

3. WHAT is the OBJECTIVE of ASFA ?

Article-1 of the **ASFA Partnership Agreement** describes the overall **objective** of the ASFA co-operation (<http://www.fao.org/fi/asfa/agreemt.asp>)

*“The overall objective of ASFA co-operation is to develop and maintain a service for the collection and dissemination of information on the **science, technology and management of marine, brackish water and fresh water environments, organisms and resources, including economic, sociological and legal aspects**, in a form easily accessible to the user community, bearing in mind the special interests of developing countries* and based on the pooling of literature monitoring and indexing activities by the individual partners, consistent with internationally accepted standards and practices. The service shall include a computer searchable bibliographic database, associated printed abstracts journals and the relevant tools for the control of the system and aids to its use. .”*

**(by "special interests of developing countries" we include the full participation in international schemes under the aegis of the UN system for the collection, analysis and use of data and information; equitable and affordable access to relevant information services and products; and the strengthening of national capacities in information handling and communication).*

All ASFA Partners (<http://www.fao.org/fishery/asfa/3/en>) must sign the ASFA Partnership Agreement (<http://www.fao.org/fi/asfa/agreemt.asp>) .

(FAQ note by Richard Pepe (richard.pepe@fao.org), updated January 2009)