

# AQUIS Under Way

The Aquaculture Information System (AQUIS) is a computer-based system meant to aid planning and development agencies, investors, financial institutions, research institutions and aquaculturists in the retrieval of aquaculture data.

When first introduced to Newsletter readers, AQUIS was still in the embryonic stage with the FAO Aquaculture Development and Coordination Programme (ADCP) (see Newsletter, April 1982, p. 9).

Since then the AQUIS computer program has been finalized and the HP 3000 computers on which the program is run have been installed in a number of ADCP regional centers. In Asia, where most activity has taken place, the ADCP has Lead Centers in China, India, the Philippines and Thailand. All Centers now have HP 3000 computers.

So far the AQUIS program is operational in the Philippines and Thailand. The Philippine Center, situated at the SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department, Iloilo, has processed some 300 "data units", which are chiefly data from

experiments on milkfish and shrimp culture. Entries in the Thai AQUIS databank at the regional center in the Thai National Inland Fisheries Institute also number about 300 data units. Data are included on *Macrobrachium* and snake-head (*Channa striata*) culture systems, as well as on pond culture of catfish (*Clarias batrachus*), common silver barb (*Puntius gonionotus*), grass shrimp (*Pennaeus monodon*) and tilapias, ricefield culture of sepat siam (*Trichogaster pectoralis*) and cage culture of striped catfish (*Pangasius sutchi*), marbled sleepy goby (*Oxyeleotris marmorata*) and sea bass (*Lates calcarifer*).

A further 500 data units have been input by the ADCP headquarters staff in Rome, while the Centers in Wuxi, China and Bhubaneswar, India have just begun inputting data. All records are in English and the tapes are to be periodically exchanged between all Centers, such that any one Center will have access to all stored data from all the Centers.

A User's Manual has been produced by ADCP. It gives details of the content

of the 92 separate entries (fields) that make one complete data unit. A data unit consists of the qualitative and quantitative results of an experimental or commercial aquaculture operation. Data come from both published and non-published sources. Each unit has the following data:

- Identification data
- Geographic and climatic data
- Culture systems/structures
- Species
- Feeds
- Diseases, losses and mortality
- Integration with crops and livestock
- Economic data

Most records, of course, would not have data on all the above components. However, the computer program allows a wealth of detail to be included (and retrieved) on aquaculture experiments and commercial operations. In fact, a complete 12-page printout can be overwhelming but it is possible to retrieve production or economic abstracts in "cross-reference tables", for example, that can narrow a search significantly. •

## HOW TO USE AQUIS

### Request for a Computer Search of the AQUIS Data Base

- Keywords:

Level of Operation : \_\_\_\_\_  
Type of Operation : \_\_\_\_\_  
Region : \_\_\_\_\_  
Country : \_\_\_\_\_  
Culture Installation : \_\_\_\_\_  
Species Name : \_\_\_\_\_

- Other Selection Criteria (specify which, e.g., monoculture, fertilizer, etc.):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Type of Report (check the desired form):

Production	:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cross Reference Table	:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic	:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Individual Data Unit Printouts	:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Complete	:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selected Information Only	:	<input type="checkbox"/>

- Remarks (in case of selected information specify which):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

At this early stage of development, it is recommended that a request for a search of AQUIS for data on the species of interest be addressed directly to:

**Aquaculture Development and  
Coordination Programme  
Fisheries Department  
FAO, Via delle Terme di  
Caracalla 00100  
Rome, Italy**

Searches are free at present, but this policy may change in the future. Reproduced here is the official search form. Accurate completion of the form requires the User's Manual, which is available free from the address above (ask for document ADCP/REP/83/19). However, it is a rather technical document and a satisfactory search should be available by simply sending a description of the project for which you want production and/or economic data.