

The Southeast Asian Fisheries Information System (SEAFIS) project, as proposed by the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), and to be coordinated by the SEAFDEC Secretariat, will comprise of both information services and library services provided by the three Departments of SEAFDEC and the Secretariat. This is part of the Secretariat's activity to respond to requests for information on various aspects of Southeast Asian fisheries from both governmental bodies and private individuals within and outside the region.

### Objectives

The system has the following objectives:

- (i) To provide a facility which would act as an impetus to decision-making and planning for fisheries development in the region and which would, in turn, accelerate the pace of economic development in Southeast Asia;
- (ii) To act as a regional focal point and make available, in a centralized location, data and pertinent information in fisheries and related disciplines or technologies.
- (iii) To serve as the Southeast Asian regional input center for the FAO Aquatic Science and Fisheries Information System (ASFIS); and
- (iv) To provide access to important current regional fisheries information (both published and unpublished).

The overall objective of the system is to contribute to fisheries development by means of facilitating access to, exchange and use of fisheries information and data, as well as sharing information resources and experience available within and outside Southeast Asia. The system seeks to promote national self-reliance in fishery information within a framework of regional cooperation.

SEAFIS is a cooperative system of the participating Member Countries that jointly design, execute, supervise and evaluate it, inspired by the interrelationship based on reciprocity for mutual benefit.

In line with the priorities determined by the participating fishery information

## SEAFDEC's SEAFIS Project

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centers, the system aims at enhancing and fostering:

- (i) free flow and exchange of fisheries information among the countries in Southeast Asia;
- (ii) exchange of experience and knowledge in the field of fishery information science;
- (iii) access to the fisheries information by the countries in the region which will, in turn, ensure a better utilization of information resources at the international level;
- (iv) strengthening of national capabilities with a view to using fisheries information in the service of development; and
- (v) strengthening the means of communication of fisheries information between the countries in Southeast Asia.

The information services provided by SEAFIS will consist of technical data files, compilation and dissemination of fishery information, and relevant publications. The staff of the libraries will arrange for inter-library loans and provide reference services and advice. The types of information to be covered include not only bibliographic fisheries information but also information on fisheries scientists and resource personnel, fisheries projects, institutions and facilities, fisheries meetings and seminars/workshops, data on

sources and new technology, etc. SEAFIS will involve both information specialists and researchers, with special attention to those responsible for the analysis and repackaging of fisheries information for development purposes.

It should be noted that the aquaculture information program of the SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department and the SEAFDEC Secretariat's Southeast Asian Fisheries Information Service (SAFIS), which specializes in translating extension materials into local languages of Southeast Asia, will be incorporated as components of this overall information system.

SEAFIS which now receives some support from the International Development Research Centre of Canada, is expected to develop gradually, with the appointment of a consultant in 1984 to assist development of national inputting centers.

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### Indonesia's Proposed National Fisheries Science and Technology Information Network

The library of the Indonesian Directorate General of Fisheries is to coordinate an information network based on about a dozen fisheries libraries, most of them in Jakarta and Bogor. The coordinating library is charged with collection building; catalog building; publishing bibliographies; abstracting; indexing; providing interlibrary loans; and managing an information bulletin on all aspects of fisheries.

Standardization of procedures and equipment and staff training are priorities of the proposed network. The flow of information will proceed from the Directorate General at the National level through the Provincial Fisheries Service to the District Fisheries Service, which interacts with fishermen and fishfarmers.