



The author makes a point at the Seminar on Fisheries Information in Bangkok, 1982. On his left are Ms. Daruna Somboonkun of the Asian Institute of Technology and Dr. Kathleen Matics of SEAFDEC.

An outline of the activities and products of the Aquatic Science and Fisheries Information System (ASFIS) was presented by Mr. Needham in the April 1982 Fisheries Information ICLARM Newsletter. Here, in narrative form, he has provided news of events since then.

#### Expansion of the ASFA Network

The major ASFIS product, Aquatic Science and Fisheries Abstracts, which is available in paper copy and as a computer database, is broadening its geographic scope as well as recovering lost ground in Japan.

The Norwegian Oceanographic Data Centre (NOD) in Bergen, has recently joined the ASFIS/ASFA partnership, and is submitting input derived from literature published in the Scandinavian countries. Ms. Inger Svendsen, chief of NOD, is already playing an active role in the deliberations of the Advisory Board and IOC working groups, and Mr. Thorhaug has been trained in Rome on input preparation. Work is underway to establish a network of input centers in various national institutions, with NOD providing the focal point.

The International Development Research Centre of Canada (IDRC) has announced support for a SEAFDEC proposal for the establishment of a regional fisheries information network in Southeast Asia, with a focal point to interface with ASFIS (see p. 25).

Japan has re-entered the ASFIS/ASFA program through its Fisheries Resource Conservation Association in Tokyo. Dr. Takehiko Kawakami of the

## ASFIS Update

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Association visited FAO last fall for orientation and training and input is now being submitted in a growing stream. Plans are being made to make the database tapes available in Japan.

The Unesco General Information Programme is developing a project to support information and data activities at the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Goa, India, including hardware and training. NIO has already been designated as the future ASFIS/ASFA center for India by the Indian authorities.

#### Further Development of ASFIS

An ASFIS *ad hoc* planning meeting was held at the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission in Paris, June 1983, in order to develop criteria for the further development and growth of the ASFIS system. Lack of an adequate and stable resource base was identified as the major obstacle to what is perceived as appropriate development and expansion of the system, with reduced budget and staffing

levels in the UN agencies and participating centers having a major adverse effect during the present economic situation around the world.

As an indirect offshoot of this meeting, IDRC has agreed to fund the preparation of a "Directory of Information Resources in Marine Sciences". A Canadian consulting firm has been contracted to prepare the Directory.

In addition to previously announced spinners of the ASFA database, it is now accessible online through CAN-OLE in Canada and will shortly be accessible via ESRIN, Frascati, Italy.

#### Institutions and Experts Register

An update of the ASFIS Institutions and Experts Register was completed towards the end of 1983. The updated database was used to set camera-ready copy for a revised edition of the "International Directory of Marine Scientists", which is now in press.

#### New Product

Commencing 1984, Cambridge Scientific Abstracts, contractor to FAO for creation of the ASFIS bibliographic database and publisher of ASFA, begins publishing a quarterly abstracting journal "ASFA Aquaculture Abstracts". This journal will be a subset of ASFA and is being published separately in the hope of reaching the specialized user community which would not normally subscribe to ASFA owing to its broad scope and relatively higher price. ●