

FAO FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE INFORMATION

By

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Abstract

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is charged with the collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of information relating to nutrition, food and agriculture. The Fisheries Department of FAO has a global mandate in relation to these activities within the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. A brief presentation of information resources on the FAO Fisheries Homepage is given, with particular reference to fisheries and aquaculture activities in Europe. The need to analyse and interpret an ever increasing volume of information and data in order to facilitate effective decision-making in response to rapidly changing world fisheries and aquaculture presents new challenges. The development of the FAO Fisheries Library Homepage and the possibilities for collaboration with European aquatic science libraries is discussed.

The FAO fisheries homepage <http://www.fao.org/fi>

The homepage provides multilingual information on all aspects of fisheries and aquaculture, in particular those priority activities and programmes in which the Fisheries Department is involved at the present time. The programmes selected for presentation cover a broad spectrum of the activities of the FAO Fisheries Department, at Headquarters, in Regional Offices and in field projects.

The Code of Conduct For Responsible Fisheries

<http://www.fao.org/fi/agreem/codecond/codecon.asp>

The Code of Conduct sets out principles and international standards of behaviour for responsible practices with a view to ensuring the effective conservation, management and development of living aquatic resources, with due respect for the ecosystem and biodiversity. The promotion and implementation of the Code is being addressed at all sessions of FAO fishery bodies. Collaboration between European countries on the implementation of the Code is carried out under the auspices of fishery bodies such as the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM).

Consultation on the Application of Article 9 of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in the Mediterranean Region. Rome, Italy, 19-23 July 1999
<http://www.fao.org/fi/meetings/ccrf/art9/r606/english/r606e.asp>

and the

European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC).
<http://www.fao.org/fi/body/eifac/eifac.asp>

Some FAO Fisheries Projects and Cooperation Within Europe

1. COPEMED

<http://www.ua.es/copemed/en/index.htm>

The COPEMED Project was born in 1996 for the advice, technical support and establishment of cooperation networks to facilitate coordination to support fisheries management in the Mediterranean (at a first stage Western and Central Mediterranean). Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Malta, Italy, France and Spain have accepted to adhere to the Project. COPEMED has a duration of 5 years and is financed by Spain through the AEI (Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional). The main objective is to help the participating countries establish a co-ordinated system for scientific criteria generation and formulation of recommendations allowing the application of the most appropriate strategy for the best resources management.

2. Information System for Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM)

<http://www.fao.org/fi/statist/fisoft/sioam/intro/main.htm>

The SIPAM network consists at present of a Regional Centre, located in Tunis, and ten National Centres located in Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia, and Turkey.

FAO Fisheries Library Homepage <http://www.fao.org/fi/library/library.htm>

The Fisheries Branch Library of FAO's David Lubin Memorial Library (<http://www.fao.org/library/librarye.htm>) provides library and information services to FAO staff and to fisheries and aquaculture organizations and institutions in Member States. Its specialized collections on fisheries and aquaculture include over 1,600 periodical titles and more than 20,000 reports on developing and tropical fisheries. The library prepares specialized bibliographies and carries out bibliographic research. It collaborates with fisheries and aquaculture libraries and information networks in member countries.

The Fisheries Library Homepage is intended as a means of disseminating FAO Fisheries information to external users and of providing guidance to FAO staff on the availability of fisheries information resources worldwide.

Some areas of Homepage development which could be the subject of collaboration between fisheries libraries for the benefit of our users are:

Providing guidance on the availability and use of **Library Databases in Fisheries and Aquaculture**
http://www.fao.org/fi/library/bi_datab.htm

Directories of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Related Internet Sites
<http://www.fao.org/fi/library/Links.htm>

Access to fisheries and aquaculture journals <http://www.fao.org/fi/library/journ.htm>

Fisheries Library Networks http://www.fao.org/fi/library/lib_netw.htm

Library and information networks provide a forum for the sharing of information resources and expertise. Networks provide mechanisms for strengthening individual libraries, for providing cost-effective access to a wider range of information resources and for the effective dissemination of information to a wider audience.

Details are given of some library networks covering fisheries and the aquatic sciences in different geographical regions. Further details of some of their resource-sharing activities are intended to stimulate increased network participation and promote greater collaboration, with particular emphasis on the needs of libraries in developing countries.