The conference will be structured around six topics to bring out the key issues: designing the floating farm; a model open-ocean, self-sufficient mariculture array design will act as a trigger for ideas and as a focus for assessments; techniques: inshore vs. offshore; logistics: issues include supply, energy, personnel, security and enforcement, product return to market; environmental and social considerations; law of the sea and other regulations; and economics/business appeal.

Conference proceedings: abstracts and extended summaries of papers presented at the conference will be available in hard copy/on diskette at the conference; opportunity to publish full papers in refereed Journal of the Society for Underwater Technology; summary of conference discussion sessions published separately and available online on the Society’s webpage. Accepted papers will be required by 14 July 2002.

For more information, contact:
Society for Underwater Technology, Innovation Centre, Exploration Drive, Offshore Technology Park, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen AB23 8GX, UK, Tel: +44 (0)1224 823637, Fax: +44 (0)1224 820236, e-mail: jeansut@sstg.demon.co.uk
THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
ON THE MANAGEMENT OF LARGE RIVERS FOR FISHERIES

SUSTAINING LIVELIHOODS AND BIODIVERSITY
IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM

11th -14th February 2003
Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia

Rivers and their social, cultural, economic and ecological importance, remain grossly neglected or under-valued. Production from inland fisheries is thought to be 2 to 5 times higher than the officially reported value. River fish and fisheries only came under serious scrutiny in the 1970s and the knowledge then available was summarized at the International Large River Symposium (LARS) held in Canada in 1985. Since then, considerable new information has been gathered on the ecology and values of rivers. In view of the importance of large rivers for food production and the current emphasis on the protection of biological diversity worldwide, it is timely that a second international symposium focusing specifically on large rivers be organized. The Symposium is being convened by the Mekong River Commission (MRC) and the Cambodian Department of Fisheries (DOF), in collaboration with the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), and the World Conservation Union (IUCN).

OBJECTIVES

The Objectives of the Symposium are to:
• provide for people working on the management and development of rivers a forum to review and synthesize the current status of large rivers systems, covering topics such as ecology, fisheries, environmental impact assessments, multiple uses of resources and associated socio-economic considerations;
• raise the political, public and scientific awareness of the importance of river systems, the living aquatic resources they support and the people that depend upon them;
• contribute to better management, conservation and restoration of the living aquatic resources of large rivers. The Symposium will focus on the management (i.e. conservation and sustainable use) of living aquatic resources of large rivers, including the impacts of human activities on these.

TECHNICAL PROGRAMME

Session 1. Status of Rivers
Session 2. Valuation of River Fisheries
Session 3. Fisheries Ecology and Conservation
Session 4. Management of Inland Fisheries
Session 5. Statistics and Information
Session 6. International Mechanisms Dealing with Rivers
Session 7. Synthesis

Call for papers

Abstracts should concisely describe the work undertaken, results, conclusions and recommendations. Submitted abstracts will be assessed by the Scientific Committee to determine if they are to be accepted as resource papers for panel discussions or posters. Papers will be published in the Proceedings. The abstract submission deadline has passed but late contributions will be considered. Please contact the LARS2 Coordinator for more information.

More Information

For more information, please consult the web site www.lars2.org or contact the following:
Jane Williams, LARS2 Coordinator, Mekong River Commission Secretariat, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Tel: (+855-23) 720979 ext 6312; E-mail: jane@mrcmekong.org
Robin L.Welcome, Chairman of Scientific Committee, Renewable Resources Assessment Group, Imperial College, University of London, 8 Prince’s Gardens, London, SW7 2QA, United Kingdom; E-mail: welcome@dial.pipex.com