optional hours 1st year	150h (+ specific practical exercises)
<b>Total 1st year</b>	<b>420 h</b>

The optional courses can be chosen amongst the list below, arranged in different units (a-e).

At least one course has to be chosen from each unit.

### The optional courses are :

	<u>hours</u> <u>theoretical</u>	<u>hours</u> (*) <u>practical</u>	<u>Professor</u> (Institute)
<b>a) <u>Mathematics + Modelling</u></b>			
Introduction to Computer Sciences	15 h	+15h	Plastria (VUB)/ Tassin (VUB)
Introduction to Computer Programming (Fortran)	15 h	+15h	Plastria (VUB)
Introduction to Computer Programming (Pascal)	15 h	+ 15h	Vanden Berghe (UN)
Legislation and Ocean	15 h		Somers (RUG)
Exercise in Applied Mathematics	15 h		Daro (VUB)
<b>b) <u>Marine Biology</u></b>			
Population Dynamics	15 h	(+15)	Bergmans (VUB) Herman (DIHO)
Marine Bacteriology	15 h	(+15)	Vosjan (NIOZ)
Phytoplankton	15 h	(+15)	Mommaerts (BMM)
Zooplankton	15 h	(+15)	Daro (VUB)
Marine Macrophytes	15 h	(+15)	Coppejans (RUG)
Marine Invertebrates	15 h	(+15)	Schockaert (LUC)
Benthos (I)	15 h	(+15)	Vincx (RUG)
Ecophysiology	15 h	(+15)	Van der Linden/ Decler (RUCA)
Endocrinology of growth and reproduction in fish	15 h	(+15)	Kuhn (KUL)

c) Marine Chemistry + Pollution

Biogeochemical cycles	30 h +15h	Van Grieken (UIA)/ Dehairs (VUB)
Water-sediment Interaction	15 h	Baeyens (VUB)
Chemical aspects of Pollution (I)	15 h	Van Grieken (UIA)/ Dehairs (VUB)
Ecotoxicology (I)	15 h (+15)	Joiris (VUB)

d) Physical Oceanography + Geology

Hydrodynamics of Estuaries	15 h	Peters (MOW)
Sedimentology (I)	15 h	Monty (ULg)
Applied Oceanology	15 h	Bastin
Courses from the IFAQ program		

e) Fisheries + Aquaculture

Importance and evolution of fisheries and fishery techniques.	15 h	Hovart (RVZ)
Population dynamics of exploited fishstocks.	15 h	De Clerck (RVZ)
Population dynamics of commercial invertebrates	15 h	Redant (RVZ)
Mariculture (I)	15 h +15h	Sorgeloos (RUG)
Culturing of Fishes	15 h +15h	Ollevier (KUL)
Tropical Fisheries	15 h	Hamerlynck (RUG)

+ Expansion : namely in the non-biological directions

(\*) : (+15) = practices completely or partially taken up in general practical exercises and excursions.

3. Seminars

Concerning selected topics and disciplines to be taught in the second year.  
± 4-8 hours, possibly in combination with a visit to the laboratory concerned.

#### 4. Practical exercises and excursions.

General practical exercises and excursions (organized according to practical possibilities).

A multi-purpose syllabus is at the student's disposition for all general practical exercises.

#### Topics

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| * Three weeks of laboratory work and exercises at V.U.B.              | Basic methodology of various courses (1st. year). |
| * Three days of field work at the "Spuikom" (marine lagoon in Ostend) | In situ exercise on pelagic systems (1st. year).  |
| * 2 days visit to Zeeland (The Netherlands) (°)                       | Aquaculture - Delta works (1st year or 2nd year). |
| * 1 day on board of the research vessel "Luctor" (°)                  | Fisheries (1st or 2nd year).                      |
| * one week of field work at the "Station Marine" of Wimereux France.  | Intertidal benthic studies (1st or 2nd year).     |

(°) These excursions are organized in co-operation with the Delta Institute for Hydrobiological Research in Yerseke - The Netherlands.

Specific practical exercises and excursions are organized for some of the courses as indicated on the list.

## Second year.

	<u>courses &amp; hours</u>	<u>Total hours</u>
Thesis		90 h
Optional courses :	4 x 15h	60h theoretical + possible specific practices.
Specific theoretical courses in agreement with the promoter (thesis)	3 x 15h	45 h
Specific practical exercises with the promoter (thesis)	4 x 15h	60 h
General practical exercises & excursions		120 h
<b>Total 2nd year</b>		<b>375 h</b>

## Optional courses second year.

	<u>hours</u>	<u>Professors (Institute)</u>
Ecological Modelling (I)	15 h	Mommaerts (BMM)
Ecological Modelling (II)	15 h	Van den Berghe (UN)
General ecology	15 h	Bouquegneau (U.Lg)
Workshop Statistics	15 h	Herman (DIHO)/ Bergmans (VUB)
Ecotoxicology (II)	15 h	Delbeke (VUB)
Coral Reef Ecology	15 h	van der Velde (KUN)/ Nienhuis (DIHO)/ Best (RNH)
Benthos (II)	15 h	Vincx (RUG)
Seston	15 h	Tackx (VUB)
Seminar Tropical Fisheries	15 h	Hamerlynck (RUG)
Chemistry of Estuaries	15 h	Baeyens (VUB)
Chemical Aspects of Pollution (II)	15 h	Van Grieken (UIA)/ Dehairs (VUB)
Sedimentology (II)	15 h	Monty (ULg)
Sediment transport in estuaries and coastal zones.	15 h	Wartell (VUB)
Mariculture (II)	15 h	Sorgeloos (RUG)

+ Courses of other master's programs taught in English at various universities : IFAQ (Applied Quaternary Geology, V.U.B.); IUPHY (Hydrology, V.U.B.), Tropical Molecular Biology (V.U.B.); Human Ecology (V.U.B.); Aquacultue (R.U.G.); and Nematology (R.U.G.).

#### **IV. SOCIO - CULTURAL PROVISIONS**

To ensure good conditions for a postgraduate training, not only scientific know-how and infrastructure, but also social provisions are required. For this purpose, the F.A.M.E. daily committee cooperates with the social services of ABOS and the V.U.B. Section Foreign students of UCOV (Center for Development and Peace).

F.A.M.E. also promotes contacts with scientists from developing countries studying in neighbouring countries. For example in 1986, a joint seminar session was organized in co-operation with the IHE (International Institute for Hydraulic and Environmental Engineering) in Delft, The Netherlands.

In co-operation with the GBRS (Belgian Group for Submarine Scientific Research), swimming and diving courses are organized. For entertainment, a number of socio- cultural activities, such as visits to museums, folkloristic happenings and parties are organized.

#### **V. F.A.M.E. - FOLLOW UP**

It is envisaged that having obtained the Master's degree, F.A.M.E. trainees return to their country to become employed in marine ecological research or management activities.

Integration of their work, when possible as a continuation of the Master's thesis, into regional and international programs is pursued.

When possible, further contacts and co-operation are established between the institutes where the ex-F.A.M.E. students work and their European colleagues. For example, four F.A.M.E. students from the first cycle (1985-1987) are presently integrated in the Kenyan-Belgian project at the Kenyan Marine Fisheries Institute in Mombasa, Kenya. Close co-operation is also taking place between the ex-F.A.M.E. students working at SEAFDEC (South Asian Fisheries Development Center) and the Artemia Reference Center in Ghent. Contacts can also be made with institutes about a co-operation program involving Ph.D. theses of former F.A.M.E. students.

A limited number of scholarships for Ph.D. theses are provided by ABOS.

#### **VI. PERSPECTIVES**

The experience gathered during the previous years has allowed the F.A.M.E. co-operators to develop a coherent, well organized program. The intention is nevertheless to keep an open mind to any changes and/or extensions which can improve the quality of the program. Among these possibilities are e.g. the invitation of guest lecturers on topics, presently not covered.

## **VII. APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

**All applications must be accompanied by a certified copy of your diploma and mark-sheet : a copy of the original document bearing an original stamp of an institution authorized to validate copies (University or government - administration). Without these certified copies we cannot take your application into consideration.**

Scientists from all countries can apply to the F.A.M.E. course.

Send your curriculum vitae, accompanied by a recommendation letter of your employer or director, to the F.A.M.E. office, before June 15 of the year in which you want to participate (starting of course : October).

The necessary financial resources can be obtained as scholarships from governmental or international organizations, or candidates can use their own financial resources. Information on financial requirements is given below.

Scientists from developing countries can apply for the F.A.M.E. program and an ABOS scholarship. ABOS application forms can be obtained at the Belgian diplomatic post in your country. The forms should be sent to ABOS before April 15 of the year in which the candidate wants to participate (starting of courses : October). If you have absolutely no possibility to obtain ABOS forms, follow the instructions for all scientist, and mention if you want to apply for an ABOS scholarship, or want to take the program selfsupporting or apply for a scholarship to a governmental or international organisation. Also inclose a letter of agreement for your study leave from your government.

Students from EEC countries can take a number of courses in the framework of the ERASMUS program. ERASMUS applications should reach the F.A.M.E. office before September 15 of the year prior to the academic year (starting in October) in which you want to participate (e.g. before September 15 1992, if you want to participate in the period between October 1993-June 1994).

## VIII. FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

(amounts per year).

Social cost student

	<u>BFr.</u>	<u>U\$</u>	<u>ECU</u>
Insurance	10 000	303	232
Inscription fee	13 000	394	302
Inscription exam	2.000	61	46
Scientific equipment	5 000	151	116
<b>Total</b>	<b>30 000</b>	<b>909</b>	<b>696</b>

Operational cost F.A.M.E. (participation fee)

Traveling-boarding expenses (excursion + courses at different universities).	45 000	1.363	1.046
Documentation cost (courses, books)	29.000	879	674
Administration (telephone, mail, thesis)	16.000	485	372
Practical exercises (small apparatus, chemicals)	30 000	909	698
Other (reception, emergencies)	10 000	303	232
	-----	-----	-----
<b>Total</b>	<b>130 000</b>	<b>3.939</b>	<b>3.022</b>

**TOTAL : (social cost student + operational cost F.A.M.E.)**  
(Amounts per year)

<u>BFr.</u>	<u>U\$</u>	<u>ECU</u>
30 000	909	696
130 000	3.939	3.022
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160 000	4.848	3.718

## **Appendix 1**

### **List of F.A.M.E. co-operators.**

**Director : Dr. N. Daro - V.U.B.**

**International coordinator : Prof. Dr. Polk - V.U.B.**

<b>F.A.M.E. committee:</b>	<b>Dr. N. DARO</b>	-	<b>V.U.B.</b>
	<b>Prof. P. POLK</b>	-	<b>V.U.B.</b>
	<b>Prof. P. SORGELOOS</b>	-	<b>R.U.G.</b>
	<b>Dr. E. COPPEJANS</b>	-	<b>R.U.G.</b>
	<b>Prof. R. VAN GRIEKEN</b>	-	<b>U.I.A.</b>
	<b>Prof. W. DECLEIR</b>	-	<b>R.U.C.A.</b>
	<b>Prof. F. OLLEVIER</b>	-	<b>K.U.L.</b>
	<b>Prof. E. SCHOKAERT</b>	-	<b>L.U.C.</b>
	<b>Prof. C. MONTY</b>	-	<b>U. Lg.</b>
	<b>Prof. W. BAEYENS</b>	-	<b>V.U.B.</b>

**Daily committee : Dr. N. DARO (president)**

**Dr. W. BAEYENS/Dr. F. DEHAIRS**

**Dr. K. DELBEKE/Dr. M. TACKX**

**FAME personnel : Dr. K. DELBEKE (assistant)**

**Dr. M. TACKX (assistant)**

**Ms. C. VAN ONGEVALLE (secretary)**

### **Lecturers :**

**Prof.W. BAEYENS**

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**Faculteit Wetenschappen**

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**3031 OUD-EVERLEE**

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**Labo Systematiek en Ecologie**

**Faculteit Wetenschappen**

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Rijksmuseum Natuurlijke Historie  
PB 9517  
**2300 RA LEIDEN**  
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**GHER**  
ULG, Sart Tilman  
**4000 LIEGE**

**Dr. E. COPPEJANS**  
Labo voor Morfologie, Systematiek & Ecologie  
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**Dr. W. VAN DEN BERGHE**  
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KENYA

**Dr. M. VINCX**  
Labo voor Systematiek en Morfologie der Dieren  
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**Prof. S. WARTELL**  
IFAQ, V.U.B., Pleinlaan 2  
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## **Appendix 2**

### **Overview of F.A.M.E. participants & theses presented**

#### **F.A.M.E. students 1985-1987.**

**GUOTONG CHEN**

Institute.: Division of Marine Biology

Second Institute of Oceanography

National Bureau of Oceanography

P.O. BOX 75 HANGZOU

P.R. CHINA.

Title Thesis : "Study of the meiobenthos in the Southern Bight of the North Sea and its use in Ecological Monitoring".

**ODIDO OUDOR MIKA**

Institute : Kenyan Marine Fisheries Institute

P.O. BOX 81651 MOMBASA.

KENYA.

Title thesis : "Modelling of estuarine circulation.

Numerical modelling of the creeks around Mombasa island".

**KAMAL KAZZI UDDIN**

Address : 21-27, 32 street

Astoria, NEW YORK 11105

U.S.A.

Title thesis :"Optimization of *Artemia* spp. Biomass production in a flow-through recirculating system".

**ERIC LACAYO ESCOBAR**

Institute : Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Nicaragua Centro de

Investigacion de Recursos Acuaticos

Cira - Unan MANAGUA.

NICARAGUA.

Title thesis : "Mercury in hair of the Nicaraguan population".

DENISH OTEKO

Institute : Kenyan Marine Fisheries Institute  
P.O. BOX 81651 Mombasa  
KENYA

Title thesis : "Analysis of some major and trace metals in the sediments of Gazi, Makupa and Tudor creeks of the Kenya coast. A comparative investigation into the anthropogenic input levels".

RUYITNO

Institute : Centre for Oceanological Research and Development  
Pasir Putih 1 Ancol Timur  
P.O. BOX 580  
INDONESIA

Title thesis : "Bacterial numbers in the Banda Sea (Indonesia)".

TANG SEMMING

Institute : The 3th Institute of Oceanography  
P.O. BOX 70, XIAMAN, FUJIAN  
P.R. CHINA

Title thesis : "The vertical distribution of chlorophyll a and its relation to particulate organic matter at two stations of the North Sea".

STEVE SULEM YONG

Address : P.O. BOX 44  
Njinikom Nord West Province  
CAMEROON.

Title thesis : "Alternative fish feeds : the use of industrial wastes and by-products for the culture of the African catfish, *Clarias gariepinus* (Burchell, 1822)".

DEZAN YE

Institute : The 3th Institute of Oceanography  
P.O. BOX 70, XIAMEN, FUJIAN  
P.R. CHINA.

Title thesis : "Bacterial biomass and activity in North Sea and Antarctic waters".

**F.A.M.E. students 1987-1989**

**ICHSAN AMIR**

Institute : Center for Oceanological Research & Development  
Indonesian Institute of Sciences  
Jl Pasir Putih I Ancol.Timur Jakarta Utara  
INDONESIA.

Title thesis : "A comparison of sponge of exposed and sheltered reef flats  
in Eastern Indonesia".

**MARCELO BUZZI**

Institute : Zoology Laboratory Department of biology  
University of Brasilia  
Brasilia - DF 70000.  
BRAZIL

Title thesis : "The effect of  $\omega$ -3 polyunsaturated fatty acids on the larval  
*Macrobrachium rosenbergii* (de Man) fed enriched *Artemia*  
nauplii".

**ELBA DE LA CRUZ**

Address : Apartado 32, 2070 Sabanilla  
Montes De Oca.  
San Pedro  
COSTA RICA

Title thesis : "Organochlorine and total mercury in the *Anadara*  
*tuberculosa* bivalve and other species from the Nicoya Gulf,  
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Institute : Aquaculture Department  
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Title thesis : "The effect of various drying techniques on the state of  
diapause and the hatching characteristics of *Artemia* cysts".

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**Title thesis :** "Contamination of some commercially important marine shrimp and fish species from Bangladesh by organochlorine pesticides, PCBs and total mercury".

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**Title thesis :** "Effect of dietary lipid and protein levels on growth and body muscle composition of juvenile european sea bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*)".

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**Institute :** State Oceanic Administration  
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**Title thesis :** "The study in the spatial distribution of Meiobenthos in the Voordelta".

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**Title thesis :** "Several aspects of nutrients dynamics in seagrass plants (*Zostera marina* L.) and their envionment in the South West Netherlands".

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**Title thesis** : "Numerical Modelling of Gazi Creek (South Coast, Kenya) :  
I : Hydrodynamics Model  
II : Descriptive Ecological Model".

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**Title thesis** : "The contamination and mobilization of metals in the sediments of an intertidal mud flat of the Scheldt Estuary, Belgium".

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**Title thesis** : "Effects of feeding *Artemia* nauplii enriched with w3-HUFAs, soya bean lecithin, vitamins E and C on the growth, survival, development rate and stress resistance of *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* (de Man, 1879) larvae".

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**Title thesis** : "Use of Coulter counter and C-14 methods in zooplankton grazing studies".

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Title thesis : "PCBs uptake and elimination mechanisms by fish".

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Title Thesis : Study of the Feeding Biology in the Brine Shrimp *Artemia*  
Using Manipulated Baker's Yeast.

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Title Thesis : Taxonomic and Sclerochronological Studies of Kenyan Reef  
Corals.

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Title Thesis : Community Ecology and Productivity of the Epibenthos of a  
Shallow Coastal Area.

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Title Thesis : Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Technique as a Specific and  
Sensitive Detection Method for *Aeromonas Salmonicida* and  
*Aeromonas Sobria* in Natural Ecosystems (Water, Sediment  
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Title Thesis : Self-Thinning in some Mussel Populations (*Mytilus Edulis*)

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Title Thesis : The Effect of Temperature and Salinity on the Biological Availability of Metals to the Brine Shrimp *Artemia franciscana*.

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Title Thesis : I. The Effect of Dietary Sodium Chloride on the Growth Rate, Feed Conversion, Survival, Cannibalism and Mortality Rate of Larval African Catfish *Clarias gariepinus* (Burchell, 1822).  
II. The Evolution of Body Muscle Composition of Fingerling *Clarias gariepinus* (Burchell, 1822).

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**Title Thesis** : Effects of Isoproterenol, Salbutamol, Fenoterol and Clenbuterol on Body Composition and Growth of the African Catfish, *Clarias gariepinus* (Burchell, 1822).

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**Title Thesis** : Development of an Enrichment Technique for On-grown *Artemia* for Use in Marine Larviculture.

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**Title Thesis** : Macrozoobenthic Assemblages in Groot Buitenschoor, Westerschelde Estuary : Resultant of Physico-Chemical Gradients.

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**Title thesis** : A Faunistic Study in the Free-living *Plathelminthes* of some Marine Habitats near Wimereux (N. France).

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