

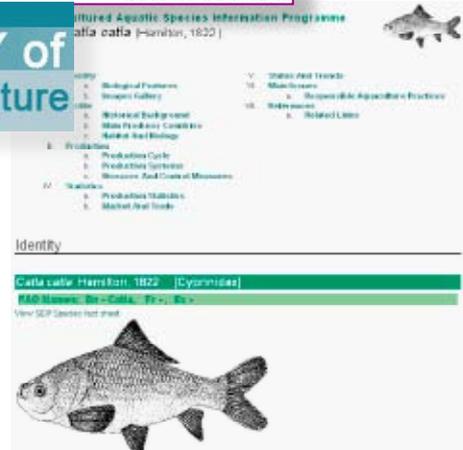
# Aquaculture Information for Sector Development, Networking, and Decision-Making

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The information base for fisheries and aquaculture is growing extremely fast. However, access to this widely scattered information can be difficult especially for developing countries. Well-focused information systems and databases can help to better assist and reach the final users. The FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, following its mandate, is always at the front-line in the production and dissemination of high quality information for a wide range of users.

The role of FAO as a knowledge organization is to establish appropriate mechanisms that will stimulate Member Countries to share and disseminate data related to aquaculture activities in order to facilitate cooperation on planning for sustainable aquaculture development at national, regional and global levels. For this purpose, FAO during recent years has given strong support for the establishment of new aquaculture networks (e.g. Network of Aquaculture Centres in Eastern Europe or NACEE; Aquaculture Network For Africa or ANAF; RECOFI-Working Group on Aquaculture in the Gulf Region) along with technical assistance for the development of associated information systems (e.g. NACEE Web site; Regional Aquaculture Information System or RAIS; ANAF Web site).

The development of aquaculture is dependent on successful application of appropriate and modern technologies, on good interaction between fish farmers, government authorities and research institutes and on dissemination of easy to use and accurate information that is shared and used responsibly and objectively. To this end, FAO is paying particular attention on the standardization of terminology to facilitate and/or enhance information dissemination, understanding and exchange among information systems.



Much of the information generated, organized and disseminated by the Department includes a geographic dimension - an essential element to monitor fisheries and aquaculture at global level and support decision-making for FAO Member Governments. As fisheries and aquaculture are fundamentally spatially distributed and many of issues are spatial in nature, responsible management requires a solid understanding of the underlying dimension. Geographic information systems, remote sensing and mapping provide the technology for addressing issues such as suitability of site and zoning, habitat quality and ecosystem management, which can support decision-making. FAO plays a unique role in providing such information.

The Department provides instant online access to a number of web-based information systems, publications and many other information sources (see Table 1).

**Table 1. FAO Aquaculture Information Resources**

**FAO Aquaculture Gateway Page**

<http://www.fao.org/fi/website/FIRetrieveAction.do?dom=topic&fid=16064>

Statistics and Fact Sheets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Global Aquaculture Production</li> <li>◇ National Aquaculture Sector Overview (NASO)</li> <li>◇ National Aquaculture Legislation Overview (NALO)</li> <li>◇ Cultured Aquatic Species fact sheets</li> <li>◇ Fishery and Aquaculture Country Profiles</li> </ul>
Information systems and Databases
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Global Gateway to Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Remote Sensing and Mapping for Aquaculture and Inland Fisheries (GISFish)</li> <li>◇ African Water Resource Database (AWRD)</li> <li>◇ Database on Introductions of Aquatic Species (DIAS)</li> <li>◇ Aquatic Animal Pathogen and Quarantine Information Systems (AAPQIS)</li> </ul>
Technical publications (in print, in CD-Rome and web accessibility)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Glossary of Aquaculture</li> <li>◇ FAO Aquaculture Newsletter (FAN)</li> <li>◇ Aquaculture Regional and Global Reviews</li> <li>◇ Aquaculture Thematic Publications</li> <li>◇ Aquaculture Proceedings, Meeting Reports, Circulars</li> </ul>
Aquaculture selected links
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ FAO Regional Fishery Bodies</li> <li>◇ Aquaculture Network Websites (NACEE; ANAF)</li> <li>◇ Aquaculture Certification (FAO-NACA)</li> </ul>

**GCP/HAI/017/OPF:** Support to the implementation of the “Diversification” component of the FAO Special Programme for Food Security (PSSA) in Haiti through the development of small-scale aquaculture and poultry farming. The project, a second extension of the original FAO TCP/HAI/2903, will start in November 2007 until November 2009. The main objective of the project is to increase income and food security and to improve access to a variety of local diets through the development of poultry husbandry and fish farming in rural areas of the country (integrated chicken-fish farming). Activities will include: strengthening of farmers’ capacities on fish and poultry farming; reinforcing farmer associations; developing and promoting small-scale aquaculture and poultry farming as a source of additional animal proteins. [Responsible Officer: V Crespi (FIMA)]

**TCP/URU/3101: “Plan Nacional de Desarrollo de la Acuicultura”** is almost coming to an end. The project finalized a draft Aquaculture Policy in August 2007 and in October 2007 a National Strategy; both were sent for endorsement to the Government. The project further conducted a large number of training workshops in Montevideo and in other regions of Uruguay over the past months. Training topics included sector planning, business planning, economic analysis of costs and benefits of aquaculture farms and marketing of farmed fish. Demonstration activities are currently ongoing and some extension manuals are being published. The project is also contributing the organization of World Food Day on 14 October 2007, as the need to increase consumption of fish is an important message that the Government and FAO want to convey to the Uruguayan population. [Responsible Officers: R Anrooy (FAOSEC), R Subasinghe (FIMA) and H Mikkola (FAOUY)]