

# The FAO Aquaculture Gateway Page

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The FAO Fisheries Department is currently restructuring its home page, to improve the performance and accessibility of the web-based information facilitating the navigation through and the integration of the different domains. FAO has developed a new Aquaculture Gateway page powered by FIGIS (Fisheries Global Information System) in which viewers are able to access relevant information on aquaculture at international, regional and national levels.

The Aquaculture Gateway page is accessible through the FAO Fisheries Department Web site at the following internet address: <http://www.fao.org/figis/servlet/static?dom=root&xml=aquaculture/index.xml>

Information can be navigated across FIGIS for a multifaceted view to address the needs of a diverse audience – from policy-makers, aquaculture and fishery managers and NGOs to biologists, statisticians and industry leaders.

The Aquaculture Gateway page contains:

**News.** This section presents and highlights all new on-line products and developments. Example of a recent news is the release of a multilingual Glossary of Aquaculture containing almost 3 000 terms with definitions, synonyms, related terms, information sources and images, has been published to properly define the terminology commonly used to facilitate communication among technical experts, scientists and non experts involved in aquaculture domain.

**Fact Sheets.** This section of the gateway page includes specific subject information and profiles supported by graphics (GIS maps and images, etc.). The Fact Sheets contain a synthesis of information tailored to illustrate the various characteristics of each broad aquaculture subject. Search, navigation and information tools are also accessible. The information domains treated by the Fact Sheets are the National Aquaculture Sector Overviews (or NASOs), the

National Aquaculture Legislation Overviews (or NALOs) and the Cultured Aquatic Species Fact Sheets. All the Fact Sheets will be available into the five FAO official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French and Spanish).

**National Aquaculture Sector Overview (NASO).** The NASO collection consists of concise and comprehensive products, providing a general overview of the aquaculture and culture based fisheries aspects at the national level. FAO is currently preparing NASOs for more than 100 FAO member countries around the globe. The NASOs contain detailed information on the history of aquaculture; human resources involved in the sector; farming systems distribution and characteristics; main cultured species contributing to national production; production statistics; description of the main domestic markets and trade; promotion and management of the sector; and development trends and issues at the national level.

**National Aquaculture Legislation Overview (NALO).** The NALOs consist of a series of comparative national overviews of aquaculture laws and regulations from the top 40 aquaculture producing countries, and have been prepared in collaboration with the FAO Development Law Service. The preparation of the overviews is primary based on FAOLEX (<http://faolex.fao.org/faolex/index.htm>), a legislative database containing the world's largest electronic collection of national laws and regulations on food and agriculture. Further material has been collected from national sources.

**Cultured Aquatic Species Fact Sheet.** The Cultured Aquatic Species Fact Sheet collection, is directed at those wishing to gain an understanding of the steps that should be followed to start to raise aquatic species (fish, mollusc, seaweeds and frogs) and learn about current techniques at the global level, provides a general overview of various cultural aspects (e.g. production systems, diseases and control measures, production statistics, market and

trade) for the most important species in aquaculture. A detailed and comprehensive bibliography as well as related links are also provided.

**Data.** The section on Data provides sophisticated statistical graphics constructed from available time-series datasets of aquaculture production data, coming from FAO Fishstat Plus database (version 2.3).

Under this section users can access the FAO Database on Introductions of Aquatic Species (DIAS: <http://www.fao.org/figis/servlet/static?dom=collection&xml=dias.xml>) that was developed by Robin Welcomme in the early 1980s and formed the basis for the 1988 FAO Fisheries Technical Paper No. 294. In the mid-1990s questionnaires were sent to fisheries experts to gather additional and up-to-date information on introductions and transfers of aquatic species in their countries. DIAS now includes additional taxa of plants, molluscs, and crustaceans, and marine species. DIAS is being coordinated by Devin Bartley ([Devin.Bartley@fao.org](mailto:Devin.Bartley@fao.org)) of FIRI.

**Related information** is a section containing the following:

**FAO Aquaculture publications** which catalogue relevant on-line documents. The aim of this section of the webpage is to compile a list of available FAO field project reports on aquaculture which have been received by the David Lubin Memorial Library of FAO and entered into the FAODOC database; the most part of them is available in HTML format.

**Issues related to aquaculture** focus on main problems and issues facing sustainable aquaculture, policy and governance matters, key points of discussion.

**Multimedia** offers information on CD-ROMs produced by FAO, images, video and audio as well as other FAO products.

**FAO Aquaculture Newsletter (FAN)** provides link to the on-line issues of the newsletter.

Selected links connect to the main information systems and partners of FAO Fisheries Department, dealing with aquaculture.

Further details can be obtained by writing to Valerio Crespi of FIRI at e-mail: [Valerio.Crespi@fao.org](mailto:Valerio.Crespi@fao.org).



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