

**THE WORLDFISH CENTER PHILIPPINE OFFICE LIBRARY AND
DOCUMENTATION SERVICE: SHARING KNOWLEDGE GLOBALLY IN A
WEB-BASED ENVIRONMENT**

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ABSTRACT: The WorldFish Center – Philippine Office Library was created in 2000, with the transfer of the Ian R. Smith Memorial Library and Documentation Center to Penang, Malaysia. The library is committed to its mission, “to develop new and better information services to support the Center’s research on aquatic resources management in tropical developing countries for the benefit of the poor.” Its major roles are to provide biological information sources to support the FishBase Project and documentation for module development for the Coastal Management Training Program (CMTP).

Fishbase is the world’s premier information system database and global public good which covers all the world’s fishes. It is being developed by the WorldFish Center with partner institutions around the world forming a FishBase Consortium and over 1000 (institutional and individual) collaborators. Information is made available to users through CDs, DVDs and in the web (<http://www.fishbase.org>). There are 13 language interfaces, including 16 non Roman scripts allowing ease of utility for its users around the world (there are over 12 million hits monthly).

The Broad-based Coastal Management Training Program (BCMTP) initiated in 1993 as a GO-NGO collaboration organized to pursue development of a training program for coastal management practitioners in the Philippines is under the CMTP. Positive results encouraged its expansion to VietNam and Indonesia. CMTP Users include GOs, NGOs and the Academe from the Philippines, Indonesia and VietNam.

The services provided by the library to both projects are of immense importance because they extend beyond the staff of the projects within the Philippines to the people using the various products of FishBase and BCRMP globally.

Introduction

IAMSLIC is an International association which facilitates resources sharing among aquatic and marine science libraries and information centers and has been an important factor in the development of the WorldFish Center – Philippine Office Library. Supports the FishBase project by providing information sources for the incorporation of biological data and provides references for **BCMTP** module development.

FishBase is a global public resource being developed as a decision-support system for the conservation and management of aquatic ecosystems with:

- Information on taxonomy, biology, occurrence and utilization of fish
- A compilation of user-friendly analytical tools for fisheries management and biodiversity conservation; on-line learning and training tools
- An on-line venue for fish experts, institutions and the general public for information exchange and much more!

It is published in CD-ROM, DVD and on the web (<http://www.fishbase.org>).

FishBase users have steadily increased, benefiting from the availability of information – and in effect, extending the breadth of users and impact of the library.

Users also send in reprints of their publications for inclusion in the database – thereby increasing holdings of the library (to date over 450 publications have cited FishBase).

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Brief Historical Background

The WorldFish Center-Philippine Office Library

- Created in 2000 to support the information needs for WorldFish Philippine staff in developing FishBase and the Coastal Management Training Program (CMTP).
- With a collection of technical & scientific fisheries literature including FishBase and the CMTP references.

The Mission

“to improve services to support the Center’s research on aquatic resources management in tropical developing countries for the benefit of the poor.”

Library Services

- Reference and circulation
- Current awareness (serial content page & list of new acquisitions)
- Loans, interlibrary loans

Future Plans Include:

- creation of the library's website with online public access.
- conversion of FishBase references from print to digital format.
- development of new linkages to other fishery libraries.

References

Froese, R. & D. Pauly, eds. 2000. *Fishbase 2000: concepts, design and data sources*.
ICLARM, Los Baños, Laguna.

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