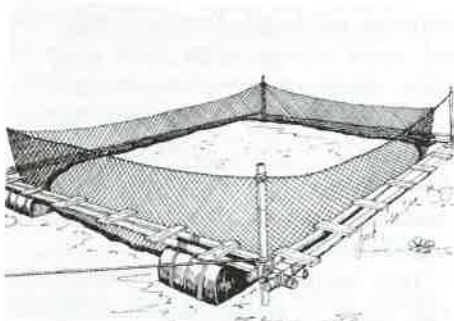


# Who's Working on Freshwater Cage Culture?

As part of ICLARM's Selective Fisheries Information Service, supported by the International Development Research Centre of Canada, we regularly perform computer literature searches for individuals using the Service (see April 1985 Newsletter, p. 12) and provide enquirers with addresses of other researchers working in the same subject area.

One recent search was on cage culture in freshwater. Following are the results. Note that marine cage culture is closely related and researchers in one field should not ignore work in the other. The computerized database of Aquatic Science and Fisheries Abstracts 1978-November 1985 was searched for this enquiry. Only 39 references were found including one which was a duplicate of another. About half of these were in the primary literature (refereed journals); most of the others were in conference proceedings.

The major event in this field was the 1982 publication: "Report of the training course on small-scale pen and cage culture for finfish", held in the Philippines and Hong Kong, published by the FAO/UNDP South China Sea Programme (SCSP, now c/o BFAR, Arcadia Bldg., 860 Quezon Ave., Quezon City, Philippines) (Document No. SCS/GEN/82/34). For unknown reasons only one paper appeared in the ASFA database from



the International Workshop on Pen and Cage Culture of Fish held at SEAFDEC in 1979. The undated report has brief reviews on cage culture in many Asian countries and may still be available from SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department, Tigbauan, Iloilo City, Philippines.

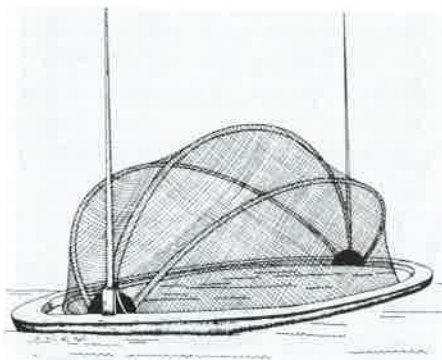
No trend in specialization by an individual or institution can be detected in the ASFA database. Most of the literature comes from Europe (salmonids and

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carp) and Asia (tilapia, carp), with a little salmonid work in the USA.

Two manuals are noted in the database—one a large book in Russian (1983) and the other a booklet in Spanish from San Salvador (1981).

A better guide to this field is the document "The cultivation of fish in cages. An indexed bibliography 1965-1983". André Coche. FAO Fisheries Circular No. 714 Revision 1, FAO 1983. This work covers both freshwater and saltwater cage farming but judging by the species and subject indexes about 70% of the 900 articles deal with freshwater.



The author added over 500 references since the first version of this bibliography in 1978. About 350 of these would thus be on freshwater cage culture from 1978 to 1983. The ASFA database yielded about 10% of that total for 1978-1985. This large discrepancy in coverage is strange when one considers that the source of both bibliography and database is FAO.

One reason for the difference is probably that the bibliography includes many items in which cage culture is a minor subject, while ASFA only uses the descriptor "cage culture" when it is a major subject of the reference.

Two more useful publications not in the ASFA database are:

- M. Beveridge. 1984. Cage and pen fish farming. Carrying capacity models and environmental impact. FAO Fish. Tech. Pap. 255. 131 p. A key publication for its contents, as well as references.
- W. McLarney. 1981. The New Alchemy backyard fish farm book.

Growing fish in floating cages.  
Brickhouse Publishers Co., Andover,  
MA. 77 p.

## Contacts

An interesting aspect of this field is the diversity of institutions and authorship. Only one author in the ASFA list produced more than one paper. Even in the bibliography, there are few prolific authors. Cage culture appears to be a subject which does not hold researchers long—they publish one or two articles and move to another subject. Does this mean that it is not a fruitful area of research?

The institutions holding major documents are FAO and SCSP (address above). Neither have much recent material, however. (The SCSP has several reports on freshwater cages by T.K. Mok and others on marine cages by W. Chan).

As for individuals, the bibliography entries include just three persons who have published more than two or three articles on this subject in recent years:

- R. Guerrero III, Aquatic Bio-systems, Bay, Laguna, Philippines, on tilapia cage culture;
- R. Trzebiatowski, Institute of Aquaculture and Fishing Technology, Academy of Agriculture, Szczecin, Poland, on carp and trout in power station cooling water;
- S. Viola, Miloubar Central Feed-mill, D.N. Asherat, Israel, whose work on tilapia and carp is mainly concerned with nutrition research.

Researchers beginning in this field should first obtain the FAO bibliography and select relevant articles from the excellent indexes therein. Copies of the ASFA search and further information on the contents of this article are available to individuals free on request. Please write to Selective Information Service, ICLARM, MC P.O. Box 1501, Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines.

