

ASFA Co-operation with IAMSLIC

(preliminary version)

1. Introduction

This paper briefly documents, for ASFA Partners, some past examples of cooperation and interaction between *Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA)* and the *International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers (IAMSLIC)*.

More importantly, it highlights the current, ongoing and planned initiatives that will hopefully lead to increased resource sharing of benefit to both IAMSLIC and ASFA members.

There will be 4 speakers (IAMSLIC members) attending the 5th day of the ASFA Board Meeting who will speak about: **IAMSLIC membership** in general, and **resource sharing** and **document repositories** which are the two most important areas for cooperation.

2. Summary Background of IAMSLIC and ASFA Groups

2.1 IAMSLIC (organization summary)

The **International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers (IAMSLIC)** <http://www.iamslc.org> is an international, non-profit, organization of individuals and institutions involved with aquatic science information. Its purpose is to promote mutual cooperation and resource sharing among libraries and information centers which specialize in any aspect of aquatic science - freshwater, brackish and marine.

IAMSLIC* was established (or came into being) in 1975 by virtue of its first meeting which was sponsored by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI), and the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL), Woods Hole, USA. The first Meeting was attended by 49 participants from the US, Canada and Bermuda with the idea of "**discussing mutual cooperation**". From those 49 participants attending the first Meeting, IAMSLIC now numbers over 300 members from more than 70 countries.

(note: IAMSLIC also includes numerous Regional Associations (Europe, Africa, West Coast N. America and Hawaii, Latin America, Pacific Island, South and Southeast US and Caribbean Sea). For the purpose of this paper, the term IAMSLIC is meant to refer to the international IAMSLIC group, but this does **not mean to exclude the Regional groups from any of the cooperative initiatives mentioned or proposed, when feasible and relevant)*

2.1.1 IAMSLIC (products and services)

In line with its declared purpose of promoting cooperation and resource sharing, IAMSLIC provides: an annual conference, continuing education workshops, a distributed library, a newsletter, a membership directory, an electronic mail conferencing facility, and special projects.

(IAMSLIC has established a very extensive and successful system of resource sharing (document delivery) among its members)

2.2 ASFA (organization summary)

The **Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA)** database and the abstracting and indexing system/network to produce it were established in 1970 by the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**, with the cooperation of a **commercial publisher** (now CSA) and 2 **national centres** (now there are 51 ASFA Partners) in order to provide an information system facilitating access to world literature on aquatic sciences and fisheries. <http://www.fao.org/fi/asfa/asfa.asp>

The overall objective of the ASFA Partnership is to develop and maintain a service/system for the collection and dissemination of information on the science, technology and management of marine, brackish water and fresh water environments, organisms and resources, including economic, sociological and legal aspects. The system is based on the pooling of literature monitoring and indexing activities by the individual ASFA Partners, consistent with internationally accepted standards and practices. The information is made available in a form easily accessible to the user community, bearing in mind the special interests of developing countries* The service includes a computer-searchable bibliographic data base, associated printed abstract journals and the relevant tools for the control of the system and aids to its use. **(by special interests of developing countries, we mean: full participation in international schemes under the aegis of the UN system for the collection, analysis and use of data and information; equitable and affordable access to relevant information services and products; and the strengthening of national capacities in information handling and communication)*

2.2.1 ASFA (products and services)

The ASFA Database includes approximately 1 million bibliographic references (records) with abstracts accessioned since 1971 (thanks to some retrospective data inputting by ASFA Partners, under special projects funded from the ASFA Trust Fund, there are also a few thousand records preceeding 1971). Although the carrier language of the ASFA database is English, all non-English records include their original language title (only Latin characters) with English title translation. Non-English abstracts are also included in a record, preferably alongside the English abstract, but sometimes alone. All ASFA Partners receive a full copy of the ASFA database for use in their own computer systems in order to provide services to their user communities.

The ASFA database is the primary product (and part) of the ASFA system. The ASFA system includes the numerous tools and aids required to produce and to maintain the database (e.g. the ASFA Thesaurus, the List of Serials monitored by the ASFA Partners and other authority lists; the inputting guidelines, and input/retrieval software). There is also an annual ASFA Advisory Board Meeting, an ASFA Webpage (<http://www.fao.org/fi/asfa/asfa.asp>) and a "Listserv" (ASFA-Board-L) by which the ASFA Partners can post (send) messages to the collective ASFA Partnership.

The ASFA system is not only composed of products and services. The FAO ASFA Secretariat is contributing to the overall strengthening of the institute's information handling capacity when it provides detailed training and follow-up to the new ASFA Partners as regards the preparation of bibliographic citations, abstracting and indexing.

3. PAST Examples of Cooperation and/or Interaction between ASFA - IAMSLIC

a) IAMSLIC lobby to prevent ASFA from being discontinued

Rather than an example of direct cooperation with ASFA, this is a good example of cooperation among the IAMSLIC members in forming a pressure/opinion group so as to preserve what was considered an important information resource of common utility to IAMSLIC members (i.e. the ASFA database). In 1991, FAO announced that it was going to terminate its agreement with the Publisher of ASFA and seek other arrangements for the production of ASFA. This announcement was interpreted by IAMSLIC as the end of ASFA. Soon afterwards, FAO began to receive letters from IAMSLIC members expressing their "concern". This "pro" ASFA campaign culminated: in some members contacting their country representatives, who were to participate in the (then) upcoming 1993 Meeting of the FAO Committee of Fisheries (a very important FAO Advisory Body), and in having ASFA brought up for discussion at the Meeting. ASFA was not cancelled, and is alive and well. We thank IAMSLIC, for the interest it showed in ASFA and the energy that it dedicated to combating the perceived threat.

b) Participation in IAMSLIC Meetings by FAO ASFA Secretariat

While the FAO Fisheries Library tries to participate regularly in the annual IAMSLIC Meetings, the participation of the FAO ASFA Secretariat has been sporadic (less so recently). In the mid 1980's, the ASFA Secretariat attended a few IAMSLIC Meetings with the idea of involving IAMSLIC in some of ASFA's operational activities. However, the ASFA Secretariat did not follow-up much on this initiative. Perhaps, because the number of international IAMSLIC members was not so significant, at the time.

Recruiting New ASFA Partners at IAMSLIC Meetings

At recent IAMSLIC Meetings, the FAO ASFA Secretariat established a number of contacts which later led to the recruitment of the IAMSLIC member's institute into the ASFA Partnership (e.g. VLIZ, Belgium; Direction des Pêches Maritimes, Senegal; Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), New Caledonia). At this IAMSLIC Meeting, there will be an ASFA "question and answer" workshop.

c) Letter from President of IAMSLIC citing ASFA as a prime source (database) for bibliographic references on the aquatic environment

In 2003, the FAO ASFA Secretariat requested information from the President of IAMSLIC regarding the use of ASFA by IAMSLIC members.

The President of IAMSLIC (then Denis Abbot) replied on behalf of IAMSLIC stating that:

"ASFA is the main database used in aquatic sciences and marine science libraries, or IAMSLIC members' libraries". (the letter also contained some suggestions for improving the ASFA database such as: speedier coverage, complete coverage of issues on the monitoring list and assistance in locating the source documents from the references cited in ASFA (particularly grey literature).

This letter was very important to ASFA Partners for two reasons: First, it confirmed the importance of the ASFA database on a large scale. The letter was used by some ASFA Partners to solicit support, within their own Organizations, for their continuing participation in the ASFA system, and 2) it reminded the ASFA Partners: of the need to be quick and complete in their ASFA coverage, and of the need for some means of document delivery.

Some of the initiatives for cooperation between ASFA - IAMSLIC mentioned in this paper will contribute to improving the ASFA system in the areas suggested by IAMSLIC in their letter above. For example: by having all ASFA Partners join IAMSLIC and actively participate in the Z39:50 Distributed Library and repository initiatives, the problem of locating much of the "grey literature" that is cited in ASFA will be alleviated (see section 4b below). And the simplification of the ASFA inputting rules (see section 4a below), with some consultation from IAMSLIC, will definitely speed up the submission of ASFA records by Partners for inclusion in the database.

4. PRESENT Examples of Cooperation and/or Interaction between ASFA – IAMSLIC

4.1 Memorandum of understanding (MOU) between IAMSLIC and FAO on Fisheries Information Systems (see Annex-2)

This MOU was signed between FAO and IAMSLIC (IAMSLIC endorsed it at its 2004 Meeting) in order to establish a framework necessary for making operative certain types of cooperation between the two organizations (e.g. the organization and hosting of this year's IAMSLIC Meeting at FAO).

All or most cooperative initiatives mentioned in this paper could also find justification under this MOU.

4.2 Mechanism for getting formal feedback or consultation from IAMSLIC (to ASFA) regarding developments and issues related to the ASFA database that might affect users search and retrieval.

While the FAO ASFA Secretariat did not attend the 2003 IAMSLIC Meeting, Richard Pepe (from the ASFA Secretariat) requested Jean Collins, FAO Fisheries Department Librarian who was attending the Meeting, to present to IAMSLIC a request for an IAMSLIC task force (or other mechanism) to be established which could assist the ASFA Board and Secretariat when deciding on changes to the ASFA Database or system that might affect search and retrieval or other.

The request of the ASFA Secretariat was well received by the IAMSLIC panel group to which J. Collins presented it. Later, the final mechanism (see below) was agreed between the ASFA Secretariat and the President elect of IAMSLIC at the time (Steve Watkins).

(mechanism for submitting issues to IAMSLIC by ASFA)

Amelia Chavez-Comparan

Centro de Investigacion Cientifica y de Educaci3n Superior de Ensenada (CICESE) , Mexico

- Will act as the contact point.
- Then together with two Mexican colleagues (all users of ASFA) from Universidad Autonoma de Baja California and Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, they will make their comments / recommendations back to the ASFA Secretariat, on behalf of IAMSLIC. After gaining some experience with the process, input from a larger group of IAMSLIC members may be deemed desirable, in which case the IAMSLIC Board can identify additional individuals to work with Amelia. Nonetheless, for all questions of major importance, Amelia will consult with the IAMSLIC Board, who might then seek further consultation within the IAMSLIC membership.

The first consultation/opinion requested of the IAMSLIC "task force" was regarding the proposed cancellation, by CSA, of the 2 printed ASFA abstract journals: Marine Biotechnology Abstracts and ASFA Aquaculture Abstracts. For your information, both of the printed journals were cancelled with the consenting opinions of both the ASFA Advisory Board and the IAMSLIC task force - based on the assurance from the ASFA Publisher that the contents of both journals would still continue to be published in machine readable format (CD-ROM, and ASFA via Internet).

A number of other questions are being prepared by the ASFA Secretariat for eventual sending to the IAMSLIC task force. These questions will involve the simplification or elimination of numerous ASFA inputting rules and procedures. A first draft has been sent to the ASFA Publisher for its initial screening. After the initial screening the questions will go to the ASFA Board and then those requiring advice to the IAMSLIC task force

4.3 Initiative to have all ASFA Partners become IAMS LIC members and participate in resource sharing

Document delivery (let's call it resource sharing) is an age old problem discussed at every ASFA Board Meeting (without major result). Resource sharing is also a challenge to IAMS LIC members, at least as regards getting hold of the grey literature (so much of which is cited in ASFA). In fact, from time to time, IAMS LIC has complained about the difficulty in gaining access to the grey literature cited in ASFA.

At the 2004 ASFA Advisory Board Meeting, the ASFA Secretariat recommended that all ASFA Partners join IAMS LIC in order **to take advantage of** and **to contribute to** IAMS LIC's very extensive, well developed and successful system of resource sharing (e.g. the Z 39.50 Distributed Library).

It should also be noted that the ASFA Board agreed that the ASFA Trust Fund could be used to pay for the IAMS LIC membership fees for those ASFA Partners who could not afford to do so themselves (\$20/year for developing countries; \$35/year for developed). To date, 11 ASFA Partners requested to be signed up as IAMS LIC members with funding from the ASFA Trust Fund, while another 17 replied that they were already IAMS LIC members. **The remaining 27 ASFA Partners should take action, if possible, to join.**

IAMS LIC Membership for ASFA Collaborating Partners - Considering the relatively low cost of IAMS LIC membership (US\$ 20 per year for developing countries – \$35 for developed), and the real benefits to ASFA Partners (one request for one document through 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 IAMS LIC 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.

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-1**) "explaining the benefits to ASFA Partners in joining IAMS LIC" and "How to join IAMS LIC". Note, the E-mail also mentioned that there were benefits in joining the Regional Groups.

4.3.1 Some of the main benefits of joining IAMS LIC

a) IAMS LIC Listserv

All IAMS LIC Members have access to the IAMS LIC Listserv (note, it is like our ASFA-Board-L Listserv which allows you to submit a question or message to all the other people on the list).

The IAMS LIC Listserv is used for many types of messages.

Here are a few examples:

- Duplicates List - the IAMS LIC members offer their duplicate publications to other IAMS LIC members (sometimes free of charge and sometimes with a charge for mailing).

Typical messages of this type may read:

"the Institute of is offering the following materials to members of the IAMS LIC Duplicate Exchange Program. Reimbursement for postage over \$5.00 (stamps or check) is appreciated. Email/fax/mail your requests with FULL MAILING ADDRESS. Requests will be filled until July 29, 2005. The Duplicates are Listed below

"The Library has the following duplicates to give away until the 30 June 2005. No reimbursement is needed for postage."

- Announcements - sometimes there are announcements posted that the whole IAMS LIC group would be interested in. For example:

Our colleague has just published an interesting approach for evaluating database coverage overlap that may be of interest to many IAMS LIC libraries in is in: The Spring 2005 issue of Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship now available at <http://www.istl.org/>

- Requests for documents that are NOT found using the Z39:50 Distributed Library - IAMSLIC members use the Listserv as a **Last Resort** to obtain a document when they can't find it in the Z39:50 Distributed Library or elsewhere. The Listserv must be used for this purpose with care; otherwise the traffic will become unwieldy. A typical message of this type might read:

*Hullo Iamslicers,
I have been unable to find this article on the Z39:50 Distributed Library (I have tried everything!). Can anybody help with this one. Please contact me off list? The full bibliographic details are Thank you.*

REMEMBER, WHEN YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF IAMSLIC, YOU CAN SIGN YOURSELF UP TO THE IAMSLIC LISTSERV.

b) Z39:50 Distributed Library

All IAMSLIC Members have access to the IAMSLIC Z39:50 Distributed Library. This service is available via the IAMSLIC website. It allows you to search for documents among the library catalogues of the IAMSLIC members who have made their collections searchable via the Z39:50 protocol (not all computerized library catalogues are Z39:50 compliant). The search interface then presents you with a button to request the document.

WHEN YOU JOIN IAMSLIC YOU CAN (I.E. YOU SHOULD) SEE IF YOUR LIBRARY CATALOGUE CAN BE MADE PART OF THE IAMSLIC Z39:50 DISTRIBUTED LIBRARY.

THERE WILL BE SOMEONE FROM IAMSLIC, AT THE ASFA BOARD MEETING (5th day), TO DEMONSTRATE AND EXPLAIN THIS. (Barbara Butler and Steve Watkins will speak about resource sharing and the Z39:50 Distributed Library)

c) IAMSLIC Union Lists of Serials

It is also possible to search only for journals through IAMSLIC Union Lists of Serials on the Z39:50 Distributed Library. That is you can find the IAMSLIC library(ies) that has the journal, issue, number you are looking for and then request the article.

IF YOUR LIBRARY CATALOGUE IS NOT Z39:50 COMPLIANT OR FOR SOME OTHER REASON YOU CANNOT MAKE YOUR CATALOGUE PART OF THE Z39:50 DISTRIBUTED LIBRARY, YOU CAN PUT ONLY YOUR LIST OF SERIAL TILES INTO THE Z39:50 DISTRIBUTED LIBRARY.

THERE WILL BE SOMEONE FROM IAMSLIC, AT THE ASFA BOARD MEETING (5th day), TO DEMONSTRATE AND EXPLAIN THIS. (Steve Watkins will speak about participation in the Union List of Marine and Aquatic Serials)

d) Document Repositories and Open Access

At the last ASFA Board Meeting, the topic of Web site repositories for grey literature was discussed. There was mention of the various existing or planned repositories (ODINAFRICA, ODINCARSA etc.), and one ASFA Partner suggested that FAO host a repository for Partners grey literature.

The FAO ASFA Secretariat would be more inclined to support existing or planned repositories rather than establish its own grey literature repository. Also IAMSLIC (and its Regional Groups) are involving themselves in this issue. Considering the potential size and organization of an eventual IAMSLIC(s) based repository (and/or the other existing Repositories), the FAO ASFA Secretariat would tend to support and/or involve itself with these initiatives.

THERE WILL BE SOMEONE FROM IAMSLIC, AT THE ASFA BOARD MEETING (5th day), TO SPEAK ABOUT REPOSITORIES. (Pauline Simpson, will speak about Open access - publishing and Institutional Repositories and Stephanie Haas will speak of a model for integrating marine and aquatic digital initiatives

5. Conclusion

One of the quickest and most effective ways for ASFA and IAMSLIC to mutually strengthen their resource sharing capacities would appear to be for ASFA Partners to belong to IAMSLIC (and its Groups) and to participate fully in the resource sharing initiatives (e.g. Z39:50 Distributed Library, Union List of Serials, and Repositories).

by: Richard Pepe, FAO (30 September 2005)
Fishery Information Officer (Editor-in-Chief ASFA)
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Fisheries Department/FIDI

E-mail sent to ASFA Partners Explaining Benefits and Means of Joining IAMSLIC

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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).

Note: I have scanned the attachment for viruses.

Regards,

Richard Pepe
Fishery Information Officer (Editor-in-Chief ASFA)
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Fisheries Department / FIDI / ASFA
Via delle Terme di Caracalla
00100, Rome, Italy

.....
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 IAMSLIC homepage <http://www.iamslc.org/index.html> for more information.

1.2 Benefits of being an IAMSLIC member:

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

- a)** IAMSLIC provides a forum to share ideas and resources,
- b)** there is also the opportunity to belong to the IAMSLIC Regional groups (membership in these regional groups is free with IAMSLIC membership, with the exception of the Euraslic Regional Group, and
- c) IAMSLIC 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 "IAMSLIC Z39.50 Distributed Library" - that IAMSLIC 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 IAMSLIC 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 IAMSLIC member :

1.3.1 There are NO LEGAL responsibilities in being an IAMSLIC member (you just fill 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 IAMSLIC 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 "IAMSLIC Z.39.50 Distributed Library" initiative (see item-3 below for more information on this)

2. STEPS - in order to join IAMSLIC

Step-1: If you (your Institute) has decided <YES> to join IAMSLIC, 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 IAMSLIC membership fee (US\$ 20/yr for developing countries / US\$35/yr for developed countries), THEN go directly to the "join page" of the IAMSLIC homepage (<http://www.iamslc.org/join.html>) and follow the instructions to join IAMSLIC and pay the membership fee.

b) IF your Institute is NOT ABLE to pay its own IAMSLIC 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 IAMSLIC 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 IAMSLIC 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.

Additional information

3. What is the IAMSLIC Z39.50 Distributed Library:

The IAMSLIC 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 IAMSLIC 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 IAMSLIC 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 IAMSLIC member)

There are two primary avenues for member libraries to join the group of participating lending libraries in the IAMSLIC 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 IAMSLIC 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 Haspeslagh, ASFA Partner from Belgium/VLIZ, was designated to act as the "Liaison person" between ASFA and IAMSLIC regarding technical matters regarding the eventual participation by ASFA Partners in the Z39.50 Distributed Library. After you become an IAMSLIC member you can contact him regarding participating in the IAMSLIC Z39.50 initiative.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**BETWEEN****THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AQUATIC AND MARINE SCIENCE LIBRARIES
AND INFORMATION CENTERS (IAMSLIC) AND THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)
ON FISHERIES INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND SERVICES****Preamble**

Considering that the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centres (hereafter referred to as "IAMSLIC"), established in 1975, is an association of individuals and organizations interested in aquatic and marine information science and that this association provides a forum for exchange and exploration of ideas in the field of marine and aquatic science.

Considering that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (hereafter referred to as "FAO") has as the mandate to disseminate information relating to nutrition, food and agriculture, including fisheries and aquaculture.

Recognising the interest of FAO and IAMSLIC of establishing a framework for cooperation in order to promote their common objectives and in particular to establish the framework of a partnership for cooperation in the development of information networking and resources sharing activities in support of strengthening the information capacity of fisheries and aquatic sciences institutions and organizations.

Bearing in mind the desirability of regular consultations for achieving mutual understanding to enhance and facilitate future collaboration between the Parties to this Memorandum.

Acknowledging that both Parties have, in recent years, collaborated in joint activities and share common approaches and interests including the support of IAMSLIC's members and experts in the implementation of FAO work programmes relating to fisheries information.

Conscious of the close and mutually beneficial relationship which has been developed over recent years and of the need to establish working arrangements within the framework of their respective rules and regulations.

The Parties have agreed to the following:

Article 1. Objectives

The Parties will strengthen their cooperation with a view to pursuing the following objectives:

1.1. To strengthen the capacity of fisheries and aquatic sciences institutions to organize, access and disseminate information in support of research, management and development in the fisheries sector.

1.2. To support the development and improvement of information bases and information management tools specifically for fisheries and the aquatic sciences and to promote their accessibility to all stakeholders.

1.3. To support global, regional and local networks for information sharing and the use of appropriate technologies which would facilitate improved access to timely and relevant fisheries and aquatic science information.

Article 2. Mechanisms for co-operation

The Parties shall endeavour to undertake joint activities within the framework of their work programme taking into account their own operational priorities and constraints. The Parties agree to cooperate by using the mechanisms described below:

- 2.1. Promoting an awareness of IAMSLIC's role in the development of and support to networks for improved access to aquatic science information relevant for the fisheries sector.
- 2.2. Promoting the use of standard methodologies and open access initiatives to enhance information exchange.
- 2.3. Organising conferences, seminars, training workshops and expert group meetings at global and regional level.
- 2.4. Identifying, documenting and disseminating information on relevant resources, systems, services and best practices.
- 2.5. Raising the awareness of IAMSLIC members about the FAO Partnership Programmes and the opportunities for collaboration.
- 2.6. Developing mechanisms for improved information sharing in order to strengthen collaboration at regional and global level.
- 2.7. Liaising and collaborating with other partners such as other professional groups and UN organizations concerning areas of common interest.

Article 3. Specific arrangements

3.1 Subsequent to this Memorandum of Understanding, separate project documents will be formulated for each activity indicating the respective contributions covering financial, material, human resources contributions and intellectual property rights. The project documents shall be signed by the authorized representatives of the FAO and IAMSLIC.

3.2. Each project document will be considered as an annex to the present Memorandum. Attached to this Memorandum, Annex 1 includes a list of the proposed joint activities for the current biennium.

3.3. IAMSLIC and FAO's participation at jointly organized events or events organized either by FAO or IAMSLIC should normally be funded by their respective organizations.

3.4 The fulfilment of the provisions of this Memorandum and any operational responsibility set forth in it shall be subject to the availability of financial, material and human resources.

Article 4. Intellectual Property Rights

Intellectual property rights, in particular copyright, of material such as information, software and designs, made available by IAMSLIC and FAO to be used to carry out the activities under this Memorandum shall remain with the originating party. Appropriate grants for use of such materials will be further described as other projects under this Memorandum are formalized in accordance with Article 3 above.

Article 5. Data Access

FAO and IAMSLIC shall have free access to all information developed pursuant to activities mutually undertaken as a result of this Memorandum for their internal use.

Article 6. Final provisions

6.1 Any dispute between IAMSLIC and FAO concerning the interpretation and the execution of this Memorandum, or any document or arrangement relating thereto, shall be settled by negotiation between the Parties. If the dispute is not settled by negotiation between the Parties it shall, at the request of either Party, be submitted to one conciliator. Should the Parties fail to reach agreement on the name of a sole conciliator, each Party shall appoint one conciliator. The conciliation shall be carried out in accordance with the Conciliation Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, as at present in force. Any dispute between the Parties that is unresolved after conciliation shall, at the request of either Party, be settled by arbitration in accordance with the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, as at present in force. The conciliation or the arbitration proceedings shall be conducted in English. The parties may request conciliation during the execution of the Memorandum and anyway not later than six months after the expiry or the termination of the Memorandum of Understanding. The parties may request arbitration not later than ninety days after the termination of the conciliation proceedings. Any arbitration award rendered in accordance with the provisions of this Article shall be final and binding on the Parties.

6.2. This Memorandum shall be reviewed at least every five years by the Parties and may be modified in writing upon their mutual consent.

6.3. Nothing in this Memorandum, or in any document relating thereto, shall be construed as constituting a waiver of privileges or immunities of FAO, nor as conferring any privileges or immunities of FAO to IAMSLIC or its personnel.

6.4. The present Memorandum shall be governed by general principles of law, to the exclusion of any single national system of law.

6.5. This Memorandum may be terminated by the Parties at a jointly agreed time or by one Party giving three months' notice in writing to the other Party.

6.6. This Memorandum shall represent the understanding of the Parties upon its signature by FAO and IAMSLIC.

International Association of
Aquatic and Marine Science
Libraries and Information
Centers (IAMSLIC)

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the United
Nations

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Steven Watkins
IAMSLIC President 2003/4
California State University,
Monterey Bay, Library
Bldg. 12, 100 Campus Center
Seaside, CA 93955-8001,
U.S.A.

.....
Ichiro Nomura
Assistant Director-General
Fisheries Department

Date:

Date:

Annex 1 to MOU

Proposed Joint Activities for 2004-05

- a) Sabbatical period at FAO headquarters under the Partnership Programmes for Professor Janet Webster, Oregon State University, in collaboration with IAMSLIC to elaborate and document strategies for improving the capture, dissemination, sharing and preservation of fisheries information resources.
- b) Improved coverage of and access to the metadata of fisheries and aquatic science publications from developing countries through increased coverage in the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) and in the IAMSLIC web portal.
- c) Improved access to full text fisheries and aquatic science publications through development of local and regional repositories, better linkage in bibliographic databases and promotion of open access.
- d) Improved coverage of and access to fisheries publications from developing countries in the IAMSLIC Z39.50 distributed library system and development of regional resources sharing mechanisms.
- e) IAMSLIC International Conference in Hobart, Australia, September 5-9, 2004. Promote collaboration between fisheries and aquatic science libraries in the Asia-Pacific region and identify potential ASFA partners.
- f) The preparation of guidelines on compatibility standards for open archives of fisheries and aquatic science digital publications.
- g) IAMSLIC to provide expert user feedback to the FAO ASFA Secretariat regarding the database and user requirements.

"Information for Responsible Fisheries" IAMSLIC Conference in cooperation with FAO, Rome, 10-14 October, 2005. Review status of joint activities and produce draft outline of activities for 2006-2007 biennium.