

4. WHAT is the SUBJECT SCOPE of ASFA?

The present **subject scope of ASFA** includes all of the literature dealing with the **science, technology and management of marine, brackish and fresh water environments, organisms and resources**, including **economic, sociological and legal aspects**. The subject scope of ASFA is clearly reflected in Article-1 of the *ASFA Partnership Agreement* (<http://www.fao.org/fi/asfa/agreemt.asp>).

The subject scope of ASFA is described, in great detail, in the ASFIS Reference Series publication entitled "*ASFIS-2, Subject Categories and Scope Descriptions*" which lists all of the 254 ASFA Subject Categories together with their scope description. (ftp://ftp.fao.org/fi/asfa/Subject_categories)

4.1 WHAT TOPICS are currently EXCLUDED from the Subject Scope of ASFA

The following topics are, in many cases, outside the subject scope of ASFA:

- ground water
- water or sewage treatment
- terrestrial geology
- offensive warfare
- theoretical studies of ship design*
- ships and ship building*
- weather modification
- public water supply
- hydraulics
- water as a resource industry or agriculture
- naval engineering*

*(coverage of ships and shipbuilding is limited to research vessels and fishing vessels)

Note: it should be realized that documents dealing with the above list of "excluded" topics may "sometimes" be relevant for inclusion in ASFA depending on the "context" in which the topic is treated in the document. The ASFA indexer has the task of making the distinctions. For example, a paper dealing exclusively with the design of a new sewage treatment plant, with no mention or reference to the aquatic environment or organisms, would be outside the subject scope of ASFA. However, a paper which describes the new design of a sewage plant, and also makes specific mention or reference to the beneficial (or detrimental) effects that the new design will have on the aquatic environment and/or its organisms would be within the subject scope of ASFA.

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