

FAO, ASFA SECRETARIAT REPORT
ASFA Advisory Board Meeting
FAO, Rome, Italy 4-8 October 2005

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1. INTRODUCTION

This Report reviews the major intersessional activities of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) regarding its participation in the FAO co-sponsored *Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts* (ASFA) international cooperative information system¹.

The Report contains information relevant to the Meeting Agenda and the follow-up actions arising from last year's Meeting. It also includes: the status of: the ASFA Partnership, the ASFA information products, the system guidelines and tools, and the ASFA Trust Fund . Some of the activities mentioned in the Report were carried out by, or together with, an ASFA Partner(s). For details on the intersessional activities of the ASFA Partners, consult their individual Reports.

Because the structure and function of the ASFA system does not change radically from year to year, the structure (and some of content) of the Report will necessarily be similar to past Reports.

1.1 Summary of the FAO ASFA Secretariat Intersessional ASFA Activities

The main accomplishments and activities for this intersessional period were:

- Recruitment of 4 New ASFA Partners (section-4.2)
- Carrying-out and assistance in planning/organizing 7 training sessions on ASFA input methods (section-8.2.2.2),
- Development and testing of the upgrade to the www-ISIS-ASFA software (section 8.2)
- Initiative to simplify ASFA inputting rules and procedures (section 9.5.3)
- Continuation of the project to increase availability of the ASFA information products (CD-ROM & Internet access) to Low Income Food Deficit Countries (LIFDC) (section-9.7 & ASFA/2005/61)
- Initiatives to promote cooperation with IAMSLIC group(s) (section-13 & ASFA/2005/66)

On-going activities:

- Preparation of ASFA input as FAO's contribution to the ASFA database (section-2.1)
- Editorial control of the input submitted by some ASFA Partners (section-2.2 and Annex-2)
- Support to www-ISIS-ASFA help desk (section 8.2.2.1)
- Maintenance of monitoring list (section-6.1) and other ASFIS Ref. Ser. Pubs. (section-6)

¹ **Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA)** is an abstracting and indexing service covering the world's literature on the science, technology, and management of the marine, brackishwater, and freshwater environments including their socio-economic and legal aspects. ASFA was established in 1970 by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), a commercial publisher, and a number of National centres (i.e. ASFA Partners) that wished to establish a computerized information system dealing with the literature on aquatic sciences and fisheries. The mandate for the establishment of ASFA is found in the **FAO Constitution, Article-1 (Functions of the Organization): 1) the Organization shall collect, analyze, interpret and disseminate information relating to nutrition, food ... fisheries, marine products ...** . FAO was the lead agency and one of the founding fathers of ASFA, and it currently is: one of the four UN co-sponsoring ASFA Partners, an active ASFA input centre (it produces bibliographic records for inclusion in the ASFA database), and it also functions as the ASFA Secretariat. All of the ASFA related activities and the ASFA Secretariat are located in the Fishery Information, Data and Statistics Unit (FIDI) of the Fisheries Department. In this Report, the terms FAO and ASFA Secretariat are sometimes used interchangeably to refer to FAO's participation in ASFA.

2. FAO STAFF WORKING ON ASFA

See **Annex-1** for a list of: the FAO staff members involved with ASFA, the recipients of FAO's entitlement copies to the ASFA information products, and the address of SIPAM which is an FAO Collaborating ASFA Centre.

2.1 FAO Input

The following table reports the number of ASFA records prepared by FAO over the last few years. See **ASFA/2005/65** for the ASFA input totals of all ASFA Partners back to 1988.

YEAR	08/2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	Serials Monitored by FAO
RECORDS	1100	742	1053	1732	1188	1851	250 (30 August 2005)

* (750 FAO records under preparation [i.e. not yet sent to CSA])

2.2 Input Edited by FAO

After an ASFA Partner receives training in the ASFA input methods, either FAO or another ASFA Partner, on behalf of FAO, provides "follow-up". The "follow-up" includes detailed editing of each bibliographic reference, and provision of detailed comments for each record needing correction. The follow-up period (sometimes lasting up to a year or more) officially ceases when the input is considered, by FAO, as suitable (in terms of content/style) for its direct submission to the Publisher (CSA), by the Partner. However, because of the increased number of ASFA Partners and the limited staff resources in the ASFA Secretariat the amount of time a new ASFA Partner can be maintained in "follow-up" training may have to be reduced, outsourced or other.

Besides editing the input submitted by newly trained Partners, FAO takes the opportunity to spot-check those files sent by E-mail to CSA by the "older" ASFA Partners (i.e. when FAO is included in the mailing by the Partner). Sometimes, CSA notifies FAO of a particular problem in a specific record or batch of records that it has received, and FAO will investigate. In addition, FAO, when requested, will spot check a batch of input prepared by one ASFA Partner on behalf of another or spot check an initial batch of records being prepared under a Trust Fund project to input "historical" records. The number of records edited by FAO, during this intersessional period, is reported in (**Annex-2**). Besides the actual editing of input, the ASFA Secretariat also dedicates **considerable** time/effort in responding to the many other questions submitted by Partners relating to input preparation/software.

3. ASFA PUBLISHING AGREEMENT

(Historical account - What is the ASFA "Publishing Agreement"?) - The official title is: *Publishing Agreement between Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and Cambridge Scientific Abstracts*. It is a signed Agreement (a legal document) between FAO and the ASFA Publisher, Cambridge Scientific Abstracts (CSA) which **is reviewed and renewed every four years**. The Agreement describes the responsibilities, limitations, entitlements, and sanctions agreed between FAO and the Publisher as regards: the production of the ASFA database and information products. **The current "Publishing Agreement" covers the period 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2007.**

The parts of the "Publishing Agreement" of direct interest to ASFA Partners include: the allocation, number and use of the complimentary ASFA products which CSA distributes to the ASFA Partners, and the amount of "royalties" that CSA should pay into the ASFA Trust Fund for using/marketing the Partners ASFA records in its information products. These parts of the Agreement are visible on the FAO ASFA Homepage at <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/006/ad644e/ad644e00.pdf> and they were published as Annex-41 of last year's (2004) ASFA Advisory Board Meeting Report.

PROPOSAL TO AMEND PARTNER'S ENTITLEMENT TO THE ASFA CD-ROM PRODUCT

As stated above, the "Publishing Agreement" specifies: the allocation/number of complimentary ASFA products that Partners receive. Therefore, this proposal is given first mentioned under this Section heading. But further details are given in section **9.6 "Partners Entitlements to ASFA Information Products"**.

Over the years, the FAO ASFA Secretariat has received numerous requests for additional complimentary copies of the ASFA information products (in particular the ASFA CD-ROM) from both from the National ASFA Partners and the Collaborating ASFA Centres,.

Now that CSA is, **itself**, producing the ASFA CD-ROM without restrictions or financial obligations to Ovid-SilverPlatter, the FAO ASFA Secretariat envisages CSA granting these additional complimentary copies to Centres. This proposal could be recorded as an amendment to the ASFA Publishing Agreement between CSA and FAO, or, more simply, recorded in the Board Meeting Report as a CSA action for a 2 year trial period. See **Section 9.6**.

4. ASFA PARTNERSHIP

This section provides information on:

- The **ASFA Partnership Agreement**, (4.1)
- **New ASFA Partners and new Collaborating ASFA Centres** (4.2)
- **Status of some Partners preparation/submission of ASFA input** (*just beginning, not yet started, resumed or ceased* preparing/submitting ASFA input to CSA). **Note:** the preparation and submission of bibliographic references are a primary ASFA Responsibility. (4.3)
- **Partners removed or in danger of being removed from the ASFA Partnership**, for not preparing/submitting ASFA input over a long period (i.e. in violation of the primary ASFA responsibility) (4.4)
- **Potential new ASFA Partners** (4.5)
- **Other uses for the ASFA Partnership** besides submitting input (e.g. resource sharing) (4.6)
- **Miscellaneous Partner Information** (4.7)

4.1 ASFA Partnership Agreement ²

At this writing, there are **55 ASFA Partners (4 more than last year)**:

4 UN, Co-sponsoring ASFA Partners	41 National ASFA Partners
9 International ASFA Partners	1 Publishing ASFA Partner.

See ASFA homepage (<http://www.fao.org/fi/asfa/partners.asp>) and/or **ASFA/2005/58** for a complete list of all the ASFA Partners and Collaborating Centres.

Information on "*Why and How to become an ASFA Partner*" is contained on the ASFA Homepage under the heading "*Frequently Asked Questions*" (<http://www.fao.org/fi/asfa/faq/faq.asp>).

There is also a criteria reflecting loss of entitlements and dismissal from the ASFA Partnership. It is also posted on the ASFA homepage (<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/006/ad644e/ad644e00.pdf>). It should be noted that during this intersessional period FAO contacted a number of Partners as to why they were not submitting bibliographic records to the database. See **section 4.3(d)**.

4.2 New ASFA Partners

The ASFA Board will be requested to welcome the following THREE National institutions and ONE International organization into the ASFA Partnership. For full address and contact name, see ASFA/2005/3b) and ASFA/2005/58.

4.2.1 New National ASFA Partners

Three new **National** ASFA Partners joined ASFA during the intersessional period:

- 1) **Islamic Republic of Iran** **Iranian Fisheries Research Organization (IFRO)**
(IFRO attended an ASFA Training session at FAO)
- 2) **Senegal** **Direction des Pêches Maritimes (DPM)**
(DPM will attend an ASFA Training session at FAO prior to Board Meeting)
- 3) **United Republic of Tanzania** **Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS)**
(IMS attended an ASFA Training session at KMFRI by KMFRI staff)

² (Historical account - What is the ASFA Partnership Agreement?) - The official title is: *Partnership Agreement Providing for Cooperation in the Preparation and Publication of the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) and the Reconstitution of the Advisory Board*). All ASFA Partners are required to sign the ASFA Partnership Agreement to become an ASFA Partner. The text of the current ASFA Partnership Agreement was drafted in 1995, and has remained the same since. Modification/additions or re-interpretation of points in the Agreement are possible through discussion and "agreement" at ASFA Board Meetings. However, any eventual modifications to the Agreement are recorded only in the ASFA Advisory Board Meeting Report itself. They are not introduced into the Partnership Agreement document, because this would then require the re-circulating of the document to all Partners for signature - which would be impractical. The text of the ASFA Partnership Agreement is visible on the FAO ASFA Homepage at: <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/006/ad644e/ad644e00.pdf>

4.2.2 New International ASFA Partners

One new **International** ASFA Partner joined ASFA during the intersessional period:

- 1) **The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Secretariat of the Pacific Community Library/Bibliothèque, New Caledonia** (SPC attended an ASFA Training session at PIMRIS, by G. Rao)

4.2.3 Collaborating ASFA Centres

One new **Collaborating** ASFA Centre joined ASFA during the intersessional period.

The International ASFA Partner "AdriaMed" signed an agreement with the *Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (IOF)*, Split, Croatia in order to establish it as the AdriaMed national collaborating centre on AdriaMed and ASFA activities). For the moment, IOF will only be in charge of literature published at IOF (Acta Adriatica, Bilješke-Notes, grey literature). Future steps will hopefully involve IOF in responsibility for all the publications issued in Croatia, relevant to ASFA and already in the AdriaMed Monitoring List

(IOF) attended an ASFA Training session at AdriaMed (5-7 April 2005).

4.3 Status of some Partners regarding preparation/submission of ASFA input

The preparation of ASFA input and its submission to the Publisher CSA for inclusion in the ASFA bibliographic database are the "**primary responsibility**" of all ASFA Partners. An ASFA Partner can be dropped (removed) from the ASFA Partnership, if for three consecutive years (and without good reason) it does not prepare/submit ASFA input. In theory, a Partner can have its "free-complimentary" ASFA products suspended after 2 years of no input submission (but in practice this would be detrimental to eventually getting started as having access to the ASFA database is a useful/essential tool in preparing ASFA input).

The sections below present the status of some ASFA Partners regarding their preparation and submission of ASFA input. The many strange sounding categories were necessary to "keep track" of the many varying situations. As you can see, most ASFA Partners fall outside the categories mentioned below. **However, if you are listed in section (d), PLEASE take notice and action.**

(a) Partners - JUST BEGINNING - to prepare/submit their first ASFA input

Brazil – **Universidade Estadual de Feira de Santana** is the Collaborating ASFA Centre in Brazil, and it is now submitting records to FAO for checking. The National ASFA Partner **Universidade de São Paulo, Instituto Oceanográfico (IO)** has been submitting ASFA input since Feb 2004 (so it should really not be mentioned in this list). The training and follow-up with the Brazilian ASFA Partner and Collaborating centre was/is especially challenging and rewarding for the ASFA Secretariat, as we receive most of the correspondence in Portuguese (thanks to L. Lombardi's efforts, we have managed to keep the lines of communication open).

Indonesia - **Center for Scientific Documentation & Information, Indonesian Institute of Sciences (PDII-LIPI)** received training in the ASFA input methods 7-11 June 2004, at FAO. In July 2004 PDII-LIPI began sending records to FAO for checking.

Mauritania - **Institut Mauritanien de Recherches Océanographiques et des pêches (IMROP)** received training in the ASFA input methods 20-24 September 2004, at FAO. In February 2005 IMROP began sending records to FAO for checking. The records have been subsequently submitted to the Publisher, CSA, for inclusion in the ASFA Database.

Tanzania – **Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS) – University of Dar es Salaam** was trained in ASFA input methods in December 2004 by KMFRI (which assisted in the recruitment of this ASFA Partner). Problems with installing the software were encountered. In July 2005, IMS began sending records to KMFRI for checking.

(b) Partners who have - NOT YET STARTED - to prepare/submit ASFA input

Senegal - **Direction des Pêches Maritimes** is a new ASFA Partner. DPM signed the ASFA Partnership agreement to join ASFA in May 2005). A person from DPM will be trained in the ASFA input methods the week prior to this year's ASFA Board Meeting. The ASFA Secretariat will pay the per-diem costs.

IOTC - The **Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)** signed the ASFA Partnership Agreement to join ASFA in 2004. A first batch of input (469 records) was prepared under contract by the ASFA Partner in India (NIO/NICMAS). Arrangements for the input of subsequent input must be made.

Ecuador - **Instituto Nacional de Pesca (INP)** was trained in the ASFA input methodology 20-24 October 2003 by UNAM. They have not yet started to submit records. But it was reported by the Mexican ASFA Partner (UNAM), which carried out the training and which is responsible for the initial follow-up, that a first batch is forthcoming.

INP is also listed in the "warning list" – see section (d) below.

Iceland - **Marine Research Institute (MRI)** is a relatively new Partner (MRI signed the ASFA Partnership agreement to join ASFA in 2003). A MRI staff member was trained in the ASFA input methods 9-13 February 2004 at FAO. MRI has not yet started to submit records.

MRI is also listed in the "warning list" – see section (d) below.

NACA - The **Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA)** signed the ASFA Partnership Agreement to join ASFA in 2003. NACA sent a person to FAO for training in the ASFA input methods 17- 21 May 2004. They have not yet started to submit records.

NACA is also listed in the "warning list" – see section (d) below.

Morocco - **Institut National de Recherche Halieutique (INRH)** joined ASFA in April 1999, and received training in the ASFA input methodology in November 1999. INRH sent a person to FAO for a second training 20 -24 September 2004. They have not yet started to submit records.

INRH is also listed in the "warning list" – see section (d) below.

(c) Partners who "RESUMED" submitting ASFA input (after a considerable period)

The following two ASFA Partners are no longer in danger of being dropped.

- **Cote d'Ivoire** - **Centre de Recherches Océanologiques (CRO)**. In January 2005, CRO sent 20 records to FAO for checking, these records now appear on the ASFA database.

Historical note: CRO was trained in ASFA Input methods in November 1999 and submitted input during 2000 and 2001. In addition, some input was sent to FAO for checking in 2002, but after FAO returned this batch to CRO for corrections to be made, CRO did not submit this input to CSA and interrupted input production until the 2005 batch cited above. CRO has cited problems with staff and equipment.

- **ICCAT** - **International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), Spain**, In June 2005, 505 records were submitted to CSA for inclusion in the ASFA Database.

Historical note: after ceasing input production in 2002, ICCAT stipulated a contract with another ASFA Partner (NIO/NICMAS-India) to produce its ASFA input.

(d) Partners who "CEASED" submitting ASFA input and who may be - IN DANGER OF BEING REMOVED - from the Partnership now or sometime in the future

At the last Board Meeting 4 ASFA Partners (CRO - Cote d'Ivoire), (ICCAT), (INRH - Morocco), and (IEO - Spain) were cited as being in danger of being removed from the ASFA Partnership for not-submitting ASFA input for a prolonged period. Three of them: (CRO - Cote d'Ivoire), (ICCAT), and (INRH - Morocco) are **no longer** in danger of being removed, as they have either started to provide input or have taken other steps to begin input production.

However, the Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO), Spain is, unfortunately, in serious danger of being removed from the ASFA Partnership. IEO has not submitted input since 2002. On 21 May 2004, IEO confirmed their intention to submit ASFA input in June of 2004. However, this input was not forthcoming. The ASFA Secretariat is attempting one last time to assess IEO's willingness to remain an ASFA Partner before formally removing them from the Partnership. A decision regarding IEO will be made during the next few months.

Warning List

We have included a number of ASFA Partners in the **Warning List** below. Let the FAO ASFA Secretariat know (if you haven't yet) what is your problem. Maybe we can help. As always, our primary goal is: to attract, to recruit, to train, and to support (within our capacity and resources) the ASFA Partners - NOT to remove them.

- **Peru - Instituto del Mar del Perú (IMARPE)** was trained in the ASFA input methodology 18-23 March 2002, although the new input software was not issued until 25 October 2002. In February 2004, IMARPE began sending records (104) to FAO for checking and have been submitted to CSA. The last batch of records sent to FAO for checking was in May 2004. However, since then, the ASFA Secretariat has lost direct contact with the ASFA contact at IMARPE.
- **Ecuador - Instituto Nacional de Pesca (INP)** was trained in the ASFA input methodology 20-24 October 2003 by UNAM. They have not yet started to submit records, however it was reported to FAO, by the Mexican ASFA Partner (UNAM), Feb 18 2005, (which carried out the training and which is responsible for the initial follow-up) that a first batch was being prepared by INP. To our knowledge, this first batch has not yet been sent to UNAM for checking.
- **Iceland - Marine Research Institute (MRI)** signed the ASFA Partnership agreement in 2003. A MRI staff member was trained in the ASFA input methods 9-13 February 2004 at FAO. MRI has not yet started to submit records. MRI, when contacted, expressed its desire to continue participation in ASFA. MRI cited, as reasons for the delay in submitting input: change of working responsibility of the person responsible for input and computer problems. MRI foresees input to be submitted this Winter 2005.
- **NACA - The Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA)** signed the ASFA Partnership Agreement to join ASFA in 2003. NACA sent a person to FAO for training in the ASFA input methods 17- 21 May 2004. They have not yet started to submit records. NACA, when contacted, expressed its desire to continue its participation in ASFA. NACA cited, as reasons for the delay in submitting input: decreased human resources and increased workload for the person responsible for input. NACA foresees the submission of input in the future, and will meet with FAO in October to discuss further the situation.
- **Morocco - Institut National de Recherche Halieutique (INRH)** joined ASFA in April 1999, and received training in the ASFA input methodology in November 1999. Staff changes and re-organizing hindered input preparation. INRH expressed its desire to continue its participation in ASFA by sending (at their own cost) a person, to FAO, for a second training 20 -24 September 2004. However, they have not yet started to submit records.

(e) Other

- **WorldFish Center** - stopped submitting ASFA input last August 2004 because of staff changes, but recognized the need to identify a trainee and resume ASFA participation. WorldFish Center will send (at their own cost) a person, to FAO, for training 25 - 31 October 2005.

4.4 ASFA Partners removed from the Partnership

Fortunately, no Partners were removed during the intersessional period. However, as mentioned above in section (d), the Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO), Spain is in danger of being removed from the ASFA Partnership.

4.5 Potential ASFA Partners

This section briefly describes the "strategy" guiding the recruitment of new ASFA Partners, and the recruitment efforts that were undertaken, or postponed during the intersessional period.

4.5.1 Strategy Guiding the Recruitment of New Partners

Two "strategy" papers currently guide the FAO ASFA Secretariat in recruiting new ASFA Partners: *Strategy for priority setting for future Expansion of the ASFA Partnership* - by YongJa Cho, presented as Annex-42 at the 2002 ASFA Advisory Board Meeting, and the pre-existing *Criteria for recruitment and approval of new Partners and removal of existing Partners* - presented and approved at the 1998 Meeting (section-6.2.2 and Annex-1 of 1998 Meeting Report). Therefore, when identifying potential countries (institutes) for participation in ASFA, the Board agreed that the FAO ASFA Secretariat be guided by both the above mentioned papers, and noted the list of priority countries in paragraph 39 of the first mentioned strategy paper (i.e. Philippines, Thailand, Netherlands, South Africa, Israel, New Zealand, Nigeria, Egypt, Indonesia, Tanzania, and Sri Lanka). From the above mentioned list, Nigeria, Indonesia, and Tanzania are now ASFA Partners.

4.5.2 Summary list of the recruitment initiatives (underway, postponed, being considered)

The following is a summary list of recruitment initiatives, planned, pending, or postponed.

- **Ireland - Marine Institute (MI)**. MI is being contacted by the ASFA partner in the UK (Linda Noble PML) as to their interest in joining the ASFA Partnership. PML has offered to assist in the eventual training of the Marine Institute should the recruitment go forward.
- **New Zealand - National Institute of Water and Atmospheric research (NIWA)**. At the last Meeting of IAMSLIC in Australia, the FAO ASFA Secretariat spoke with the NIWA information services manager regarding NIWA's eventual participation in ASFA. NIWA re-iterated its difficulty of direct participation in ASFA, as an ASFA Partner, for administrative reasons. However, the possibility of NIWA contributing records to ASFA (as a no cost operation to NIWA) through automatic download from one of their existing databases was mentioned. Recently, NIWA reported having sent a MARC export file of "NIWA Biodiversity Memoirs" and "Fisheries Research Reports" to CSA for loading into the ASFA database. CSA confirmed that the "memoirs" were indexed and loaded into the database, however the "Reports" would be loaded once CSA has time to index them (note: NIWA records are sent without ASFA indexing). CSA stated its willingness to continue this arrangement with NIWA.
- **Senegal - Direction des Pêches Maritimes (DPM)** - At the above mentioned IAMSLIC Meeting, the ASFA Secretariat initiated the recruitment procedure with **Direction des Pêches Maritimes. DPM subsequently joined ASFA.**
- **Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)** - At the above mentioned IAMSLIC Meeting, the ASFA Secretariat initiated (almost finalized) the recruitment procedure with the **Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). SPC subsequently joined ASFA.**
- **Egypt, Turkey, Philippines, Thailand** - postponed.

Future Priority: The recruitment of new Partners will take into consideration: **1)** the "strategy papers" cited above in section 4.5.1, **2)** some of the pending and/or postponed initiatives mentioned above, and **3)** direct requests from country institutes asking to join ASFA. However, it should be noted that the joining of 10 new ASFA Partners over the last 2 years has definitely overextended the capacity of the ASFA Secretariat as regards training, follow-up etc.. Therefore, the rate of future recruitment will be conditioned to the extent that the ASFA Secretariat is able to outsource some of its training and follow-up responsibilities (as it has done in the case of the new ASFA Partners in Ecuador, Nigeria, Tanzania, SPC, and PIMRIS).

4.6 Using the Partnership besides a means to collect and process records for inclusion in ASFA

During the intersessional period, the ASFA Secretariat reminded the ASFA Partners of how the ASFA-Board-L Listserv was being used by some ASFA Partners for resource sharing and cited one example (that between the ASFA Partner (NIO/NICMAS-India) and the ASFA Collaborating-centre (IBSS –Ukraine)). See Richard Pepe's E-mail to all Partners (of 24 August 2005). In brief:

The question that we should always be asking ourselves is: How many OTHER ways are there to UTILIZE this unique resource that we call the ASFA Partnership to cooperate between and among ASFA Partners? Bring your ideas to the Board Meeting and/or start a discussion on the ASFA-Board-L listserv. Note, the ASFA Partnership/network (after many years and much effort) now numbers 55 ASFA Partners and approx. 44 Collaborating centres)

4.7 Miscellaneous Partner Information

During the intersessional period, the FAO ASFA Secretariat saluted Denis Abbot, ASFA Board Member CSIRO-Australia, who retired. He will be remembered, among other things, for his single handed efforts and determination in getting Australia/CSIRO to join the ASFA Partnership.

5. INITIATIVES/MEETINGS WITH SOME RELEVANCE OR REFERENCE TO ASFA

Listed below are some initiatives and meetings that took place during the intersessional period that were relevant to or made some reference to ASFA. The listing is not exhaustive.

See **Annex-3** of this Report for more information on each of these Initiatives/Meetings.

5.1 128th Session, of the FAO Council, Rome, Italy, 20-25 June 2005

http://www.fao.org/unfao/govbodies/Councilfinal_en.asp

The Council is the executive organ of the FAO Conference (the Conference is the supreme governing body of FAO). The Council has powers dealing with the world food and agricultural situation and related matters, current and prospective activities of the Organization, **including the Programme of Work and Budget**, administrative matters, **financial management** of the Organization, and constitutional questions.

*The Council **commended** the work of the Twenty-sixth Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI), and **endorsed** the report and recommendations made by the Session.*

*The Council **agreed** that Fisheries Department activities were important, and **underscored** the need for additional allotments to be made to Major Programme 2.3 Fisheries.*

(See **Annex-3** for more details)

5.2 Report of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI)

(Rome, 7-11 March 2005) http://www.fao.org/fi/NEMS/events/detail_event.asp?event_id=24536

The Committee reviewed the relevant fisheries and aquaculture related issues of an international character and the programme of work of FAO Fisheries Department.

Furthermore, the Committee noted that all Fisheries Department activities were too important not to be undertaken and it underscored the need for additional allotments to be made to Major Programme 2.3 "Fisheries".

(See **Annex-3** for more details)

5.3 30th Conference of the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centres - IAMSLIC

<http://www.iamslc.org/publications/proceedings.html>

One direct outcome of the FAO ASFA Secretariat's participation in this Conference was the confirmed recruitment into ASFA of the Secretariat of the Pacific (SPC). (See **Annex-3** for more details)

5.4 11th EURASLIC Conference, 4-6 May 2005, Split, Croatia

<http://www.euraslic.org>

From the FAO ASFA Secretariat, Richard Pepe was invited by the President of EURASLIC) to attend this Meeting where he Chaired a Discussion Group on "Why become an ASFA Partner?" (See **Annex-3** for more details).

5.5 Eight Session of the IODE Group of Experts on Marine Information Management (GEMIM-VIII) 2, 3, and 10 September 2004, Hobart, Australia, and

From the FAO ASFA Secretariat (Richard Pepe) was invited as an observer. Numerous recommendations came out of this Meeting. The main ones regarding ASFA or FAO are listed in **Annex-3**. All of the recommendation and Actions (there are many) can be seen in the full Report on the IOC webpage (<http://www.unesco.org/ioc>)

5.6 Fisheries Global Information System (FIGIS) <http://www.fao.org/fi/figis> and FIGIS-ASFA relations and cooperation

The development of FIGIS (the global information system on fisheries aimed at providing policy makers with timely, reliable strategic information on fishery status and trends on a global scale) remains one of the major efforts underway in the Fisheries Department. We recommend that you become familiar with this site as major reference point or portal to Fisheries/aquaculture information. For more information about FIGIS and its development status, see http://www.fao.org/figis/servlet/static?dom=org&xml=figis_org.xml&xp_banner=fi

There is collaboration between ASFA and FIGIS via an ASFA Trust Fund proposal regarding the geo-referencing of ASFA geographical terms for use in searching geographically the ASFA database, and the direct access to the ASFA online records from the web pages generated by FIGIS. The status of this Trust Fund proposal is presented in (ASFA/2005/64)

5.7 SIFAR - Support Unit for International Fisheries and Aquatic Research - oneFish Community Directory Project

The **Support unit for International Fisheries and Aquatic Research** (SIFAR) was founded in March 1998 and is based alongside the Fisheries Department of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), in Rome. The site <http://www.sifar.org/> provides full background information on the SIFAR programme and some key links.

HOWEVER much of SIFAR's business has transferred to **oneFish** (<http://www.onefish.org/>) .

(See **Annex-3** for more details)

5.8 World Fisheries and Aquaculture Atlas CD-ROM

http://www.fao.org/fi/atlas/w_fi_aq/w_fi_aq.asp

The 3rd Edition was issued for the 2005 Meeting of the FAO Committee on Fisheries. Copies were sent to all Partners in September. (See **Annex-3** for more details)

5.9 Marine Metadata Interoperability (MMI) Project Workshop 9-11 August 2005

<http://marinemetadata.org/examples/mmihostedwork/ontologieswork/mmiworkshop05/>

Richard Pepe (FAO ASFA Secretariat) was invited (behind a fully paid invitation) to participate in the **Marine Metadata Interoperability (MMI) Project Workshop 9-11 August 2005**. The scope of the Workshop was essentially to create a tool (an ontology) to assist users/searchers in finding science data and information available in databases (and among different databases), without knowing the vocabulary that was used to index the subject content of the information sources (i.e. to enable interoperability between marine data and information resources). The immediate goals of the Workshop were: "the mapping between existing marine metadata vocabularies and to make the mapped vocabularies available to users via web services". (See **Annex-3** for more details)

6. ASFIS REFERENCE SERIES PUBLICATIONS

Historical account: What are ASFIS and the ASFIS Reference Series publications?

ASFIS is the acronym for "Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Information System". Years ago, the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) bibliographic database was just one of a number of information modules - all under the umbrella or collective name "ASFIS". The other ASFIS modules included: list of experts, projects, meetings etc.. The "ASFIS" Reference Series publications were/are the authority lists, rules, guidelines etc. to be used to integrate all of the ASFIS information modules. Today of the ASFIS modules, ONLY the ASFA database still exists. Nonetheless, the term ASFIS has not been dropped and the terms ASFA and ASFIS are often, although incorrectly, used interchangeably.

6.1 ASFIS-1, Serials Monitored for the ASFIS Bibliographic Database

This publication (commonly called "the Monitoring List") lists the **serials** monitored by the ASFA Partners. In the ASFA database the references to the serials literature make up about 70% of the records. The remaining 30% of the references in the database come from the monographs, conference proceedings, reports etc.. Each ASFA Partner is responsible for monitoring the serials (and non-serials) literature published in his/her own country.

As of 30 August 2005, the List contained 3328 titles (i.e. 38 titles more than last year's 3,290).

The Monitoring List (list of serial titles and ISSN numbers) is contained as a "pick list" within both the DOS ASFISIS and the www-ISIS-ASFA software to facilitate data entry.

From time to time, updated versions of the monitoring list are sent to Partners or made available on the ASFA Homepage for uploading into the data entry software. The last update was issued 10 September 2003 (see E-mail from L. Lombardi to all ASFA Partners via ASFA-Board-L), however it should be mentioned that further updates to the monitoring list have since been generated and sent to the developer of the www-ISIS-ASFA software for incorporation into the upgrade that is under the development. Updates of the Monitoring for use in the old ASFISIS software are no longer issued.

6.1.1 Maintenance of the Monitoring List master file - is an ongoing FAO task. **ALL Partners are reminded of the necessity of notifying FAO** (attention: Ms Lombardi, Luciana.Lombardi@fao.org) of any changes or additions or deletions to their monitoring lists, and to reply as quickly as possible to any FAO queries regarding the List.

Again, we need to remind you of the ongoing exercise requested by the Board at the 2000 ASFA Board Meeting, involving the five new fields added to the Monitoring list master file 5 year's ago:

- 1) one field to identify "electronic ISSN numbers",
- 2) one field to identify "core journals",
- 3) three fields to identify "monitoring status":
 - 3.1) "begin ASFA coverage" - indicates the DATE in which the ASFA Partner started to monitor a journal (including Volume and Issue numbers);
 - 3.2) "ceased ASFA coverage" - indicates the DATE in which the ASFA Partner ceased to monitor the journal (including Volume and Issue numbers); and
 - 3.3) "ceased publication" - indicates the journal is NO longer published (by including the last volume/issue, year published)

The inclusion of the information regarding the additional fields is being implemented by FAO, for those titles that have been changed/added and communicated to FAO by Partners over the last five years. For the update of all the remaining old titles (about 1,000), FAO has already started this exercise with some of the ASFA Partners and will complete it as soon as these Partners provide FAO with the requested information. Partners **should continue** to send the information related to the additional fields whenever amendments to their monitoring list are notified to FAO.

6.2 ASFIS-2, Subject Categories and Scope Descriptions (Rev. 2)

This publication defines the subject scope of the ASFA database by means of 255 subject categories, which are also used in indexing. These "subject categories" are contained as a "pick list" within both the ASFISIS and the www-ISIS-ASFA software to facilitate data entry. The subject categories were not modified during the intersessional period. Therefore, *ASFIS-2, Subject Categories and Scope Descriptions (Rev.-2)* remains the most current version. It is available as a text file on the FAO ASFA Homepage FTP site (<ftp://ftp.fao.org/fi/asfa/>). A Spanish translation of this publication was produced by the Mexican ASFA Partner and is also available.

6.3 ASFIS-3, Guidelines for Bibliographic Description and Data Entry using www-ISIS-ASFA (Rev. 3)

These Guidelines provide detailed instructions on how to input the "bibliographic citation" part of the ASFA reference. It is available (text file) on the FAO ASFA Homepage FTP site ftp://ftp.fao.org/fi/asfa/Bibliographic_Guidelines/www-ISIS-ASFA/. A Spanish translation by the Mexican ASFA Partner is also available.

For Partners still using the DOS ASFISIS software, *ASFIS-3 (Rev.2), Guidelines for Bibliographic Description*, issued in 1998, is still valid and available at: ftp://ftp.fao.org/fi/asfa/Bibliographic_Guidelines/ASFISIS/

6.4 ASFIS-4, Abstracting Guidelines using www-ISIS-ASFA (Rev.3)

These Guidelines provide detailed instructions on how to input the "abstract" part of the ASFA reference. It is available (text file) on the FAO ASFA Homepage FTP site <ftp://ftp.fao.org/fi/asfa/>.

For Partners still using the DOS ASFISIS software, *ASFIS-4 (Rev.1), Abstracting Guidelines*, issued in 1998 and revised in 2001, is still valid and available at (<ftp://ftp.fao.org/fi/asfa/>).

6.5 ASFIS-5, Guidelines for Indexing using www-ISIS-ASFA (Rev.2)

These Guidelines provide detailed instructions on how to input the "indexing" part of the ASFA reference. It is available (text file) on the FAO ASFA Homepage FTP site <ftp://ftp.fao.org/fi/asfa/>.

For Partners still using the DOS ASFISIS software, *ASFIS-5 (Rev.1), Guidelines for Indexing*, issued in 1998, is still valid and available at (<ftp://ftp.fao.org/fi/asfa/>).

6.6 ASFIS-6, Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Thesaurus (Rev.2)

The Thesaurus contains the "subject descriptors" used during indexing. It is contained as a "pick list" within both the DOS ASFISIS and the www-ISIS-ASFA software to facilitate data entry. It is also contained in the ASFA CD-ROM and the CSA IDS service to facilitate searching.

The ASFA Thesaurus is currently available in three formats (all provisional): 1) printed publication called Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Thesaurus (ASFIS-6, rev.2 Draft copy), 2) online Internet version, for viewing by general public, which is available on the FAO ASFA Homepage at http://www4.fao.org/asfa/nons_en.htm, and 3) text file (English only), which is available on the ASFA Homepage FTP site (<ftp://ftp.fao.org/fi/asfa/>).

6.6.1 Maintenance

(Historical account from last Meetings): The draft version of the Thesaurus has been in the hands of Partners for testing (addition/deletion of terms) for about 5 years. Note many suggestions have been received over the years, and then FAO suspended the updating in view of the FAO "ontology" project/initiative to improve all existing indexing/searching vocabularies used throughout FAO's collection of information. In reply to a request by the ASFA Secretariat last year for the status of the ontology project (in particular could it now be used to update the ASFA Thesaurus), we were informed (21 May 2004) that: the state of the Fishery ontology project was still being evaluated, and that it could not, at the moment, be used to update other systems, but that this one of the targets for the second phase of the project. **(this matter is further clarified in the Meeting mentioned between FAO-GIL/WAICENT (AGRIS) mentioned below).**

At the last Board Meeting, it was suggested that Partners identify a quick, straightforward list of the most important terms that are missing from the thesaurus for immediate use in indexing (i.e. updating the pick-list within www-ISIS-ASFA in the near future without waiting for the ontology project). **This appeal did not solicit many replies.** However, a number of Partners did reply to wanting be part of an eventual Thesaurus Committee.

During the intesessional period, the ASFA Secretariat requested a meeting with GIL/WAICENT (AGRIS/AGROVOC) to **clarify the status of the ontology project and its impact/relation to the ASFA Thesaurus** with particular reference to the following questions: 1. should the ASFA Partners go ahead and update the ASFA thesaurus in a standard "thesaurus" like manner or wait for the ontology?, and 2. would it be possible, worthwhile etc, to structure and make function the ASFA thesaurus (by itself apart from an eventual FAO ontology) as an independent ontology? (if yes, could GIL/WAICENT (AGRIS) convince the ASFA Board (with demo) as to the advantages over a plain thesaurus? This Meeting was held 14 September.

First of all, the FAO ontology project is alive and under active development, both within FAO and outside, through collaboration with other institutes. Over 30,000 concepts have been defined for the ontology. The terms from the various FAO vocabularies, thesauri, term lists etc. will eventually be merged – but this merging phase has not yet started.

When the full FAO ontology is created/completed, the ASFA Thesaurus will be an integral part of it together with the AGRIS Agrovoc thesaurus and other FAO vocabularies. ASFA Partners would benefit from the additional/new inferential relations and the mapping among terms from the different vocabularies. This ontology would be useful as a tool for searching the ASFA database, and it could also be useful in indexing, if it can be made to work on a single PC (i.e. the file is not too big to run). It would also be possible to separate ASFA from the full ontology, ASFA terms only, so as to create an ASFA ontology. This would not be much of an improvement over the existing Thesaurus in indexing, but retrieval it would benefit from some improved relations as regards the related terms.

As regards maintenance, the vocabularies within the ontology will be maintained through a terminology tool that is being developed by FAO GIL/WAICENT called "Terminology Workbench". As regards updating the ASFA Thesaurus (long overdue), we were advised either to wait for the issuing of the "workbench" tool or to load ASFA into the Protégé software and use that for updates (as the ASFA Thesaurus under Protégé would be compatible with loading into the ontology or "Workbench"). A PowerPoint demo of an ontology may be presented at the Meeting.

6.7 ASFIS-7, Geographic Authority List (Rev. 2)

This list contains "geographic descriptors" that may be used during indexing. The list is contained as a "pick-list" within both the ASFISIS software and the www-ISIS-ASFA software to facilitate data entry. An updated version was included in the new www-ISIS-ASFA software, but some Partners have reported problems in the terms contained in the list (i.e. inconsistencies, spelling mistakes).

The geographic descriptor pick-list in the software is actually a CSA download of all Partners' geographic indexing as taken from 3 years of ASFA input (i.e. from the annual ASFA geographic indexes). The Board recognized that the Geographic descriptor pick-list in www-ISIS-ASFA contained many errors and that it was no longer an Authority List (like the one contained in the DOS-ASFISIS software). The Board agreed that this pick-list should be used with care, to assist in data entry, and that the FAO Secretariat should remind Partners of this.

[It was suggested at the ASFA Board Meeting that reference could be made to an on-line geographic thesaurus, such as the Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names, for assistance in the construction of a geographic descriptor to be entered in an ASFA record. CSA also suggested that ASFA Partners reviewed the Getty Thesaurus and communicated their views via ASFA-Board-L.]

Hopefully, Partners will have some constructive comments regarding the Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names or some progress can be registered regarding the revision of our own list.

6.8 ASFIS-8, Taxonomic Authority List (now called: ASFIS List of Species for Statistical Purposes ASFIS-15)

This list contains "taxonomic descriptors" that may be used during indexing. The list is contained as a "pick list" within both the DOS ASFISIS software (1500 terms) and the www-ISIS-ASFA software (10,000 terms) to facilitate data entry. The Taxonomic list exists as both an online file and a printed publication (the printed version was issued during 2002, and copies were sent to all ASFA Partners during that intersessional period).

The online file (10,000 records) can be downloaded from the FAO Fisheries Web page site in .txt format for easy importing into Excel or Access software <http://www.fao.org/fi/statist/fisoft/asfis/asfis.asp>.

Historical account: this taxonomic file was compiled/computerized by the Statistical Section of FIDI. The over 10,000 species items were selected according to their interest or relation to fisheries/aquaculture. Recent taxonomic revisions were consulted for the correct scientific names/taxonomic classification. For a complete description of this list, see the http address above.

6.9 ASFIS-9, Database User Guide - no action

6.10 ASFIS-10, Authority List for Corporate Names

The "corporate names" are used in the Corporate author field of the bibliographic citation. The list is contained as a "pick list" within both the ASFISIS and www-ISIS-ASFA software. An updated version will be included in the upgrade to the www-ISIS ASFA software which is being planned.

6.11 ASFIS-11, Magnetic Tape Specifications and Record Format - No action

6.12 ASFIS-12, Inter. Dir. of Ser. Pub. in Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries - No action

6.13 ASFIS-13, ASFIS Database Indexing and User Guide (Chinese) - No action

6.14 ASFIS-14, ASFISIS (Release-3 User Manual)

This manual is for use with the DOS ASFISIS software. The most recent version remains that issued in 1998. It is available on the ASFA Homepage FTP site(<ftp://ftp.fao.org/fi/asfa/>)

7. ASFA TRUST FUND

The **Balance** of the Trust Fund is **US\$?????NOT YET CALCULATED ????????**

See (ASFA/2005/60) for a detailed account of the financial status of the ASFA Trust Fund, and (ASFA/2005/59) for the CSA calculation of the year 2004 royalty payment.

(Deposits over for the last 7 years)

year	CSA deposit	BF Deposit
2004	US\$212 998.00	*
2003	US\$199 188.66	*
2002	US\$185 913.49	€32,65.
2001	US\$155 668.79	DM 110,83 + €8.30
2000	US\$127 846.00	DM 134,05
1999	US\$ 85 412.46	DM 151,23
1998	US\$ 80 003.75	DM 190,65

Note, the scope behind the existence and spending of ASFA Trust Fund money is directly or indirectly to maintain/improve the ASFA system and consequently its value and viability.

For example, the Trust Fund proposals for the addition to the database of the records contained in the ASFA paper journals 1971-1977 and the proposals for the addition of Partners "older" materials has/will increase the coverage (i.e. value) of the ASFA database. By "value", we also mean value as it applies to viability of the ASFA products. As you know, the abundance of free databases and full text on the internet threatens bibliographic databases such as ASFA. But ASFA's extensive coverage - back before the days of computerization - and its accuracy (and the value added by CSA's other complementary services) should protect it for some time in the Internet environment. The FAO ASFA Secretariat presents an on-going Trust Fund proposal each year (last year it was for US\$40 000) to be used to accomplish or participate in activities that are for the collective benefit of the ASFA Partnership/database.

7.1 Trust Fund Project Proposals

This section contains the **titles** and some **brief** information on ASFA Trust Fund projects/activities that are: “Completed”, “In-Progress”, “Pending”, “New” or “On-going” during this intersessional period. **See (ASFA/2005/60) for a more detailed listing** and for a description of **all** Trust Fund activities – past and present.

7.1.1 Project Proposals - COMPLETED - or - IN-PROGRESS - during intersession period

(Completed) 1. **www-ISIS-ASFA (1.1) Maintenance Release**

Completed but not yet released. This project (US\$7 900) was agreed by the Board at the 2004 Board Meeting (see Annex-46 of 2004 Report) and carried-out by ICIE of Poland. FAO increased the funding by \$3 700 to accommodate further changes not in the original proposal (the funding was covered by FAO from funds allocated to it by Trust Fund project “Support to ASFA Secretariat”). The release of this up-grade is pending the completion of the support/installation/trouble shooting documentation that should accompany the release.

The ICIE Report of the work carried out under this Trust Fund project is contained in **(ASFA/2005/67)** and see also section- 8.2.1.

(Completed) 2. **(VNIRO, Russia) - Input of “old” unique literature (approx. 700 records) on Caspian Sea from 1770 -1970**

This project (US\$ 6 000) was completed during the intersession. All records (698) can be viewed on the ASFA database on the CSA, Illumina web site using this search strategy in the “Quick” search box: TR=VNTEF* . Note, VNIRO is submitting a proposal for continuation to this project (See **ASFA/2005/46a**)

(Completed) 3. **(PIMRIS) Convert approx. 500 Records from PIMRIS database into ASFISIS format.**

This project (US\$ 3 500) was completed during the intersession. All records (431) are on the ASFA database and can be viewed on the CSA, Illumina web site using this search strategy in the “Quick” search box: TR=PITF*

(in- progress) 4. **(FAO) Financial support to attend 2005 ASFA Board Meeting** (current year-2005) (\$35,000)

This project refers to **this** year’s Meeting so the project must be considered “in-progress” until the Meeting is finished and the last expense claim is filed. The funding will be used to fund the following 15 ASFA Partners to attend this year’s Board Meeting: CIP, DPM, FICen, IIP, IMROP, INIDEP, KMFRI, NIFFR, NIO/NICMAS, NMDIS, PDII/LIPI, SFI, UNAM, VNIRO, and YugNIRO,

The renewal of this proposal for 2006 is contained in **(ASFA/2005/63)** and will be discussed under Agenda item 13.3

(in- progress) 5. **(FAO) Staff Support to the FAO ASFA Secretariat** (for year Jan -Dec 2005) (\$40,000)

The funds were used for activities to support the ASFA Partnership in its running, development, and maintenance (see ASFA/2005/60 section 2.1.2 for a partial listing).

The renewal of this proposal for 2006 is contained in **(ASFA/2005/3a)** and will be discussed under Agenda item 13.3

(in- progress) 6. **(VLIZ, Belgium) - Collect, sort out, and prepare approximately 15,000 complete bibliographic references dealing with the aquatic environment (from the North Sea, in particular the Southern Bight area. \$18,000**

At the 2004 Meeting (see 2004 Meeting Report: section 13.2.1.3), VLIZ revisited this project proposal and redefined the number of records to be processed to approximately 10,000 and increasing the time frame for its completion.

(Progress will be reported on by VLIZ in its intersession Report)

(in-progress) **7. (FAO) ASFA-FIGIS Interaction**

This proposal to develop a map based query facility (GIS) to ASFA (\$20 000) was agreed at the 2002 ASFA Board Meeting (see Annex 3b and section 13.2.14 of 2002 Meeting Report).

The status of this Trust Fund proposal is presented in **(ASFA/2005/64)**. The tools in the testing stage will be demonstrated at this Meeting, which is expected to provide feedback and enable finalisation of the graphic interface, and guidance for subsequent development steps. Expenditure as of September 2005 was \$11,715 against the total of \$20,000 agreed initially. The remaining funds are to be used to finalise the tool taking into account ASFA board meeting comments and CSA systems' requirements, and to support the preparation and integration of additional GIS layers of interest to ASFA in FIGIS.

7.1.2 Project Proposals - PENDING - or - CANCELLED - (pending further discussion or action)

(Pending) **1. (EMI- Estonia) - Latvian and Lithuanian Aquatic Serials Processed for the ASFA Database**

At the last Meeting, the **Board agreed** in principle to this proposal (US\$ 4 800) pending a formal proposal. The proposal (see **ASFA/2005/26a**) was submitted to all Partners via E-mail (ASFA-Board-L) on 22 June 2005 and voted upon. The **Board agreed** to this proposal (see results of E-mail vote sent via ASFA-Board-L on 7 July 2005). The FAO ASFA Secretariat has not yet processed the administrative arrangement for EMI to begin this project.

(Pending) **2. (KMFRI, Kenya)- Elimination of gaps and incomplete coverage**

At the last Meeting, the Board agreed to this proposal in principle pending a revision of the journals identified as having incomplete coverage (i.e. KMFRI was to first check with other ASFA Partners, should they, themselves, want to cover the identified gaps). KMFRI originally proposed the project at a total cost of US\$ 15 000, but KMFRI, after the above mentioned "checking with other Partners" is supposed to circulate a revised (cost per record) total cost for the ASFA Board's final go ahead.

(Pending) **3. (BF, Germany) Draft Concept for a project Correcting the ASFA Database Descriptor Fields** (cleaning the identifier field (and further cleaning to a finer level the subject and geographic fields)

At the last Meeting, the Board agreed to keep the proposal (€ 30 000) pending until a new price quotation would be circulated by Dr. Kuhnhold (BF) via ASFA-Board-L. The Board was then to confirm the project via ASFA-Board-L. This price quotation is pending.

(Cancelled) **4. (INIDEP, Argentina) Marine Bibliographic Information from the Latin American and Caribbean Region Processed for the ASFA Database, Twenty Five Years of Scientific Research (1955-1980). First Stage: South America: Argentina and Chile.**

This project (US\$ 10 000) was agreed in principle at the 2003 Meeting (see section 13.3.3.3 of 2003 Meeting Report) and was then given the final go ahead by the Board at the 2004 Meeting (see section 13.3.2.3 of 2004 Meeting report). However during the intersession period INIDEP notified the FAO ASFA Secretariat that it could not, for administrative and staffing reasons, under-take the above mentioned Trust Fund proposal. In order not to block the allocated funds (that could be used for another project proposal), INIDEP advised the ASFA Secretariat to release the funds set aside for this proposal. INIDEP hopes in the future that improved administrative channels at INIDEP (to receive and manage external funding) will allow them to put the project forward again.

(Pending) **5. (IFOP, Chile) Marine Bibliographic Information from the Latin American and Caribbean Region Processed for the ASFA Database, Twenty Five Years of Scientific Research (1955-1980). First Stage: South America: Argentina and Chile.**

Agreed in principle at the 2003 ASFA Board Meeting (see section 13.3.3.3 of 2003 Meeting Report), The Board agreed to keep this proposal pending until IFOP became up-to-date on its own current monitoring of records. This is not yet the case. Therefore, this project should remain pending.

7.1.3 NEW - Project Proposals 2005-2006 (or ongoing project proposals requiring renewal)

1. **(FAO) - Financial support to attend (2006) ASFA Advisory Board Meeting** (year 2006)
(Ongoing proposal - see **ASFA/2005/63**) (US\$ 35 000)
2. **(FAO) - Staff Support to the FAO ASFA Secretariat (for year Jan -Dec 2006)**
(Ongoing proposal - see **ASFA/2005/3a**) (\$40 000)
3. **(VNIRO-Russia) - Input of Caspian Sea Old Literature**
(Continuation of previous project proposal see **ASFA/2005/46a**) (\$10 270)

NOTE, the above list of new projects may not be complete as it only includes proposals received to date, i.e. other proposals may be presented in Partners reports or at the Meeting.

8. MACHINE READABLE INPUT (the ASFISIS and www-ISIS-ASFA software)

8.1 ASFISIS release-3 (the old ASFA input software)

ASFISIS (release-3) is the name of the DOS based software for ASFA data input and retrieval, which was released in September 1998. **It was replaced, in October 2002, by the www-ISIS-ASFA software (see next section)**. FAO does not plan to maintain or continue the development of the DOS ASFISIS. However, ASFA Partners may (if necessary) continue to use this software to create and to submit ASFA records to the ASFA Publisher. At this writing, practically all active ASFA Partners are using the new www-ISIS-ASFA software.

8.2 www-ISIS-ASFA software

www-ISIS-ASFA³ is the name of the web-based software for ASFA data input and retrieval. It was released on 25 October 2002, and still represents the most current version of the software, although an update to one of the "picklists" contained within the software (the list of serial titles) was made and sent to Partners in September 2003 (see section 6.1).

8.2.1 Upgrade to the www-ISIS-ASFA software

A "minor upgrade"⁴ to the www-ISIS-ASFA release-1 software (which will be called release 1.1) was agreed at the last ASFA Board Meeting (see Annex-46 of 2004 Board Meeting Report). Most of the work on this "upgrade" has been completed with thanks going to the staff of ICIE, Poland (see ICIE Report, **ASFA/2005/67**), all of the FAO ASFA Secretariat, and a few GILW staff.

³ **(Historical account of www-ISIS-ASFA Release-1 development)** - At the 1999 Board Meeting, the Board agreed to continue using ASFISIS (release-3) for the short term (3 years) and recommended: "that FAO continue its talks with AGRIS regarding a **"joint software project"** (item-9, p.11 of 1999 Report). At the 2000 Board Meeting a Trust Fund proposal was agreed, in principle entitled: "Support to the Development of Web based interface to ASFISIS ..." (see Annex-40 of 2000 Report). US\$10,000 was allocated with provision for increasing the sum according to the amount of changes requested by ASFA to the AGRIS www-ISIS. The final ICIE project proposal and cost estimate was sent to FAO in November 2000 and circulated to the ASFISIS Working Group for comment. The ASFISIS Working Group **agree** to the ICIE proposal. Dr Rybinski and ICIE staff began work in December 2000. The FAO ASFA Secretariat also assisted in the development. In particular: R. Pepe, L. Lombardi, and H. Wibley and to some extent AM. Rossi and J. Collins worked long and hard drawing up specifications, explaining concepts, testing and writing help notes. The ASFISIS Working Group (C. Emerson, M. Tapaswi, W. Kirchner, G. Rao) and M. Jorgens provided some input and they are thanked. Dr Rybinski demonstrated a beta Version-1 of the software at the 2001 Meeting. It contained most of the FAO ASFA Secretariat's specifications. At the 2001 Meeting the Board Agreed to a Trust Fund proposal "To Support the implementation of www-ISIS-ASFA" (i.e., a Help Desk manned by ICIE) - see Section 13,3,3 of 2001 Report). On 25 October 2002, www-ISIS-ASFA release-1 was issued to all Partners. An ASFA support web site was announced on 12 December 2002.

⁴ **minor vs. major upgrade** - When the FAO ASFA Secretariat proposed this upgrade, it was *originally* conceived (and funded) as a *minor* upgrade (i.e. to resolve only the most serious bugs, so far discovered in release-1).

We decided against a *major* upgrade (i.e. to resolve all the problems and simplify all the procedures) for a number of reasons:

- 1) we thought that a *minor* upgrade would require much less time to develop and test than a *major* upgrade. This turned out to be far from true, as we could not avoid, or sometimes resist, introducing more than we had originally planned, and the testing, regardless of the size of the change(s), still required detailed and time consuming testing.
- 2) Another reason we decided against a *major* upgrade was that we thought that the ASFA Partners would be intimidated by the idea that they had to install and learn a *major* revised software – so relatively soon after the release of the first version. Again, we did not think that this upgrade would have taken so long to develop and release, and finally
- 3) we thought that a "minor" upgrade would reduce to a minimum the eventual changes that we would have to make to the existing input manuals and guidelines.

In the end, we have an "upgrade" that took much work and time to develop, but which is neither a *minor* upgrade nor a *major* upgrade – it is a mid-way between the two. It contains many needed changes, but it is still lacking in some areas (e.g. the confusion created by the presence of so many control numbers (TRN, FRN, MFN) has not been eliminated, and there are still DOS utilities). In hindsight, we should have either limited ourselves to producing a truly *minor* - but quick upgrade, or we should have dedicated still more time, work (and funding) to produce a full fledged *major* upgrade" - that we could have then called Release-2.

8.2.1.1 What's NEW in Release 1.1? (see also ICIE Report ASFA/2005/67)

Release 1.1 is not considered a "major" new release, although some of the problems corrected and some of the new or improved features are quite important/major. Most changes and improvements are the result of problems discovered and suggestions made while using the previous Release-1 of the software (i.e. comments/problems reported by Partners [mostly to Luciana Lombardi, who often backstops and/or replaces ICIE in running the ASFA "help desk"] and [to Helen Wibley for abstracting indexing], and problems encountered during input by AnnaMaria Rossi Taddei). Release 1.1 contains **no** changes to field or record structure as regards Release 1.

Among the changes in Release 1.1, you will find:

a) "Assign FRN and Export" utility – This is a new "Export" utility program, working within the www-ISIS-ASFA software. **It is to be used by ALL ASFA Partners when exporting ASFA records to send to the ASFA Publisher (CSA).** This utility assists you: 1) in identifying any "T" (Temporary) records which you may have mistakenly included in the range of records to be exported; 2) in assigning a **Final Record Number (FRN)** to the records, and 3) in Exporting the records, as an ISO file, in a format compatible to the CSA system. NOTE: Release 1.1 still retains the standard ISIS Export function, however, it is **not** to be used when exporting records for sending to CSA .

b) "Validation routine" – There is a much larger and elaborated version than that contained in the previous Release-1 of the software (special thanks goes to FAO ASFA staff member AnnaMaria Rossi Taddei for taking the lead on the work to develop the enlarged Validation routine). There is also a Spanish version. The "Validation routine" runs automatically when a record is saved, so as to detect and signal to the inputter most of the common errors that are made during the preparation of an ASFA record. A French version is foreseen.

c) "Help Notes" - The "**Help Notes**" are those that are linked to each field in the data entry worksheets. They have been up-dated, and the default English version of the "**Help Notes**" can now be replaced by either a French or Spanish version.

8.2.2 Training (or Familiarization) with the www-ISIS-ASFA Software

8.2.2.1 www-ISIS-ASFA Help Desk

(Historical account.) For the one year period following the first release of the www-ISIS-ASFA software in Oct. 2003, ICIE, the Polish company that developed the software, was given (via an ASFA Trust Fund project) the task of providing a Help Desk (ASFA@icie.neostrada.pl) and ASFA Support web site <http://www.icie.com.pl/asfa/> the 12 month period following the distribution of the software. That 12 month period expired in October 2003. Nonetheless, ICIE continued to reply to the occasional enquiries received from ASFA Partners. The www-ISIS-ASFA support/help web site also remains hosted on the ICIE computer. In addition, we in the ASFA Secretariat, especially Ms Lombardi, often respond directly to many of the "trouble shooting" situations based on our experience with the software and the repetitive nature of some problems.

Notwithstanding the above mentioned "Help Services" for ASFA Partners in using www-ISIS-ASFA, ICIE has been provided (as part of the Trust Fund project to create the www-ISIS-ASFA "upgrade") with another (small) contract to continue providing www-ISIS-ASFA support services. This was necessary because of the high number of new Partners (inputters) who recently joined the ASFA Partnership (4 during the last intersessional period and 6 during the previous one).

The ASFA Secretariat will develop, as time permits, a user friendly www-ISIS-ASFA "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQ). Partners should communicate all suggestions, criticisms, compliments etc. regarding the software to FAO and ICIE: richard.pepe@fao.org / ASFA@icie.neostrada.pl

8.2.2.2 www-ISIS-ASFA Training Sessions

A large part of the FAO ASFA Secretariat's responsibility is to provide training/follow-up for ASFA Partners. Luciana Lombardi, Helen Wibley, AnnaMaria Rossi and Richard Pepe are all, to different degrees and responsibilities, involved in the ASFA training efforts while follow-up/checking of input is carried-out by Luciana Lombardi and Helen Wibley.

The ASFA Secretariat carried out 2 training sessions during the intersession and another 2 will be carried out - one directly before and one following this year's Board Meeting. An additional 3 training sessions were carried out, outside of FAO (outsourced to another ASFA Partner).

a) Mauritania and Morocco - Institut Mauritanien de Recherches Océanographiques et des pêches (IMROP) and the Institut National de Recherche Halieutique (INRH)

A combined training course (in French) was carried out at FAO, in Rome, 20-24 September 2004. IMROP is submitting ASFA input. INRH has not yet started to submit input.

b) The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Pacific Islands Marine Resources Information System (PIMRIS)

A combined training course was carried out at PIMRIS, Fiji, 29 Nov.- 3 Dec. 2004. FAO outsourced the training to Ganeshan Rao (ex-PIMRIS coordinator) with some technical backstopping provided from the FAO ASFA Secretariat. Both institutes are now submitting ASFA input.

c) Tanzania - Institute of Marine Sciences, University (IMS)

A training course was carried out at KMFRI, 29 Nov.- 4 Dec. 2004. FAO outsourced the training (and follow-up) to the ASFA Partner in Kenya, KMFRI (with some technical backstopping provided from the FAO ASFA Secretariat). This is the second time a training session has been outsourced to KMFRI. IMS submitted (July 2005) its first batch of ASFA input to KMFRI for checking. Computer problems at IMS delayed the initial submission of this input.

d) Croatia - Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (IOF)

IOF is the AdriaMed Croatian Collaborating Centre. It will monitor the literature published at IOF (Acta Adriatica, Bilješke-Notes, grey literature), and in the future all the publications issued in Croatia, relevant to ASFA and already on the AdriaMed Monitoring List. The training was held at AdriaMed Headquarters, Termoli, Italy, 5-7 April 2005 (by AdriaMed staff, with some technical support from the FAO ASFA Secretariat). IOF has not yet started to submit input, citing problems with the institute's computers as a factor.

e) Iranian Fisheries Research Organization (IFRO)

A training course was carried out at FAO, in Rome, 30 May - 3 June 2005. IFRO is submitting ASFA input. IFRO covered its own per-diem costs.

f) Senegal - Direction des Pêches Maritimes (DPM) - A training course (in French) will take place at FAO, Rome, 26 - 30 September 2005 (the week prior to the ASFA Board Meeting).

g) WorldFish Center- A training course will take place at FAO, Rome, 25-31 October 2005. The cost of the training (travel and per-diem) will be covered by WorldFish.

8.2.2.3 Future training/familiarization with new www-ISIS-ASFA software

Other needs/requests for training will be evaluated on a case by case basis by FAO.

9. ASFA INFORMATION PRODUCTS

See (ASFA/2005/62) for a full updated list of marketed ASFA Information Products and Services.

9.1 User feedback

FAO In-house use of the ASFA database remained more or less constant over the last few years. All 2000+ FAO staff, throughout the organization, has desktop access to the ASFA database on the CSA website (Illumina). The ASFA Secretariat periodically reminds FAO staff members, where and how to access ASFA, although we recommend taking advantage of the search expertise/experience available among library staff.

After the Tsunami that struck Asia/Africa last year, the FAO ASFA Secretariat sent an E-mail to all FAO Fisheries Department staff, both in-house and in the field, reminding them (the e-mail included some sample references) that the ASFA bibliographic database could contain some references relevant and useful to future re-habilitation efforts. The user feedback from this E-mail was very positive, in particular from one of the FAO offices close to the scene of the disaster.

IAMSLIC - In an article appearing in the "*International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers (IAMSLIC)*" Newsletter Vol. 93, Nov 2004, which was reporting on the last IAMSLIC Conference held in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia; there again appeared a statement regarding the utility of the ASFA database:

"ASFA is probably the most used database worldwide for marine science librarians and researchers, and at some remote locations is the only database available ...".

9.2 ASFA Journals

There are three printed ASFA abstracts journals: **ASFA-1, Biological Sciences and Living Resources; ASFA-2, Ocean Technology, Policy and Non-Living Resources; ASFA-3, Aquatic Pollution and Environmental Quality**. The two spin-off printed journals⁵: *ASFA Aquaculture Abstracts* and *ASFA Marine Biotechnology Abstracts* ceased publication as of January 2004. The last published issues were: *ASFA Aquaculture*, Volume 20, Number 7, and *ASFA Marine Biotechnology Abstracts*, Volume 15 No 5 (note: they are, however, still available online (i.e. internet) through the CSA Illumina service).

It would appear that there are some institutes, with limited information resources, which still use the printed copies of the ASFA journals (even long expired subscriptions).

⁵ The FAO Secretariat consulted the ASFA Partners during the intersessional period via ASFA-Board-L (26 September 2003) regarding the cancellation of the above mentioned two journals. IAMSLIC was also consulted. The general opinion was that it was OK to cancel the journals as long as the same information remained available in the other ASFA printed products and/or CD-ROM and or IDS service.

9.3 ASFA CD-ROM

As provided for in the Publishing Agreement between FAO and CSA, the ASFA CD-ROM must be produced by Cambridge Scientific Abstracts (CSA). Up until, April 2004, the publishing and marketing of the ASFA CD-ROM products were carried out (under contract to CSA) by **two** CD-ROM publishers: **OVID Technologies** (previously SilverPlatter) and **NISC**.

CSA discontinued its contract arrangement with **OVID Technologies** (previously SilverPlatter), and now produces the ASFA CD-ROM itself. However, CSA makes this CD-ROM product available only to ASFA Partners.

Since May 2004, the ASFA Partners have been using the new ASFA CD-ROM produced by CSA, and they were requested to send their user comments to CSA. Some have, and CSA has declared itself willing to improve this CD-ROM product as much as possible (as issued, the new CD-ROM does not include all of the functionality of the previous version).

FAO reserves its right to contest the cancelling of the previous CD-ROM product should the new product prove unsatisfactory.

The ASFA Secretariat has given a small contract to a consultant to review the new CSA ASFA CD-ROM against the previous version and the NISC version. A short Report should be forthcoming at this ASFA Board Meeting by the reviewer.

9.4 ASFA via the CSA Internet web site Illumina service (ex-IDS Service)

Access to the ASFA Database via the CSA IDS (now called **Illumina**) service is one of the basic entitlements that all active ASFA Partners receive for their institute.

During the intersessional period CSA introduced a new search interface, and FAO has received some user feed-back. FAO advised users to forward their comments directly to CSA (attention: Ms Vicki Soto vsoto@csa.com) .

From within FAO the following comments have been received regarding the new interface:

Display format: It was suggested that the "display format" be reviewed, because the process to go from short record, which invariably does not give the information one needs, to the full format and back is slow and tortuous.

Quick Search - It was stated that doing a quick search with Illumina is much less effective than was on IDS, as the system appears to cater to the idea that users are more and more unsophisticated.

Journal index - It appears that, if you want to search for records in the journal "Aquaculture" and you choose the word aquaculture from the journal title index, you get all titles with aquaculture somewhere in the title, not only the one that is actually "Aquaculture". Is there a way to get to specific titles? With journal index on the CD-ROM this is not a problem. It is a list of journal titles rather than an index.

9.4.1 ASFA online via DIALOG

From 1978 up until its cancellation in September 2002, the ASFA database was available commercially to the public via the database vendor called DIALOG. As of June this year, CSA has re-established its arrangements with DIALOG to host the ASFA database. See the Dialog news site: <http://www.infotoday.com/newsbreaks/nb050613-1.shtml>

Royalties from the use of ASFA on DIALOG should accrue further benefits to the ASFA Trust Fund, as stated in Section 6.2 (f) of the ASFA Publishing Agreement which reads as follows: ***(For providing information retrieval services, either directly or through contract or license to another organization, the royalty payment shall be 10% of revenues derived from online services to non-domestic users)***

9.5 ASFA Input and Coverage

The input submitted to CSA, by each Partner, for inclusion in the ASFA database is reported in **ASFA/2005/65** together with the number of serial titles monitored.

ASFA Partners can check the special section of the CSA web site on the status of submitted input to see if it was received by CSA and when CSA added it to the database. To view this site: go to <http://www.csa.com/asfa/summary.htm> and enter: username = **asfaboard** (in lowercase) / password = **123asfa** (in lowercase) use IEXPLORER not Netscape.

9.5.1 Number of Records on the ASFA Database

On the Illumina (CSA web site): one finds approx. 1 million 52 thousand records in the database (from 1971 to date). **However, because of some duplicate counting the number of records is probably a little less than 1 million (approx. 983,000). In any case, by the end of the year (or sooner) depending on input submission, the 1 MILLION RECORD MARK will be reached!**

Note, the above total number of records also includes the "old" records that have been input into the database through Trust Fund project proposals over the last few years and the "keyboarding" of the printed ASFA journals **prior** to computerization of ASFA, including the years 1975-1977:

9.5.2 Input by ASFA Partners excluding the Publisher (CSA)

In 2004, the ASFA Partners (excluding the ASFA Publishing Partner, CSA) submitted 15,190 records for inclusion in the ASFA database. The 2005 figures are partial.

Year	09/2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995
*Partners' Input	5848	15,190	15,997	17,431	16,913	15,809	15,910	16,287	15,155	14,208	17,591
Publisher's input	14,397	22,773	23,793	24,875	24,799	21,873	25,211	25,826	23,486	23,705	26,274

*(excluding ASFA Publishing Partner (CSA) input)

9.5.3 ASFA Input rules and procedures

Historical account from the 2003 ASFA Board Meeting:

English title capitalization - " Since the capitalization in titles does not affect searching, the Board agreed to enter the titles as they are shown in the publication, and FAO ASFA Secretariat agreed to effect this change in the relevant Guidelines, and the Help notes contained in the www-ISIS-ASFA software, regarding capitalization."

Entering the Author's first name in full - "The Board agreed to enter the author name in full under the following 2 conditions: 1) if provided as such in the original document, and 2) manpower permitting. It was pointed out that the author field, in the www-ISIS-ASFA software, contained an open pick-list which was "added to" during data input (i.e. when you add new term which is not in the list, it remains in the list for future use)."

"The FAO ASFA Secretariat agreed to follow up on the possibility of changing the structure of the Author's name field to be sub-fielded to allow for surname and first names."

Historical account from the 2004 ASFA Board Meeting:

At the last (2004) ASFA Board Meeting, the "simplification" of the ASFA inputting rules were discussed with the view of increasing timeliness and coverage. The **FAO ASFA Secretariat agreed** in principle: 1) to revise the publication "Guidelines for Abstracting" in order to eliminate some of the ASFA house rules no longer deemed important/necessary, and 2) to send to CSA a list of the rules, conventions, and 'editing'/special character coding rules included in all of the various other inputting guidelines. CSA was then to examine them and notify FAO of those not deemed necessary, even though they may not be concordant with standard bibliographic rules/procedures, again, with a view to streamlining/facilitating input procedures. The **Board Agreed** that any eventual changes to the inputting rules would necessarily take into consideration, as much as possible, the intermediate and end users comments as to the effects of such changes on the various uses of the database (above all the effects on retrieval of records in response to a query), and the **Board reserved** the right to reverse any eventual decisions regarding alterations to the input procedures which might later (after use and more in-depth study) reveal themselves to be counterproductive or inappropriate. The ASFA Secretariat also reported that it had established working relations with IAMSLIC so as to request consultation when changing bibliographic rules.

The FAO ASFA Secretariat did not work on this initiative for most of the intersessional period as most of its efforts were concentrated on other ASFA related activities including the development of the www-ISIS-ASFA upgrade and the training/follow-up for the 10 new ASFA partners who joined ASFA during the last 2 years.

However, a draft list of some ASFA rules, which could be simplified or eliminated, was drawn up and sent to CSA by Ms Lombardi for initial examination. The list was sent to CSA shortly before this Meeting, so there will likely not be any feed-back from CSA at this Meeting.

Eventually, all of the lists we send to CSA for initial screening will be presented to the Board for comments/approval (and if necessary to external groups (e.g. IAMSLIC)).

Further to the question of ASFA input and its quality. There will be a presentation by CSA and FAO on most the common input errors, and other hints on input procedures. This will probably take place the 5th day of the Meeting.

9.5.4 Coverage

See item 10

9.6 Partners Entitlements to ASFA Information Products

Entitlements currently received by each ASFA Partner are listed in the second part of **(ASFA/2005/65)**. The subject of entitlements is treated in the ASFA Partnership Agreement and **ASFA Publishing Agreement between FAO and CSA** which can be viewed at <http://www.fao.org/fi/asfa/agreemt.asp> . Please contact CSA (attention: Dr. Craig Emerson, cemerson@csa.com) to request, change and/or clarify your ASFA entitlements.

Regarding the **ASFA Printed journals**, all ASFA Partners have as a basic free-entitlement: 1 subscription to all the ASFA printed journals, however because of the high price of shipping; Partners are discouraged from taking this entitlement unless they really need/use it.

Regarding the **CSA ASFA CD-ROM**, all ASFA Partners have as a basic free-entitlement: 1 subscription to the ASFA CD-ROM (additional entitlements are based on increased submission of ASFA input, as described in Exhibit-F of Publishing Agreement) <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/006/ad644e/ad644e00.pdf>

The **NISC ASFA CD-ROM** is not currently part of the Partners complimentary entitlements.

Regarding the **ASFA Internet access**, all ASFA Partners have as a basic free-entitlement: 1 subscription to the ASFA database via the CSA Illumina service (ex-IDS service). Additional entitlements based on increased submission of ASFA input are again described in Exhibit-F of ASFA Publishing Agreement (<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/006/ad644e/ad644e00.pdf>).

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ASFA PARTNERS ENTITLEMENTS

As stated previously, the “ASFA Publishing Agreement” specifies: the allocation, number and use of the free complimentary ASFA information products that the ASFA Partners receive.

The FAO ASFA Secretariat has received, over the years, numerous complaints from National ASFA Partners regarding the lack of complimentary copies of ASFA information products available for their “**Collaborating**” ASFA centres. This lack of complimentary copies has been cited as (and has been) a detriment to recruiting and to maintaining Collaborating Centres within the ASFA Partnership. At the recent Eurasic Meeting in Croatia, the FAO ASFA Secretariat heard this same request/complaint directly from some of the ASFA Collaborating Centers attending the Meeting.

Now that CSA is, itself, producing the ASFA CD-ROM without restrictions or financial obligations to Ovid-SilverPlatter, the FAO ASFA Secretariat envisages a more liberal provision of complimentary ASFA information products (ASFA CD-ROM) to the ASFA Collaborating Centres.

It should be noted that the current formula contained in the ASFA Publishing Agreement for calculating the provision of additional complimentary ASFA CD-ROMs for Partners requires that an ASFA Partner’s input exceeds 500 records – which is highly impractical in countries with a low publishing rate.

THEREFORE, the ASFA Secretariat requests of CSA: that all “active” ASFA Collaborating Centres (by active we mean submitting ASFA input or other ASFA related services to their ASFA National Partner) be entitled to receive one ASFA CD-ROM product 1978-to date) notwithstanding the fact that the collective input from that country (National Partner and Collaborating Centre(s)) has not exceeded 500 records .

This proposal (for immediate implementation) could be recorded as an amendment to the ASFA Publishing Agreement between CSA-FAO, under basic entitlements (now or at the next renewal of the Publishing Agreement – January 2008), or it could be simply recorded in the Board Meeting Report as a CSA action for a trial period during these two years (up until the next renewal of the Publishing Agreement).

9.7 Increasing the Distribution of ASFA Products (CD-ROM and Internet Access) to Low Income Food Deficit (LIFDC) Countries

The detailed annual Report of this initiative is presented as **ASFA/2005/61**. The person who has been working on the initiative, here in FAO, will be present the report, in person, to the Board.

Briefly stated, for the LIFDC initiative in Africa, the number of institutions now able to access ASFA is **38**. This is an increase of 2 institutions compared with the previous report. **However, 5 institutions have now become ASFA partners, making the number remaining in the project 34 (Nigeria, although a partner, continues to receive ABAFR).**

For the rest of the world initiative, including both those receiving ASFA on CD-ROM and those receiving it via Internet, the total number of recipients in LIFDC countries other than Africa is **remains 13**, with one new institution added and one (Indonesia) becoming an ASFA partner.

At present 7 institutions, from Ecuador, Indonesia, Morocco, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal and Tanzania have become partners. As stated in the previous report, this is probably the best measure of the success of the project.

FAO considers this initiative as fundamental to its information mandate and intends to continue promoting the initiative.

Historical account of this initiative - In 1998 the initiative (originated by R. Pepe) began to be discussed/organized. The actual distribution of the CD-ROMs, both the SilverPlatter (now Ovid) and NISC versions of the database, began in the beginning of 2000. Day to day work was carried out by a consultant under FAO supervision. Progress Reports have been presented to the Board since the 2000 Meeting. In the 2001 Report, first mention of recipient feedback was made (a number of the recipient institutes reported difficulty in using the ASFA CD-ROMs due to lack of necessary expertise and infrastructure). The original proposal for this initiative envisaged a 5 year time span, however, the project was agreed between FAO and CSA for an initial period of 2 years - with possibility for extension. The project was operative for two years (January 2000 –December 2001) and interrupted for all of 2002 (as regards the SilverPlatter (now Ovid) version of the CD-ROM). The project resumed at the beginning of 2003, and in addition to the original objectives, the initiative was expanded to include **all** LIFDC countries. The initiative now includes the ASFA CD-ROM and Internet access to the ASFA database through the CSA's IDS (now Illumina) service. CSA has now assumed responsibility for producing the CD-ROM version of the ASFA database, in place of OVID. The project is part of the Publishing Agreement (2004-2007) between FAO and CSA.

10. REVIEW OF ASFA PARTNERS MONITORING OF SERIALS FOR ASFA

The ASFA Monitoring List, it now contains 3328 serial titles as of 30 August 2005. As one can see, the number of serials titles is again on the rise.

Year	2005/08	2004/05	2003/06	2002/04	2001/05	2000/07	1999	1998	1997	1996
Number of serials	3328	3290	3,189	3175	3596	3,497	3,077	3,106	3,262	3,162

“**Completeness of coverage**” is one of the major quality aspects by which a bibliographic database is judged. Therefore, this issue or topic must be repeated and discussed at every Board Meeting. Coverage (and timeliness) are the topics that ASFA's main user group, IAMS LIC, is most interested.

Therefore, we (the ASFA Partners) must be careful **to monitor**, in a **timely** manner, **ALL** of the relevant publications (e.g. monographs, serials, grey literature, etc.) within the subject scope of ASFA. Regarding our List of serials - having such a list is not an end in itself. Once a source list of serials publications is identified and declared publicly as being the **official ASFA monitoring list**, then, we (all ASFA Partners) are obliged to monitor that list of journal titles in a continuous and systematic manner, so that it does **not** present **gaps** due to missed issues or articles in issues.

The importance of respecting the (our) agreed monitoring responsibilities cannot be over emphasized. This responsibility includes the periodic checking for and the filling-in of any eventual gaps that may exist (at least, onwards from the date you began participation in ASFA).

At the 1998 Board Meeting, Partners agreed to the suggestion by Marco Montes (Mexican ASFA Partner – see section 8.1.1 of 1998 Meeting Report) that once every 3 years, each Partner should carry out a study of its own monitoring list for gaps regarding core journals and submit the results to FAO. Therefore during 2004, Partners should have carried out such a review, and the next review would be in 2008. FAO carried out a review of its monitoring gaps at the end of 2003.

(Again the Board will be asked to review the issue of coverage)

11. EXPANDED LANGUAGE CAPABILITY IN ASFA

This section remains basically the same as in last year's Report, apart from a few small additions and the addition of the new section heading "www-ISIS-ASFA release 1.1 upgrade".

The carrier language of the ASFA system is English. However over the years, FAO has taken some steps to increase or to incorporate the use of other languages within the ASFA system.

To date, the steps taken to expand the language capability of ASFA include:

- In the ASFA database records:
 - a) inclusion of **original language titles** in bibliographic references (in practice since the beginning of ASFA)
 - b) inclusion of **non-English abstracts** in bibliographic references (starting with the release of ASFISIS software in September 1998)
- In the www-ISIS-ASFA software
 - c) inclusion in the upcoming upgrade (1.1) to the www-ISIS-ASFA software of a Spanish version (in addition to the English version) of the now much enlarged and elaborated "Validation routine". A French version will be forthcoming – as time permits.
 - d) inclusion in the upcoming www-ISIS-ASFA 1.1 upgrade both the French and Spanish versions of the English "**Help Notes**" that are linked to each field in the data entry worksheets. They have been up-dated, and the default English version of the "**Help Notes**" can be replaced by either version.
- Training of new ASFA Partners in the ASFA input methods
 - e) carrying-out **ASFA training courses** in languages other than English (to date courses have been held in Spanish, French, Italian, Russian, and Polish)
 - f) carrying-out some **correspondence** with new Partners (i.e. regarding their problems in input preparation) in Spanish, French, Italian (special credit for this goes to L. Lombardi, FAO)
- Translation of ASFA documentation
 - g) translation of the "**Help Notes**" contained in the www-ISIS-ASFA software from English into **Spanish & French** (special credit goes to M. Montes, UNAM, Mexico; J. Prod' homme, IFREMER, France; and L. Lombardi, FAO) Both translations and original have been published in printed format for easy reference
 - h) translation into **Spanish**: *Guidelines for Bibliographic Description and Data Input using www-ISIS-ASFA and ASFIS Subject Categories and Scope Notes* (M.Montes, UNAM)
 - i) translation into Russian: *Guidelines for Bibliographic Description and Data Input using ASFISIS, Guidelines for Abstracting using ASFISIS, Guidelines for Indexing using ASFISIS, ASFISIS User Manual, and ASFIS Subject Categories and Scope Notes* (E. Romanov, YugNIRO)
 - j) translation into Spanish: *ASFA information fact sheet and IAMS LIC letter* (G.Cosulich, INIDEP)
 - k) translation into Chinese: *ASFA Thesaurus* (NMDIS)
 - l) translation into Spanish: the *FAQ's* which appear on the FAO ASFA Homepage (special thanks to G. Cosulich, INIDEP for volunteering to do this).
 - m) translation of *ASFA Thesaurus* into Russian by YugNIRO (this an approved ASFA Trust Fund proposal)
- Misc.
 - n) **increasing the language skills** of some **ASFA Secretariat staff** through attendance at language training courses and study abroad.

Note, notwithstanding the above mentioned steps and planned future steps (below), it would be mistaken to assume or to expect that the entire ASFA system, its tools, its functioning etc. (e.g. Thesaurus, Guidelines, Meetings, correspondence, e-mails etc.) will, in the near future, be multi-lingual - this is not the case.

In the future, besides trying to continue the efforts mentioned in items (a-n), we also envisage:

- Continuation of selected translations of the ASFA input manuals or parts of them (e.g. Thesaurus*; Subject categories, the Bibliographic, Indexing and abstracting guidelines etc..)

*Although at the 2002 ASFA Board Meeting, there was some diversity of opinion among Board Members regarding the need or desirability to expand the language capability of ASFA. This was especially evident while discussing an eventual translation of the ASFA Thesaurus.

The Board will again be asked to express its opinions regarding this matter.

12. FAO-GIL/WAICENT (AGRIS) - ASFA CO-OPERATION

Co-operation with the FAO GIL/WAICENT (AGRIS) group continues, through occasional assistance to the ASFA Group by their Information Systems Analyst.

They are working on establishing full text links between the ASFA database (on the CSA, IDS service) and the FAO documents in the FAO documents repository.

A meeting between GIL/WAICENT (AGRIS) and the ASFA Secretariat, to update the status of the ontology project was held. See section 6.6.1. **A GIL/WAICENT (AGRIS) representative will be present at the ASFA Board Meeting.**

13. IAMSLIC - ASFA COOPERATION

As you know, IAMSLIC is the largest organized group of intermediate users of the ASFA information products in the world. In addition, IAMSLIC has established a very extensive and successful system of resource sharing (document delivery) among its members. Note, while we are using the term IAMSLIC to mean mainly IAMSLIC international, this does not mean in anyway to prejudice or to exclude the IAMSLIC Regional Groupings.

There are real and potential benefits of collaboration between ASFA and IAMSLIC, and in ASFA Partners belonging to and participating in IAMSLIC and its Groups initiatives.

As reported at the last (2004) Board Meeting, the ASFA Secretariat announced its decision **to involve IAMSLIC in assisting the Secretariat in deciding on the eventual impact (on searchers) of changing/simplifying the ASFA input rules/procedures**, and CSA suggested that IAMSLIC could be asked to take a look at the database as a whole and provide some suggestions as to what could be done to improve it and make it better for them. (section 7.5 of 2004 Report).

Also discussed at last year's Board Meeting (section 8.4 of 2004 Report) was the **topic of document delivery (i.e. resource sharing)**. The InterLibrary Loan (ILL) system available to IAMSLIC members (Z39.50 Distributed Library and the IAMSLIC listserv) was mentioned. The ASFA Secretariat acknowledged that some ASFA Partners were also IAMSLIC members and therefore already had access to this document delivery system. The ASFA Secretariat **suggested that all ASFA Partners become members of IAMSLIC**, and if necessary, the ASFA Trust Fund could be used to pay the annual membership costs. In this way, all of the ASFA Partners would have access to the IAMSLIC listserv and to the document delivery system, which would be of great use in the exchange/retrieval of grey literature. **The ASFA Board agreed that the ASFA Trust Fund be used to pay for IAMSLIC membership** for all those ASFA Partners who do not have the funds, or are not able for administrative reasons to pay for membership to IAMSLIC.

During the intersessional period, the ASFA Secretariat sent an E-mail (8 November 2004 with reminders 22 December 2004, and 26 August 2005) to all ASFA Partners (**see Annex-4**) "explaining the benefits to ASFA Partners in joining IAMSLIC" and "How to join IAMSLIC". Note, the E-mail also mentioned that there were benefits in joining the Regional Groups.

Numerous ASFA Partners replied to the above mentioned E-mail and 11 ASFA Partners requested that the ASFA Trust Fund cover their membership fee in IAMSLIC (EMI, IFOP, IFRO, IIP, IMROP, IMS, INIDEP, INP, NMDIS, NIO/NICMAS, YugNIRO). In addition, 17 ASFA Partners are already currently IAMSLIC members (CSIRO, DFO, FAO, FICen, ICES, IFREMER, IMR, IOC, IUCN, KORDI, MRI, NIFFR, PIMRIS, PML, SPC, WorldFish, and VLIZ). Also, a number of Collaborating ASFA Centres are also IAMSLIC members.

Considering the relatively low cost of the IAMSLIC membership (US\$ 20 per year for developing countries – \$35 for developed), and the real benefits to Partners (one request for one document thorough some commercial document suppliers could alone cost U\$20), **the FAO ASFA Secretariat would like to continue this initiative (using Trust Fund money) for a further 2 year trial period, and extend it to ASFA developing country Collaborating ASFA Centres**. Note, if all developing country ASFA Partners and Collaborating centres Partners took advantage of this initiative (which they will not, because, some already can/do pay their own IAMSLIC membership fees, and others have it paid for them by donors) the total cost to the ASFA Trust Fund would only be 45 x \$20 = \$900/year. This cost against the real and potential benefits is, in our opinion, negligible.

Remember, the primary goals of this initiative are to improve resource sharing, to use the IAMSLIC Z.39.50 "distributed library" (and also, if possible, get your library connected to and participating in the "distributed library").

The FAO ASFA Secretariat has invited 4 speakers from IAMSLIC to speak on the 5th day of the ASFA Board Meeting on (Resource sharing, IAMSLIC Z39.50, and document repositories).

- a) Barbara Butler and Steve Watkins will speak about the Z39.50 distributed library. What it is? Demonstrate it? How ASFA Partners can participate in it etc..
- b) Pauline Simpson, will speak about Open access - publishing and Institutional Repositories, and Stephanie Haas will cover the plans for the IAMSLIC Marine Science Repository.

14. ASFA PRIORITIES AND FUTURE PROSPECTIVE (ASFA Secretariat's view)

Most of the priorities listed below are **on-going priorities**. Priority-2 is common to all databases.

- 1) **Expansion of the ASFA Partnership.** This priority refers to the international network of ASFA Partners which is the back-bone of the ASFA system.
- 2) **Improving coverage, accuracy, and timeliness.** This priority refers to the main factors determining the quality of a database (ASFA).
- 3) **Co-ordination.** This priority addresses the continuing efforts necessary to ensure the smooth working of the decentralized ASFA network.
- 4) **Increasing the dissemination of the ASFA information products.** This priority is aimed at those countries (LIFDC) which might otherwise not be in a position to obtain these products.

Below, the above priorities are listed/commented together with some of the corresponding FAO and/or Partners accomplishments already mentioned in this report.

Priority-1, Expansion of the ASFA Partnership. During the intersessional period, FOUR new Partners joined ASFA (section 4.2). However, there is a dilemma linked to this priority. The ASFA Secretariat has reached (if not exceeded) its capacity to maintain/manage the current ASFA Partnership. Careful planning/organization will be necessary as regards: the recruiting and training of additional Partners, and the management of the systems tools (software, Guidelines etc.). The role (capacity) of the ASFA Secretariat will need to be more clearly defined in relation to its capacity.

Priority-2, Improve the Coverage, Accuracy, Timeliness etc. of ASFA (i.e. quality control aspects of the database). Regarding "Monitoring" and "Coverage", a number of Trust Fund proposals are now underway/planned to add missing issues and/or historical records to the database. Regarding accuracy: 7 training sessions were carried out/are planned for this year on the preparation of ASFA records (section 8.2.2.2); the completed (but not yet issued) upgrade to the www-ISIS-ASFA software contains a greatly enlarged validation routine (section 8.2.1.1), and this year's Board Meeting will dedicate part of the extra 5th day to input accuracy/quality. Also, FAO continues to provide extensive backstopping and editorial control of input prepared by newly trained Partners (section 2.2). Regarding Timeliness, the initiative to simplify the ASFA inputting rules was launched (9.5.3).

Again the dilemma stated above re-presents itself (i.e. the requirements of an expanded Partnership exceeding the manpower capacity of the ASFA Secretariat)

Priority-3, Coordinate the maintenance of the ASFA inputting tools. The new www-ISIS-ASFA software for data entry and retrieval was issued in October 2002. An upgraded version 1.1 was developed (not yet released) during the intersessional period (section 8.2). A "Help Desk" web site and direct assistance e-mail was maintained by ICIE for the initial release through October 2003, but ICIE always continued to answer ad hoc requests. In addition, the ASFA Secretariat (mainly L. Lombardi) has taken over the handling of many requests. The ASFA Monitoring List was kept constantly adjourned (Section 6.1). FAO continues its working relation with IAMSLIC for advice when altering rules regarding bibliographic references.

Priority-4, Increasing the dissemination and use of the ASFA information products. The project to disseminate the ASFA information products to LIFDC countries in Africa and world-wide is operational and ongoing. (section 9.7) .

During 2005-2006, the ASFA Secretariat will direct its efforts towards:

- **Defining its capacity (limits/needs) for recruiting, training, backstopping, maintaining the ASFA Partnership and adjust its goals and actions accordingly. The ASFA Secretariat will strive to take on more of a co-ordinating role rather than an operative role.**
- Continue, as best it can, in providing assistance/training/follow-up/backstopping to ASFA Partners in using the new www-ISIS-ASFA software and the checking of input from all of the new Partners, however, with the view or goal of simplifying all input techniques and the development of self-training and self help materials.
- Distribution of the small upgrade to the www-ISIS-ASFA software,
- Further (increased) dissemination of the ASFA information products to developing countries,
- Follow up to actions, agreed or implied from past Board Meeting(s).

Report by: **Richard Pepe (Fishery Information Officer)**
FAO, Rome (24 September 2005)

FAO
UN Co-Sponsoring ASFA Partner and ASFA Secretariat)
 (General Information)

1. Address

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
 Fisheries Department
 Fishery Information, Data and Statistics Unit (FIDI)
 Via delle Terme di Caracalla
 00100, Rome, Italy

Telephone: +(39) 06 570 54828 / Fax number: + (39) 06 570 52476 (do not drop the zero in 06)

E-mail: see item-2

URL: FAO, Fisheries Dept., & ASFA homepages: <http://www.fao.org> / <http://www.fao.org/fi> / <http://www.fao.org/fi/asfa/asfa.asp>

2. Staff (in alphabetical order)

<u>name</u>	<u>title</u>	<u>e-mail</u>
• Richard Grainger*	(Chief, FIDI) and ASFA Board Member	richard.grainger@fao.org
• Luciana Lombardi	(Documentation Assistant)	luciana.lombardi@fao.org
• Richard Pepe	(Fishery Info. Officer, Ed. in Chief ASFA, and Secretary of ASFA)..	richard.pepe@fao.org
• Annamaria Rossi	(Documents Clerk)	annamaria.rossitaddei@fao.org
• Helen Wibley	(Fishery Information Officer)	helen.wibley@fao.org

*(part-time involvement with ASFA)

3. FAO Entitlements to ASFA Products

The FAO quota of "entitlement" ASFA Information products is (10 Ovid ASFA CD-ROMs, 1 set of ASFA printed journals, 1 ASFA Internet Database subscription, and 1 magtape (i.e.CD-ROM)).

They are distributed as follows:

- **Internet Database Subscription:** access to FAO headquarters in Rome and Regional Offices
- **10 ASFA CD-ROMs:**
 - (two) for FAO headquarters in Rome (inputter use/demonstration and library)
 - (seven) for FAO Regional, Sub-regional, and National Representative Office libraries in: Chile, Cuba, Egypt, Ghana, Samoa, Vietnam, Zimbabwe
 - (one) for FAO Collaborating Centre (SIPAM)

**Regional Office for Latin America
and the Caribbean (RLC)**
 Avenida Dag Hammarskjöld 3241, Vitacura
 Casilla 10095
 Santiago, CHILE

Regional Office for the Near East (RNE)
 11, El Eslah El Zerai Str.
 Dokki, Cairo
 P.O. Box 2223
 Cairo, EGYPT

Regional Office for Africa (RAF)
 PO Box 1628
 Accra, GHANA

FAO Sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa,
 P. O. Box 3730
 Harare, ZIMBABWE

Office of Sub-regional Rep. (SAPA)
 Private Mail Bag
 Apia, SAMOA

FAO Representative Office
 PO Box 16004
 LA Habana 16, CUBA

FAO Representation in Vietnam
 3 Nguyen Gia Thieu Str.
 Hanoi, VIETNAM

SIPAM (FAO ASFA collabortating centre)
 c/o Ministere de l'Agriculture
 30 Rue Alain Savary
 1002 Tunis, TUNISIA

- **1 ASFA Printed journal:** for FAO headquarters in Rome (library archive)
- **MagTape (CD-ROM):** for FAO headquarters in Rome

4. FAO Collaborating ASFA Centre (address)

Information System for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM)

(Prof. Hadj Ali S, SIPAM Coordinator)

(ASFA input: Olfa Trabelsi)

c/o Ministere de l'Agriculture

30 Rue Alain Savary

1002 Tunis, Tunisia

(E-mail: sipam.med@sipam.intl.tn)

Input Edited by FAO ASFA Secretariat
(for Newly Trained ASFA Partners/Centres and other other cases)

FAO edits the bibliographic input produced by newly trained ASFA Partners and provides feedback until such time as the input is suitable (i.e. regarding content and style) for direct submission, by the Partner, to the ASFA Publisher (CSA). Note, FAO also checks/edits input: 1) on special request from a Partner, 2) when CSA notifies/sends a specific file containing errors, and 3) when FAO spot checks and finds errors in files sent by Partners to CSA when also copied to FAO.

The following table reports the number of ASFA records edited by FAO

Partner/Year numbers are from FAO records	1995 to 1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	comment
ADRIAMED	-	-	-	-	61	133	171	70	*	*	
Argentina (INIDEP)		74	59	53	85	39	53	49	54		
Australia (CSIRO)			70	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Belgium (VLIZ)							77	51	31 (TF)	*	
Brazil (USP)								0	13	23	
Bulgaria (MAFAR)							-	-	-	-	Partner dropped
Chile (IFOP)			41	33	0	0	0	0	122	9	
Cote D'Ivoire (CRO)					20	63	0	0	20		
Cuba (CIP)		35	17	33	16	0	23	0	44	22	
Estonia (EMI)	33	63	46	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Greece (NCMR)		20	24	56	*	*	*	*	*	*	
ICCAT					16	49	*	*	*	30	
ICES		46	61	87			*	*	*	*	
ICLARM	492							62	55		
Indonesia									39	56	
IOC-Harmful Algae				307	0	0	0	0	0	0	IOC sub-center
Iran (IFRO)										14	
Italy (SIBM)				0	0	168	102	370	49	95	
Japan (FRA)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	100	spot check
Kenya (KMFRI)	30	38	126	70	448	*	*	*	*	*	
Korea (KORDI)					50	450	300	100			
Lithuania (Ichthybank)	122	126	71	119	0	0	0	-	-	-	Partner dropped
Mauritania (IMROP)										20	
Morocco (INRH)										0	
Nigeria (NIFFR)											
Peru (IMARPE)									104	0	
PIMRIS						30	11	19	85*	16	*TF project
Poland (SFI)	48	62	103	143	66/*	*	*	*	*	*	*from 2000 SFI input directly to CSA, but not Collaborating center's input
Portugal (IPIMAR)				55	110	0	0	0	38	*	
Russia (VNIRO)			239	191	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Senegal (DPM)											not yet trained
SIPAM					30	18	16	32	17	0	
Spain (IEO)				96	106	173	0	0	0	0	
SPC									7	56	
Sweden (IMR)	37	53	44	77	27	27	85	26	8	*	
Tanzania (IMS)										29*	still need to be checked by FAO
Tunisia (INSTM)					0	7	28	0	77	34	
Ukraine (YugNIRO)	634	422	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
UNEP		11	0	0	0	0	0	25			
Uruguay (IIP)								21	60	40	
Vietnam (FICen)								86		95	

(*) INPUT now being sent directly to CSA without prior checking by FAO

INITIATIVES/MEETINGS WITH SOME RELEVANCE OR REFERENCE TO ASFA

The initiatives and meetings listed below took place during the intersessional period and were directly or indirectly relevant to ASFA. The listing is not meant to be exhaustive.

1. 128th Session, of the FAO Council, Rome, Italy, 20-25 June 2005

The Council is the executive organ of the Conference with 49 Members meeting 4 times between regular Conference sessions. It has powers delegated to it by the Conference dealing with the world food and agricultural situation and related matters, current and prospective activities of the Organization, including the Programme of Work and Budget, administrative matters, financial management of the Organization, and constitutional questions. http://www.fao.org/unfao/govbodies/Councilfinal_en.asp

The Council commended the work of the Twenty-sixth Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI), and endorsed the report and recommendations made by the Session.

The Council noted the suggestion that there was a need to explore more flexible working arrangements, including Agendas, that would increase debate and achieve maximum consensus among Members during future Sessions.

The Council expressed solidarity with the countries affected by the Tsunami of December 2004 and endorsed the FAO's medium to long-term strategy for rehabilitation and reconstruction of livelihoods in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors in the affected countries. It reaffirmed the leading role of FAO.

The Council reconfirmed the importance of implementing the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its related International Plans of Action (IPOAs) in promoting long-term sustainable development in capture fisheries and aquaculture. It expressed satisfaction with the initiative of FAO to put higher priority on small-scale fisheries and aquaculture, and requested that appropriate resources be allocated to these areas within the Fisheries Department budget.

The International Guidelines for the Eco-labelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries were endorsed by the Council. While recognizing the voluntary character of these Guidelines, the Council noted that technical and financial support would be necessary for their implementation by developing countries. The Council welcomed further improvement of the Guidelines, as well as the development of similar International Guidelines for Inland Fisheries.

The Council endorsed the programme of work on fishery subsidies, and took note of the proposal by some Members to consider the issue of energy consumption in the fisheries sector.

The Council expressed concerns about the absence of consensus on the Memorandum of Understanding between Secretariats of FAO and CITES and urged Members to work to find a solution.

The Council agreed that Fisheries Department activities were important, and underscored the need for additional allotments to be made to Major Programme 2.3 Fisheries.

The Council noted the many important Expert and Technical Consultations which had been held successfully based on the previous COFI recommendations, and welcomed the proposal on the joint meeting of the Secretariats of the tuna regional fisheries management organisations and their members to be held in 2007 in Japan.

The Council agreed that it was necessary to strengthen international cooperation, including the transfer of technology, as well as technical and financial assistance to developing states in combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. It emphasized the importance of monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activities, through, *inter alia*, Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS). It noted the proposal of some Members to initiate international negotiations among interested countries on the monitoring of fishing vessels through satellites (VMS) within the framework of the Code of Conduct, particularly with a view to combating IUU Fishing, and flags of convenience in waters covered by Regional Fisheries Monitoring Organizations (RFMOs).

Regarding the development of technical guidelines or Code of Practice on deep sea fisheries, the Council stressed the important role of RFMOs as the proper framework for the adoption of binding measures. The Council urged that RFMOs' mandates be reinforced to cover the management of these fisheries and new RFMOs should be established in areas not yet covered.

The Council commended FAO for convening the Ministerial Meeting on Fisheries, and endorsed the two Declarations on Tsunami and on IUU Fishing.

2. Report of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI), Rome, 7-11 March 2005 http://www.fao.org/fi/NEMS/events/detail_event.asp?event_id=24536

The twenty-sixth session of COFI was attended by 748 registered participants, representing 137 countries, 28 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and 43 organizations (specialized agencies of the United Nations and inter-governmental organizations-IGOs). Mr Glenn Hurry (Australia) was elected Chairperson of the Committee and Mr Kapila Perera (Sri Lanka) was elected First Vice-Chairperson.

The Committee reviewed the issues of an international character and the programme of work of FAO/FI in fisheries and aquaculture.

Some of the main outcomes:

1. The Committee stressed that continued efforts were imperative to further promote the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the related instruments developed to encourage responsible fisheries.
2. The Committee acknowledged that there was a need to strengthen port State measures as a means of combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.
3. The Committee discussed the impact of the tsunami of 26 December 2005, especially in terms of its effect on coastal communities in the Indian Ocean. It focused its attention on how to address the short, medium and long-term needs of these communities with a view to promoting recovery and facilitating the reconstruction of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors in the affected countries. In this connection, the Committee endorsed FAO's medium- to long-term rehabilitation strategy.
4. The Committee noted the challenges that the management of deepwater demersal fisheries posed and requested FAO to provide the UN General Assembly with appropriate information and technical advice on these fisheries and, in general, to provide leadership in this field and to participate actively in the relevant international fora.
5. Regarding trade issues, the Committee adopted guidelines on the ecolabelling of fish and fishery products from marine capture fisheries and recommended that international guidelines also be prepared by FAO on the ecolabelling of fish and fishery products from inland fisheries.
6. The Committee endorsed the reports of a number of FAO Technical and Expert Consultations, including the Technical Consultation to Review Progress and Promote the full Implementation of the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU and the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity, the Technical Consultation to review Port State Measures to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, the Technical Consultation on the Use of Subsidies in the Fisheries Sector and the Technical Consultation on Sea Turtles Conservation and Fisheries. It was also agreed that FAO should convene a workshop to promote the further implementation of the international plan of action for the conservation and management of sharks and workshops to encourage regional and national elaboration of plans of action.
7. Given the high global importance of tuna fishing, the Committee welcomed the proposal on the joint meeting of the Secretariats of the tuna regional fisheries management organisations and their members to be held in 2007 in Japan.
8. The Committee expressed concern at the proliferation of international fora addressing fisheries matters, some of which lacked sound technical and scientific bases for discussion. It underlined that FAO should continue to provide leadership and maintain an assertive role in fisheries.
9. Concerning aquaculture and small-scale fisheries, the Committee highlighted the importance of these sectors. It pointed out the need for technical and financial assistance to developing countries.
10. **Furthermore, the Committee noted that all Fisheries Department activities were too important not to be undertaken and it underscored the need for additional allotments to be made to Major Programme 2.3 "Fisheries".**

3. 30th Conference of the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centres – IAMSLIC, Hobart, Australia <http://www.iamslc.org/publications/proceedings.html>

The most concrete or direct outcome of the FAO ASFA Secretariat's participation in this Conference was the immediate recruitment into ASFA of the *Secretariat of the Pacific (SPC)*. SPC participation in ASFA will close a serious and obvious gap in the bibliographic literature coverage of ASFA, in this region. Of likewise importance, was the opportunity to organize the eventual training of SPC and PIMRIS in the ASFA input methods utilizing expertise available in the Region. Also important was getting a strong expression of interest in joining ASFA from Senegal. Being able to explain, in person, the responsibilities and benefits of ASFA was helpful – to say the least [Senegal, the only African country at the Meeting has subsequently joined ASFA]. On the downside, it seems most likely that New Zealand (NIWA) will not be joining ASFA. The

Vietnamese ASFA Partner was encountered and feedback regarding input previously corrected in FAO was discussed. Discussion was held with the Chair of the special IAMSLIC group who is advising ASFA on questions of changing ASFA input procedures etc.. The outcome of the last ASFA Advisory Board Meeting as regards participating in/collaborating with IAMSLIC was discussed with numerous IAMSLIC members including the outgoing and incoming presidents. There does not appear to be any obstacles. The organization of the next ASFA Board Meeting to be back-to-back with the next IAMSLIC Meeting was mentioned.

4. 11th EURASLIC Conference, 4-6 May 2005, Split, Croatia <http://www.euraslic.org>

From the FAO ASFA Secretariat (Richard Pepe) was invited by the President of EURASLIC to attend the Meeting and to Chair a Discussion Group on "Why become an ASFA Partner?".

The Discussion Group "Why Become an ASFA Partner?" was not very well attended, because many European countries are already ASFA Partners, and the discussion was in parallel with two workshops of major interest to EURASLIC members. In any case, attendance at this Meeting gave the ASFA Secretariat the rare and interesting opportunity to meet with and to speak with 6 ASFA sub-national or Collaborating centers (new Croatian AdriaMed subcenter, Poland, UK, Ukraine, and 2 Russian sub-centers). The Collaborating centers re-iterated their need for the ASFA Information products.

The Meeting also provided the opportunity to meet with three of the four persons who will have been invited to attend the upcoming ASFA Advisory Board Meeting to speak on the topic of resource sharing.

5. Eight Session of the IODE Group of Experts on Marine Information Management (GEMIM-VIII) 2, 3, and 10 September 2004, Hobart, Australia

GE-MIM is a small group of experts appointed by Unesco/IOC Member states *to advise the IODE Committee of the IOC on policy, development and enhancement (or improvement) of information infrastructure that is essential for Marine Information access and exchange, ... to meet the needs of the marine community, both in developing and developed countries.* ASFA is always mentioned in the discussions of this Group.

From the FAO ASFA Secretariat (Richard Pepe) was invited as an observer. Numerous recommendations came out of this Meeting. The main ones regarding ASFA or FAO are listed below. All of the recommendation and Actions (and there are many) can be seen in the full Report on the IOC webpage (<http://www.unesco.org/ioc>)

The GE-MIM group:

- *"recommended that IOC Co-sponsor the mini-regional ASFA staff (training) Meetings requested by Board Members at the last ASFA Board Meeting".*

- *"noted that since: FAO is implementing a number of fisheries information related projects in developing countries that are quite relevant and similar to the ODIN projects of IODE. The Group urged FAO and IOC to establish collaboration and requested the IODE Technical Secretary to send a letter to the ADG of Fisheries at FAO in this regard" - "noted with appreciation that a few ODINAFRICA member institutions*

(KMFRI, Kenya; IMROP, Mauritania, IMS, Tanzania) had joined ASFA as input centres. The Group considered that ODINAFRICA could assist ASFA by identifying additional potential partners, based upon an assessment of available expertise.

- *"urged ODINAFRICA institutions to make available their services, products and expertise to all AFRIAMSLIC members, and to establish links with other marine information related projects in Africa (eg Aquaculture and Fisheries Information Network for Africa (FAO/SAIAB project)). [SAIAB: South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity]. The Group instructed the ODINAFRICA project manager to send a request to the ODINAFRICA information managers".*

- *"Requesting Publishers to ask Authors to Define Keywords using ASFIS(ASFA) Thesaurus: IOC Secretariat will post (ASFA Thesaurus) on the IODE web site (as well as link to the searchable version) with source acknowledgement to ASFA."*

- *"The Group recommended that a link is added in OceanExpert to ASFA in each individual results page)."*

- *"The Group considered that it would be useful to have unique identifiers for individual authors in ASFA as this would enable a link in OceanExpert to ASFA to generate a list of publications by that person."*

- *"The Group requested the e-repository project team and the ASFA Secretariat to investigate the possible use of the e-repository as a source of documents for input to ASFA."*

- "The Group considered the possibility to take over the further development and maintenance of Prospero as an alternative for the commercial (and relatively expensive Ariel) (possibly in cooperation with IAMSLIC and ASFA)."
- "The Group noted that several new *Integrated Library Management Systems (Ilms)* packages are now available. The Group decided that a new analysis will be made considering NewGenLib; Koha, Inmagic DB/Textworks for Libraries & WebPublisher Pro; IMIS (VLIZ, Belgium); CDS/ISIS-derived ILMS solutions; Athena and ALICE for Windows. The analysis will seek to identify ILMS applications for small libraries, easy to use and low-cost." [my note: I suggested this also include the *www-ISIS application as developed by ICIE*].
- Regarding the "The acquisition of data set citations for inclusion in ASFA", The Group decided to prepare a short paper on this issue for submission to IODE-XVIII for approval and subsequently to the 2005 ASFA Advisory Board."

6. Fisheries Global Information System (FIGIS) (<http://www.fao.org/figis>) and FIGIS-ASFA relations/cooperation (<http://www.fao.org/fi/figis>)

The development of FIGIS (the global information system on fisheries aimed at providing policy makers with timely, reliable strategic information on fishery status and trends on a global scale) remains one of the major efforts underway in the Fisheries Department. We recommend that you become familiar with this site as major reference point or portal to Fisheries/aquaculture information. For more information about FIGIS and its development status, see http://www.fao.org/figis/servlet/static?dom=org&xml=figis_org.xml&xp_banner=fi

As agreed/discussed at the 2002 Board Meeting (section 13.2.14 of 2002 Meeting Report) and reported at the 2003 Meeting (Annex 46 of 2003 Meeting Report) and at the 2004 Meeting ([Annex ASFA/2004/61](#)), there is a collaboration between ASFA and FIGIS via an ASFA Trust Fund proposal regarding the geo-referencing of ASFA geographical terms for use in searching geographically the ASFA database, and the direct access to the ASFA online records from the web pages generated by FIGIS. The status of this Trust Fund proposal is presented in ([ASFA/2005/64](#)): the objectives are nearly achieved, and the tools in testing stage will be demonstrated to the ASFA board meeting, which is expected to provide feedback and enable finalisation of the graphic interface, and guidance for subsequent development steps.

7. World Fisheries and Aquaculture Atlas CD-ROM

http://www.fao.org/fi/atlas/w_fi_aq/w_fi_aq.asp

The 3rd Edition was issued for the 2005 Meeting of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (copies will be available at the ASFA Board Meeting).

What is the Atlas? The Atlas presents a comprehensive and global view of capture and aquaculture fisheries. Using both published and original material, it covers all aspects of fisheries from technology and trade to research and resources, and it addresses a broad range of policy issues such as ecosystem management, environmental impacts, subsidies, and overfishing. The Atlas contains 100s of original articles and is illustrated with 100s of images, graphs, maps and fact sheets. In addition, 1000s of links to other documents and Web sites provide a network of easily accessible, relevant and updated material. The CD-ROM is published every 2 years for distribution at the biennial meeting of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) as a companion to the FAO publication "The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture".

8. oneFish Community Directory Project (<http://www.onefish.org/>)

For six years, until July 2004, the Support unit for International Fisheries and Aquatic Research (SIFAR) operated from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome. Originally established under the auspices of the *Study of International Fisheries Research* (World Bank *et al* 1992), SIFAR sought to address the limitations of conventional science-based research in fisheries through brokering a range of projects that focussed on generating and building on a better understanding of policy processes related to fisheries management.

The oneFish Community Directory (www.onefish.org) is an open-access internet portal freely available to users with access to the internet. oneFish began as a sub-project of SIFAR as part of its mandate to: foster more responsive research; encourage knowledge-based decision-making for policy; stimulate holistic debate; and improve information sharing. The result comprises a fully functional, internet-based,

cost-effective knowledge exchange system which had the potential to develop further, and to adapt to the changing needs and requirements of donors and users in the fisheries sector. Baseline human resources supporting oneFish comprised one Chief Editor and one part-time maintenance programmer.

Demand for oneFish had grown steadily, from a base of c.2000 individual users per month in 2002, to 29,172 in May 2005, the latter generating 663,486 hits. The number of users and registered members from developing regions has also increased. The significant increase in usage served to justify the continuing need for oneFish - post SIFAR - and to attract ongoing funding from the UK Department for International Development - DFID (2004-2005), and the Norwegian Development Agency (NORAD) and the World Bank (2005-2006).

The CDS Software which underlies oneFish was developed by the AFI Department of WAICENT - the World Agricultural Information Centre - at FAO, and has been widely adopted within FAO. Other sites now using CDS include: www.wca-infonet.org (small-scale irrigation); www.ruralfinance.org (Rural Finance Learning Centre); www.oceansatlas.org (UN Atlas of the Oceans); www.ippc.int (International Plant Protection Committee portal); www.ipfsaph.org (International Portal on Food Safety, Animal & Plant Health); www.freshwaterlife.info/ (Freshwater Life); <http://193.43.36.57/index.jsp> (Information Network for Farm and Farming Systems Economics - INFARM); www.globefish.org (Globefish Database - subscription only part of the site); DWS core - FAO intranet (internal FAO access only); and AFI CDS (internal FAO access only).

9. Marine Metadata Interoperability (MMI) Project Workshop 9-11 August 2005.

<http://www.marinemetadata.org>

<http://marinemetadata.org/examples/mmihostedwork/ontologieswork/mmiworkshop05/>

Richard Pepe (FAO ASFA Secretariat) was invited (fully paid invitation) to participate in the **Marine Metadata Interoperability (MMI) Project Workshop 9-11 August 2005**. The Marine Metadata Initiative (MMI) is sponsored mainly by the US National Science Foundation (NSF) (with some funding from the Southeastern Universities Research Association). It is currently running under a one year grant (US\$400,000) which is due to expire August 2005. The scope of the Workshop was essentially to create a tool (an ontology) to assist users/searchers in finding science data and information available in databases (and among different databases), without knowing the vocabulary that was used to index the subject content of the information sources (i.e. to enable interoperability between marine data and information resources). The immediate goals of the Workshop were: "the mapping between existing marine metadata vocabularies and to make the mapped vocabularies available to users via web services". R. Pepe, in particular, participated in the "Mapping team" dedicated to the Benthic habitat Domain. The "benthic team" consisted of 9 members (facilitator, mappers, ontology expert, and reporter). There were other teams dedicated to other domains (Conductivity-Temperature-Depth Mapping Team; Waves and Currents Mapping Team; Chlorophyll Mapping Team; Sensors Mapping Team; PaCOOS Mapping Team; Units Mapping Team. The actual mapping of ASFA Thesaurus terms to other marine vocabularies was not accomplished for various reason: 1) the special software developed for the mapping would not load the ASFA file correctly (appeared to only work/load on Mac computers), the concepts and number of terms in the benthic habitat domain proved to be more difficult to map than the terms in the other measurement based domains (pigments, chlorophylls etc.). In any case, there is no argument against the need for interoperability between systems. Whether the MMI initiative will contribute to fulfilling this need stands to be seen. FAO will remain an interested observer of the MMI initiative and follow the developments of their ontology mapping via the MMI web page. We have given them permission to use the ASFA thesaurus as one of the vocabularies in the eventual ontology.

10. Fisheries Library Networking to facilitate document exchange: collaboration between FAO/South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB) (access to primary documents).

(From last year's report)

The project held its first workshop at the end of 2003 and the Report has recently been finalised for publication as: **Report and Papers Presented at the Regional Workshop on Networking for Improved Access to Fisheries and Aquaculture Information in Africa Grahamstown, South Africa, 3–7 November 2003**

Eighteen participants from Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritania Nigeria, Seychelles and South Africa attended and presented papers. Fisheries library networking activities were reviewed as a basis for planning future collaboration to improve access to fisheries information and to promote information resources sharing. The summary of priority issues includes improved dissemination of African fisheries publications, full-text online fisheries journals, open source software, network focal points, the use of standard methodologies to enhance information exchange and technology for document delivery. The long-term goal of the network is to strengthen the information capacity at national fisheries institutions in Africa.

Most of the network participants have now registered with AGORA <http://www.aginternetwork.org> and we look forward to monitoring the impact of this service on information access. Several African libraries have started to enter their serial holdings in the IAMSILIC Union list of serials and we hope to encourage an African regional focus of requests, in particular for African fisheries publications.

E-mail sent to all ASFA Partners 8 November 2004 and a few other times as a reminder.

.....
From: Pepe, Richard (FIDI)
Sent: 08 November 2004 15:29
To: 'ASFA-Board-L'
Cc: 'Steve Watkins'; 'Barbara A Butler'; Jan Haspeslagh
Subject: ASFA-IAMSLIC cooperation (benefit of ASFA Partners also belonging to IAMSLIC association)

Dear ASFA Partners,

Important!

The purpose of this e-mail (and attachment) is: "to begin follow-up on the action item agreed at the last ASFA Board Meeting in Argentina regarding ASFA-IAMSLIC cooperation" (2004 ASFA Board Meeting Report, section 8.4).

Regards,
Richard Pepe

.....
Attachment to E-mail

Dear ASFA Partners,

Subject: ASFA-IAMSLIC cooperation

The PURPOSE of this e-mail is "to begin follow-up on the action item agreed at the recent ASFA Advisory Board Meeting in Argentina regarding ASFA-IAMSLIC cooperation" (2004 ASFA Board Meeting Report, section 8.4).

- Basically, what was discussed and agreed at the last ASFA Board Meeting, was that "**ASFA Partners would benefit by joining IAMSLIC**" - especially in the area of resource sharing or document delivery.

Therefore, the **objectives** of this e-mail are:

- a) to explain briefly "what is IAMSLIC?" and "what are the *benefits & responsibilities?*" of becoming an IAMSLIC member (in the event that you are not familiar with IAMSLIC and/or you need to convey such information to your supervisor in order to get permission for your institution to join IAMSLIC).(see items-1.1 to 1.3 below); and
- b) to explain the (easy) steps necessary to join IAMSLIC. (see item-2 below).

1. "What is IAMSLIC?" and "What are the Benefits & Responsibilities of being an IAMSLIC member":

1.1 What is IAMSLIC?:

The "International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers (IAMSLIC) is an international association of librarians and information professionals (approx. 300 members from 70 countries). Both institutions and individuals can members of IAMSLIC. IAMSLIC probably constitutes the largest organized group of intermediate users of aquatic science information in the world. IAMSLIC serves as a forum for the sharing of ideas and resources within the discipline of marine and freshwater sciences. IAMSLIC members meet annually to discuss issues relating to the management of aquatic science

information (e.g. issues relating to information collection, storage, retrieval, dissemination, etc.). See IAMS LIC homepage <http://www.iamslic.org/index.html> for more information.

1.2 Benefits of being an IAMS LIC member:

ASFA Partners would BENEFIT by being IAMS LIC members a number of ways. Below are listed only three benefits (with emphasis on item-c):

- a)** IAMS LIC provides a forum to share ideas and resources,
- b)** there is also the opportunity to belong to the IAMS LIC Regional groups (membership in these regional groups is free with IAMS LIC membership, with the exception of the Euraslic Regional Group, and
- c) IAMS LIC offers a number of very effective means to facilitate resource sharing/document delivery**, that is:
 - i)** there is a "Discussion List" (similar to ASFA-Board-L) where members can discuss issues (and as a last resort make requests for InterLibrary Loans (ILL), and
 - ii)** there is an "IAMS LIC Z39.50 Distributed Library" - that IAMS LIC members can participate in if their libraries have an online catalogue with Z39.50 server capabilities, or alternately, libraries may only add their periodical holdings to the Union List of Marine and Aquatic Serials database. Note, at the last ASFA Board Meeting, Jan Haspeslagh, ASFA Partner from Belgium/VLIZ, was designated (or rather he agreed) to act as the "Liaison person" between ASFA and IAMS LIC regarding technical matters regarding the eventual participation by ASFA Partners in the Z39.50 Distributed Library (see very end of this e-mail (item-3) for more information regarding Z39.50).

1.3 Responsibilities of being an IAMS LIC member :

1.3.1 There are NO LEGAL responsibilities in being an IAMS LIC member (you just full in the Institutional membership form, and designate yourself or someone in your institute as the contact person.(this is explained in item-2 below);

1.3.2 There is a small financial responsibility, that is: a US\$20/year membership fee for developing countries or a US\$35/year for developed countries (note: the ASFA Trust Fund will pay for your membership fee, if you are not able to do so;

1.3.3 There is a "gentlemen's agreement" regarding the requesting of documents from other IAMS LIC members (i.e. you should not only be a "requester of documents", but you should also try to be "provider of documents" if you have them in your collection.)

1.3.4 If compatible etc, you should try to make your library catalogue available through the "IAMS LIC Z.39.50 Distributed Library" initiative (see item-3 below for more information on this)

2. STEPS - in order to join IAMS LIC

Step-1: If you (your Institute) has decided <YES> to join IAMS LIC, then <go> to Step-2a or Step 2b, whichever is appropriate, and follow the instructions. If you have decided (NO) go to Step-3.:

Step-2: a) IF your Institute is ABLE to pay its own IAMS LIC membership fee (US\$ 20/yr for developing countries / US\$35/yr for developed countries), THEN go directly to the "join page" of the IAMS LIC homepage (<http://www.iamslic.org/join.html>) and follow the instructions to join IAMS LIC and pay the membership fee.

b) IF your Institute is NOT ABLE to pay its own IAMS LIC membership fee (again US\$ 20 for developing countries / US\$35 for developed countries), THEN contact FAO (richard.pepe@fao.org) and the FAO ASFA Secretariat will take care of your "joining" and of paying your membership fee (note however, that eventual participation at IAMS LIC Meetings will NOT be paid for by FAO or from the ASFA Trust Fund).

Step-3: IF I have not been clear in explaining why it is beneficial for ASFA partners to belong to IAMS LIC and/or you have further questions, please do not ignore this e-mail, but rather contact me and I shall try to explain more fully.

3. see next page ----->

Additional information

3. What is the IAMS LIC Z39.50 Distributed Library:

The IAMS LIC Z39.50 Distributed Library is a project aimed at facilitating international resource sharing among marine and aquatic science libraries. This was developed as a joint project of the IAMS LIC Resource Sharing Committee, the California State University, Monterey Bay Library and the NOAA Coastal Services Center in Charleston, South Carolina, USA. It is modeled on the Coastal Information Library developed by the NOAA Coastal Services Center and utilizes the PHP/YAZ open source Z39.50 protocols. Please contact the IAMS LIC Resource Sharing Committee with questions or suggestions regarding this website.

3.1 How to become a Participating Z39.50 distributed library (i.e. after you have become an IAMS LIC member)

There are two primary avenues for member libraries to join the group of participating lending libraries in the IAMS LIC Z39.50 Distributed Library:

3.1.1 For libraries that have an online catalog with Z39.50 server capabilities, three items of information are needed in order for it to be searchable through the Z39.50 Distributed Library:

- a) The catalog server's IP address or Internet name (e.g., 207.62.129.121 or voyager.csUMB.edu)
- b) The Z39.50 server port number for incoming queries (often port 210, but some vendor systems use other ports, such as 7090 for Endeavor, 2200 for SIRSI, etc.)
- c) The internal database name for Z39.50 queries (each vendor uses a unique internal name for the library catalog database, such as Voyager, UNICORN, MARION, INNOPAC, etc. In many instances, the library may need to contact their system vendor to obtain the internal Z39.50 database name.)

3.1.2 Alternately, libraries are encouraged to add their periodical holdings to the Union List of Marine and Aquatic Serials database at <http://library.csUMB.edu/cyamus/unionlist/>. They are especially encouraged to add records for unique serials that are not widely available elsewhere. Once a library has been set up in the Participants Area, it can add the library's serial holdings to existing records and can enter new serial titles not already in the Union List. Records from the Union List are exported periodically and indexed for Z39.50 retrieval via the IAMS LIC Distributed Library.

Union List of Marine and Aquatic Serials hosted by CSU Monterey Bay Library Statement of Purpose

The Union List of Marine and Aquatic Serials is a volunteer project to facilitate interlibrary loan programs among marine science libraries by providing a list of which libraries own specific journals. The journals themselves are not available here, only the names of libraries who own them. Libraries who are interested in joining the union list project should contact Steve Watkins at the address below.

The Union List is NOT a document delivery service for individuals who are seeking to obtain copies of articles; individuals should contact the interlibrary loan office in

Note: I repeat. At the last ASFA Board Meeting, Jan Haspesslagh, ASFA Partner from Belgium/VLIZ, was designated to act as the "Liaison person" between ASFA and IAMS LIC regarding technical matters regarding the eventual participation by ASFA Partners in the Z39.50 Distributed Library. After you become an IAMS LIC member you can contact him regarding participating in the IAMS LIC Z39.50 initiative.

Regards,
Richard Pepe
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