

IAMSLIC CO-OPERATION PANEL

Moderated by
Eleanor Uhlinger
The Cadet Hand Library
Bodega Marine Laboratory
University of California, Davis
PO Box 247
Bodega Bay, California 94923-0247 USA
Email: esuhlinger@ucdavis.edu

ABSTRACT: A panel of IAMSLIC members familiar with other professional associations was assembled to discuss potential opportunities for cooperation between these organizations and IAMSLIC. Each representative gave a brief description of the association and a few samples of areas of mutual interest and concern.

NAML (US NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MARINE LABORATORIES)

Barbara Butler
Oregon Institute of Marine Biology
University of Oregon
Charleston, Oregon
Email: bbutler@oimb.uoregon.edu

National Association of Marine Laboratories (NAML)
URL: <http://www.mbl.edu/html/NAML/NAML.html>

The (US) National Association of Marine Laboratories (NAML), founded in the late 1980's, is a non-profit organization comprised of the Directors of 110 Great Lakes and marine laboratories in the United States. NAML, like IAMSLIC, has regional groups, these being: SAML (Southern Association of Marine Laboratories), including marine laboratories from Maryland to Texas plus Bermuda and the US Virgin Islands; NEAMGLL (Northeastern Association of Marine Laboratories), including institutions on the Great Lakes and marine laboratories from the eastern seaboard north of Maryland; and WAML (Western Association of Marine Laboratories), including marine laboratories on the west coast of the US plus Hawaii and Guam.

Five IAMSLIC librarians were invited to participate in a September 1996 WAML meeting, held at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology. The librarians and marine laboratory directors discussed several major NAML initiatives to which NAML is committed:

1. Producing a unified directory of member laboratories, each described in a two-page format.
2. Upgrading and maintaining the NAML Website with links to member laboratories.

3. Creating a unified list of the summer courses offered at member laboratories (to be posted on the Website).
4. Creating a directory of analytical services/expertise available at member laboratories (to be posted on the Website).
5. Supporting an initiative to describe and network environmental databases at member laboratories.

IAMSLIC can participate in all of these projects by lending our expertise, sharing our contacts, and providing information to NAML about similar projects that are underway or completed in other parts of the world.

FAO (FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS)

Jean Collins
 FAO Fisheries Branch Library
 Rome, Italy
 Email: jean.collins@fao.org

FAO in Partnership
 URL: <http://www.fao.org>

FAO interacts, in the first instance, with the governments of FAO Member Nations and applicable governmental entities at national level. There is a broad array of formal coordination arrangements linking FAO with key institutional partners both within and outside of the UN system, for example the Codex Commission and the joint sponsorship of the CGIAR. In addition to these formal mechanisms there are joint programs and extensive links with participating institutions to technical cooperation networks sponsored by FAO at both regional or sub-regional level and with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

Within the less formal categories of ongoing, concrete cooperation or the regular exchange of information can be included links with the following fisheries and aquaculture entities:

- Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia
- Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center
- Asian Fisheries Society
- African Fisheries Society
- World Aquaculture Society
- International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM)

On the information side can be mentioned the AGRIS/CARIS Network and the AGLINET inter-library cooperation network, both of which are coordinated by FAO. Also within this category is FAO's role as Coordinator of the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA). As the

agenda of this IAMSLIC Conference has included a significant section on ASFA, the Secretariat has provided the following statement relating to current activities.

ASFA

In the past few years the strategy that FAO has pursued, on behalf of the ASFA Board, has been specifically directed to widening the geographical coverage. The intention has been to capture more of the grey literature that gives the data base its value. Historically ASFA was a developed-country operation which until the 1980's stuck at about 12 partners. The opening to the developing world started with the recruitment of India and then China. By 1990 the partnership stood at 17 members.

Following a substantial review and renegotiation of the Publishing Agreement there has been a major expansion giving improved coverage in both the developed and the developing worlds. In the context of fish production it must be remembered that more than half the world's supplies are now produced in the third world, but that this area produces considerably less of the research, and less again of the work that is published internationally. By 1996 the number of ASFA partners has reached 31 partners who, in addition to ASFA's co-sponsoring agencies, represent international, interregional, national or publishing groups. The three new international partners ICLARM, IUCN and ICES provide depth, while Australia, Argentina and Chile have expanded coverage in the Southern Hemisphere. Estonia, Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine, together with Sweden boost coverage in the Baltic and Eastern Europe, while Greece is starting to open up the Mediterranean. Cuba and Kenya who have both joined recently have started to improve coverage in the tropical environment.

These new centers are coming on stream slowly and it will be some time before the full effects of the geographic expansion are seen. It is also apparent that one cannot expect a quantitative and a qualitative improvement to happen simultaneously, given the limited resources that FAO has been able to devote to training etc. There are still large geographical gaps but discussions are well advanced to cover the South Pacific and there is an active search for a more comprehensive Southeast Asian coverage. It will be more difficult to improve the situation in Africa. After such a profound expansion it could only be expected that there would have to be a period of adjustment and slower growth while the reality catches up with the geography. The next phase will be to consolidate the gains through selection and training. (David James, FAO)

IAMSLIC and Cooperation

With an increasing emphasis in FAO on cooperation and partnerships with non-governmental organizations, universities and the private sector, it is an opportune time for IAMSLIC to suggest cooperative activities. Bearing in mind that supporting and strengthening existing capacities in developing countries is one of FAO's priorities, the work of IAMSLIC in this kind of activity would be more likely to be of common interest.

Jean Collins finds that the agricultural information sector is way ahead of the fisheries information sector in terms of experience with and level of activity in North-South cooperation. This is no criticism of IAMSLIC, after all her full-time job is exactly the latter. In Jean's view, it is a part of the common problem that the fisheries sector is often, in economic and political spheres, regarded as a part of agriculture and thus always has to compete with a much bigger

sister. The following organizations provided some of the useful sources of information and ideas in Jean's work and she thinks they may also be of interest to IAMSLIC in finding ways to improve access to aquatic sciences literature for all of its members, particularly in developing countries:

International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists (IAAIS)

URL: <http://www.lib.montana.edu/~alijk/IAALD.htm>

American Association for the Advancement of Science. Sub-Saharan Africa Program

URL: <http://www.aaas.org/international/ssa-gen.htm>

Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA).

URL: <http://www.cta.nl>

CAB International

URL: <http://www.cabi.org>

Both CTA and CABI have extensive information and training programs in developing countries. They both cover agriculture information "including fisheries" and they both send delegates, for example, to IAALD conferences, AGRIS meetings and other agricultural information activities. Jean thinks IAMSLIC could help to make organizations like these, and the donor community at large, more aware of aquatic libraries in developing countries and their need for funds and training.

An idea might be to hold an IAMSLIC Conference with a special theme, or section, or separate workshop, on the subject of North-South Cooperation. It may be possible to gather some of the expertise, and not least funding, that is required to build up effective and much needed co-operation programs.