

# Who's Working On *Mugil* Culture?

**M**ulletts are a very widely distributed group of mainly tropical or subtropical fishes. Some species are important food fishes along the coasts of the Pacific basin, Southeast Asia, India, the Mediterranean and eastern Europe. They tolerate extremes of salinity (from freshwater to strong seawater), temperature and dissolved oxygen concentrations. These characteristics plus their size, availability, behavior, excellent flesh texture and taste make the group an excellent choice for culture. In fact they have been grown in the Mediterranean and Indo-Pacific for centuries. Various mono- and polyculture systems, including freshwater (with carps) and brackishwater (with milkfish, in Asia), are practised. The valli culture system in the Mediterranean features mullet and eels. Aquaculturists are still heavily dependent on seed caught from the wild or drifting in with the tide. While research is conducted worldwide, this survey focused on publications from the tropics and subtropics, particularly from developing regions.

For this article, the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) covering the period 1971 to November 1990, the

**M.J.M. VEGA**  
ICLARM

ICLARM library and professional staff collections were used in the literature search.

There were 203 articles published between 1932 and 1990. Annual publication rates were less than one before 1970; 6.2 in 1970-74; 8.8 in 1975-79; 12.4 in 1980-84, and 9.6 in 1985-89 (Fig. 1). An analysis of subjects covered showed 41% were on reproduction, induced breeding and seed; 26% on culture systems; 12% general discussions; 11% on diseases/parasites; and 10% on nutrition. The majority (62%) were journal publications, 18% conference papers, 15% reports, and 5% books or book chapters. Most were in English (79%) with significant numbers in Portuguese, Chinese and Spanish (each 6%), and French (3%).

The IBP/PM International Symposium on Mulletts and Their Culture was held in Haifa, Israel, 2-8 June 1974. No recent meetings devoted to mulletts were found in the literature search. The topic, however, was discussed at recent symposia.

Some of the recent publications include: *Factors affecting intensive larval rearing of striped mullet, Mugil cephalus* by H. Eda et al. which appeared in *Aquaculture* 91(3/4):281-294 in 1990; *Oxygen consumption by eggs and larvae of striped mullet, Mugil cephalus L. in relation to development, salinity, and temperature* by W.A. Walsh et al. which appeared in the *Journal of Fish Biology* 35(3):347-358 in 1989; *Advances and future prospects of controlled maturation and spawning of grey mullet (Mugil cephalus L.) in captivity* by C.S. Lee and C.S. Tamaru, published in *Aquaculture* 74(1/2):63-73 in 1988; *Experimental cage and pen culture of grey mullet in Pulicat Lake* by R.D. Prasad and P.M.A. Kadir, in *The First Indian Fisheries Forum, Proceedings*, M.M. Joseph, ed., p. 143-145, published in 1988, and a Spanish article (abstract in English) *El cultivo de la lisa, Mugil curema (Pisces: Mugilidae), en el area del Golfo de Nicoya, Costa Rica* by P. Phillips et al. which was published in *Revista Latinoamericana de Acuicultura* (31):17-31 in 1987.

Some of the institutions you can contact are: The Oceanic Institute, P.O. Box 25280 Honolulu, Hawaii 96825, USA (contact: C.S. Lee); the Tungkuang Marine Laboratory, Fisheries Research Institute, Pintung 92804, Taiwan (contact: I.C. Liao) and the Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Station, Dor, Hof Hacarmel 30820, Israel (contact: A. Milstein). Other contact persons are: C.M. Kuo, Institute of Fisheries Sciences, National Taiwan University, #1, Section IV, Taipei, Taiwan; and G.V. Kowtal, Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Kausalyagang, Via Bhubansewar 751 002, Orissa, India.

ICLARM can provide more information on *Mugil* culture. Write to the Selective Fisheries Information Service, ICLARM, MC P.O. Box 1501, Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines, for details and costs involved.

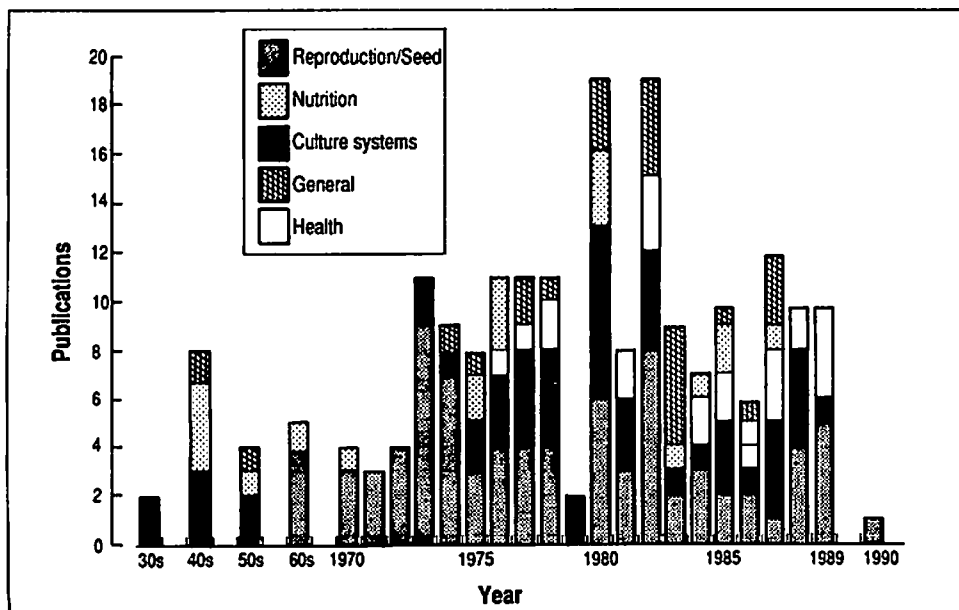


Fig. 1. Growth of the literature over time. Note that there is a delay in the inclusion of materials in databases used. (N=203)

**M.J.M. VEGA** is Research Assistant of ICLARM's Library and Information Services.