

**THE LIBRARY OF THE  
BUNDESFORSCHUNGSANSTALT FÜR FISCHEREI  
FEDERAL RESEARCH CENTER FOR FISHERIES - HAMBURG**

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The beginning of fishery research in Germany can be traced to the foundation of the "Königlich Preußische Kommission zur wissenschaftlichen Untersuchung der deutschen Meere" [Royal Prussian Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the German Seas] in Kiel in 1870.

The foundation of the Bundesforschungs-anstalt für Fischerei (BFA) (Federal Research Center for Fisheries) in 1948 in Hamburg came into effect when the institutes of the former "Reichsanstalt für Fischerei" founded in 1938 and country research institutes were combined into a central institution. The purpose of the BFA is to assist the federal government in making decisions on fishery policy, and to cover the needs of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry in research on fishery and fish products. At present the BFA consists of the following institutes:

- Institut für Seefischerei (Institute for Sea Fisheries)
- Institut für Fangtechnik (Institute for Fishing Gear)
- Institut für Biochemie und Technologie (Institute for Biochemistry and Technology)
- Institut für Ostseefischerei (Institute for Baltic Fisheries) situated in Rostock
- Institut für Fischereiekologie (Institute for Fishery Ecology)

The mission of the institutes comprise all questions on coastal and sea fisheries, partly also on freshwater fisheries and aquaculture. One of the focal points is the monitoring of commercially utilized stocks of fish and other marine animals. Further research activities are directed to the development of new catching techniques, the processing of commercial fishery products and quality control, and studying the influence of different kinds of marine pollution and radioactive contamination on the ecosystem.

The Information and Documentation Office of the BFA retrieves and provides published research results, is responsible for editing, and public relations work. The Information and Documentation Office of the BFA is one of the five founders of the database *Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA)*, which is the most important information system on literature in aquatic sciences and related fields. I think everyone here knows ASFA very well. It was established in Hamburg by the Fishery Division of the FAO, Rome; the Station d'Hydrobiologie, Biarritz; the publisher, Information Retrieval Ltd., London; the Institut für Dokumentationswesen, Frankfurt; and the BFA in November 1970. The database is now part of the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries

Information System (ASFIS), which is being developed by the FAO and other international agencies in collaboration with national centres. Each of the national ASFA partners is entitled to a copy of the magnetic tape, who then make the database available for worldwide computer access through commercial and government-operated host systems in Canada, France, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Peoples Republic of China, USA, and Federal Republic of Germany (DIMDI). The complete data stock from 1975 on is available online. At present the total file contains exactly 446,349 records.

Since 1982, Cambridge Scientific Abstracts (CSA), Washington, had been responsible for the production and distribution of the printed version, which is produced in three series. ASFA is also available on compact disc.

The library of the BFA was built up in its present form in 1962 with the consolidation of various collections spread over Hamburg into a new building. Since 1969 it has operated as a section of the Information and Documentation Centre. It mainly results from the combined holdings of the Institute of Sea Fisheries and the small so-called reference libraries of the former Institutes for Fish Processing, Coastal and Inland Fisheries and Net and Material Research. It has become one of the most important libraries in the field of fishery science in Germany with a collection of more than 62,000 volumes. The subjects covered include ichthyology, marine biology, limnology, fisheries hydrography and technology, aquaculture, biochemistry, ecology, fishery economics, and environmental research. The basis for this comprehensive collection is the exchange with the publication series published by the BFA, which are as follows:

- *Archiv für Fischereiwissenschaft*
- *Informationen für die Fischwirtschaft*
- *Informationen Über die Fischwirtschaft des Auslandes*
- *Jahresbericht (Annual report)*
- *Meeresforschung* (the publication of the DWK)
- and 4 series of the institutes

The major part of the more than 1,000 serial titles is acquired through exchanges with some 500 institutes and libraries in 70 countries.

The BFA is also concerned with the recent changes in East Germany. At the end of 1991 the former Institut für Hochseefischerei und Fischverarbeitung (Institute for Sea Fisheries and Fish Processing) in Rostock was dissolved, and on January 1st, 1992, it was reestablished at the same place as the Institut für Ostseefischerei (Institute for Baltic Sea Fisheries), now one of the 5 institutes of the BFA. The library in Rostock is now also part of the I+D Centre. This library has a collection of about 22,000 volumes.

In August 1992 the completely revised 8th edition of the list of periodicals was published and contains for the first time the holdings of the two libraries.