

## ONEFISH - ONE YEAR ON...

**Joan Baron Varley**

Support Unit for International Fisheries and Aquatic Research (SIFAR),  
Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO),  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla,  
Rome 00100,

Italy

Tel: +39 06 570 54059

Fax: +39 06 570 56500

E-mail: joan.baron@fao.org

The need to improve communication, information flows and networking in the field of fisheries and aquatic research and development has been widely recognised for some considerable time, and has been highlighted in all recent major international policy instruments related to fisheries development.

Donor organisations recognise that the problem is particularly acute in developing countries where access to information relevant to effective research planning is often poor, and where dissemination from research activities is weak.

The relatively recent advent of Internet technologies has offered a completely new opportunity for overcoming this problem...

### OVERVIEW

oneFish - a thematic participatory Internet portal and knowledge management system developed by the Support unit for International Fisheries and Aquatic Research (SIFAR) in collaboration with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (UN FAO).

oneFish - addresses known constraints to knowledge generation and dissemination by allowing anyone to search and retrieve information, and by allowing registered users to contribute information to specific subject areas.

oneFish - donor organisations, research institutes and special interest groups can develop virtual offices within oneFish via which they can collect, organise and disseminate their research output.

oneFish - carefully selected subject specialist topic editors assist in the management of the system by reviewing, organising and ranking information submitted to them.

## **CHRONOLOGY**

- February 2000            oneFish prototype goes online.
- May 2000                oneFish prototype presented and tested at the EURASLIC Conference in Aberdeen (Baron et al. 2001); (Bostock 2001); (McCulloch et al 2001).
- October 2000            oneFish prototype demonstrated at the IAMSLIC Conference in Victoria, BC (Baron et al. 2001).
- February 2001            oneFish 1.0 goes live on the Internet - first fully interactive version.
- October 2001            oneFish 1.0 exhibited at the Joint Iamslic/Euraslic Conference in Brest.
- October 2001            oneFish 1.2 - intensive testing of new enhanced version currently taking place.
- November 2001           oneFish 1.2 due for release...

## **ATTRIBUTES**

- oneFish -                a subject gateway providing access to a wide range of information on fisheries and aquatic research and development.
- oneFish -                an online directory, a virtual library; an electronic repository; a means of communication; a community-building tool.
- oneFish -                encourages immediate and effective online publishing of research results and outputs.
- oneFish -                permits devolved management by individual specialists and permits institutes and networks to create virtual offices or institutional topics.
- oneFish -                encourages the participatory approach to the collection, sharing and dissemination of information.

## **CONTENT**

- oneFish -                provides access to c. 10,000 items of knowledge linked to c.1700 topics, updated daily.

oneFish - knowledge types include: books; contacts; discussions; documents; events; multimedia items; news articles; polls; projects; and websites.

oneFish - knowledge includes in excess of 6,000 fisheries and aquatic project records dating from 1960 to 2001.

oneFish - access is freely available to anyone who can access the Internet and regular users may become registered members and contribute information.

oneFish - since February 2001 has attracted over 260 registered members and more that 50 subject specialist volunteer topic editors.

### **EDITORIAL STRUCTURE**

oneFish Editorial Advisory Board – providing advice to the Senior Editorial Group and promoting the use and adoption of the system.

oneFish Senior Editorial Group - responsible for day to day management of the oneFish system and ongoing development.

oneFish Subject Specialist Topic Editors - managing and developing specific topic areas  
- contributing information - searching and retrieving knowledge.

oneFish Registered Members - contributing information - searching and retrieving knowledge.

oneFish Browsers - searching and retrieving knowledge.

### **SUMMARY**

oneFish - will provide the fisheries research community with the largest fully integrated global collection of information on fisheries and aquatic research and development.

oneFish - will be a tool for all and as a result it will grow and develop according to the needs and requirements of all stakeholders in the target community.

oneFish - a truly responsive approach to the information needs of the fisheries and aquatic research community in this new millennium.

## REFERENCES

- Baron, J., Bostock, T., Pettman, I. & Searle, G. 2001. oneFish by SIFAR: a fundamental advance in devolved management information systems for the fisheries and aquatic research community. In: *Tides of technology: Proceedings of the 26th Annual Conference of the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers* (ed. by J.W. Markham & A.L. Duda), pp.13-20. Fort Pierce, Florida: IAMSLIC.
- Baron, J., Bostock, T., Pettman, I. & Searle, G. 2001. oneFish by SIFAR: the participatory approach to fisheries information management in the virtual environment. In: *New skills for the millennium: Eighth Biennial Meeting of the European Association of Aquatic Sciences Libraries and Information Centers (EURASLIC)* (ed. by S.P. Heath, P. Simpson & M. Forsyth), pp. 67-73. Aberdeen, Scotland: Fisheries Research Services.
- Bostock, T. 2001. Support Unit for International Fisheries and Aquatic Research. In: *New skills for the millennium: Eighth Biennial Meeting of the European Association of Aquatic Sciences Libraries and Information Centers (EURASLIC)* (ed. by S.P. Heath, P. Simpson & M. Forsyth), pp. 74-75. Aberdeen, Scotland: Fisheries Research Services.
- McCulloch, I., Kalenchits, M., Stone, S. & Walker, S. 2001. Review of the oneFish Community Directory for the purpose of user education (<http://www.onefish.org>). In: *New skills for the millennium: Eighth Biennial Meeting of the European Association of Aquatic Sciences Libraries and Information Centers (EURASLIC)* (ed. by S.P. Heath, P. Simpson & M. Forsyth), pp. 80-81. Aberdeen, Scotland: Fisheries Research Services.