Thanks for Using Naga

Just the other day, Amy Arisola, librarian at SEAFDEC’s Aquaculture Department (Iloilo, Philippines), said to me “Thank you for your article about Who’s working on seabass? (Naga January 1987). We have had so many enquiries since then for our Seabass Abstracts”. The abstracts were mentioned in the article. This was good news of a kind that reaches us only rarely.

Articles in other Nagas and before them in the ICLARM Newsletter have been used by readers for various purposes, such as to develop new fisheries or to influence legislators, but most often we have no feedback to tell us what readers think about the magazine’s content.

We do know that an article on exports of Philippine coral (Newsletter January 1980) was the only published such evidence subsequently used in the US Congress when it decided to ban imports of corals into the USA (Fig. 1). Ed Murdy’s article on Philippine payaos in the same issue was said to have sparked off payao development in Brazil (Fig. 2). The feature on aquaranching (Newsletter October 1981) led to the establishment of a brush park fishery in the Philippines. Whole articles are reprinted in other journals, sometimes without our prior knowledge.

Citations

From time to time we also notice a citation to a Newsletter or Naga article in someone’s report or thesis or in the primary literature. As part of an exercise to see who has been citing ICLARM material, references to the Newsletter were also tabulated. Surprisingly, we discovered 215 citations up to February 1988. Most were citations made by articles published between 1980 and 1984 (Fig. 3). Since then our features have become more of a service nature and less citable -- such as lists of useful books, educational opportunities, networks and reports.

To those who have cited articles and the many more “silent users” over the decade, thanks indeed from ICLARM.

Fig. 1. The Coral Drain article by John McManus led to action in the US Congress to ban imports of corals.

Fig. 2. Ed Murdy’s popular illustration of a payao continues to turn up in books, magazines and reports.

Fig. 3. Citations to the ICLARM Newsletter and Naga, 1978–1987.
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Just the other day, Amy Arisola, librarian at SEAFDEC's Aquaculture Department (Bulacan, Philippines), said to me "Thank you for your article about Who's working on seaweed? (Naga January 1987). We have had so many enquiries since then for our Seabass Abstracts". The abstracts were mentioned in the article. This was good news of a kind that reaches us only rarely.

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The most cited article was David Thomson's Conflict within the fishing industry (July 1980, p. 3-4), which was cited 12 times in the literature as well as translated into three other languages, while the table (Fig. 4) was used liberally without citation. Next in citation popularity was Jimmy Koo's Progress on artificial propagation of mullock (January 1982, p. 8-10), with 10 citations. Other popular articles include: the Daniel Paula and Noel David article on An objective method for determining fish growth from length-frequency data (July 1980, p. 13-15) which was the beginning of the ELEFAN programs, with 8 citations, and John Maurice's Giant Clams — food for the future? (January 1983, p. 3-4), with 7 citations. Quite a number have been cited six times and so on. No doubt, there are many citations we have missed.

Overall the most cited Newsletter issue, with 24 citations, was July 1980. It included two of the most cited articles (above). The next most popular issues were all January issues: 1982 (21 citations), 1984 (20), 1983 (19) and 1980 (15), which suggests an annual cycle of some kind!

Service First

Although it is always nice to see Naga being cited, we will continue to provide service features in each issue to benefit the most readers. We were particularly proud of the October 1984 Education issue, which went out of print (5,000 copies) quickly, although it has been cited only 10 times. The central education feature of the updated version (October 1986) has already been reprinted and FAO has agreed to publish a 1988 edition as a separate book of fisheries educational opportunities. Service first. Jay Maclean, Editor.

**Lore of the Sea**

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**Pongase**

***Jul 1988***