

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS*

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* See also: www.fao.org/fi/fishcode.htm=>Components=>Research support

Further information:

Aquatic Commons
FI-Library@fao.org

FishCode Programme
FishCode@fao.org
<http://www.fao.org/fi/FishCode.htm>

FishCode, FAO's Programme of Global Partnerships for Responsible Fisheries, is a multidonor Trust Fund umbrella facility to promote implementation of the Code of Conduct and its related instruments

Donor partner contributions are invited through the FishCode Trust

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FAO FishCode AQUATIC COMMONS

Information sharing via the Aquatic Commons



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AQUATIC COMMONS – PURPOSE

Developments in information and communication technologies (ICTs) provide new opportunities to share information online and to make it available globally to end users. One such new development is the *Aquatic Commons*, an Open Access digital repository for the aquatic sciences, including fisheries and aquaculture.

The Aquatic Commons is an opportunity to improve the capture, dissemination and preservation of fisheries and aquaculture information, based on the principles of equal ownership and resource sharing. Its specific aims include:

- facilitate sharing of information and knowledge on fisheries and aquaculture management;
- provide free and Open Access to information;
- ensure equal participation and coverage of the literature from developing and developed countries;
- empower managers and resource users to publish their findings;
- enable the use and validation of research results;
- avoid costly and wasteful duplication of effort;
- ensure the preservation of information and its availability for future generations.



Photo by M.O. Ibeun

AQUATIC COMMONS – REPOSITORY

Aquatic Commons



<http://aquacomm.fcla.edu>

The *Aquatic Commons* is a thematic digital repository covering the natural marine, estuarine/brackish and fresh water environments.

The repository contains a growing collection of published and unpublished research, organizational publications, and other scholarly materials contributed by researchers, librarians and their institutions.

It is directed by the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers (IAMSLIC) to provide visibility, usage and impact through global access to digital publications from worldwide marine and freshwater organizations that do not have access to an institutional repository of their own.

AQUATIC COMMONS – BENEFITS

Developing and maintaining an in-house digital repository is too resource demanding for many small to medium size organizations.

Security – the hazards of computer crashes, file corruption and virus attacks put publications which reside only on a Web site or only in one digital copy seriously at risk of being lost. Aquatic Commons provides a secure site.

Long-term availability – rapid developments in computer hardware and software lead to high levels of uncertainty for long-term sustainability if larger investments are needed. Aquatic Commons is a robust technical platform.

Preservation – we have an obligation to preserve our publications so that they are available for future generations. Aquatic Commons provides a more long-term solution than a Web site publishing system.

Integration – AVANO is the official harvester of the Aquatic Commons and enables users to search the digital publications of marine and freshwater organizations worldwide. AVANO currently harvests more than 100 000 publications from 150 + open archives. <http://www.ifremer.fr/avano>

AQUATIC COMMONS – PARTICIPATION

Depositing digital documents is a quick and simple process requiring basic skills. Easy to follow illustrated guidelines are provided at <http://www.iamslc.org/index.php?section=175>

Early contributors include:

- International Collective in Support of Fishworkers
- U.S. National Sea Grant Library
- Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific

For further information please contact FI-Library@fao.org

AQUATIC COMMONS – FUNDING

Additional funding is required to enable full participation of fisheries institutions, researchers and resource managers in developing countries. Digitization of their unique and difficult to access resources of information requires external funding. Strengthening information capacity and enabling the sharing of expertise and resources are an integral part of the Aquatic Commons initiative. Donor partner contributions are invited through the Fish-Code Trust. For further information please contact FishCode@fao.org