

# ASFA NEWSLETTER

AQUATIC SCIENCES AND FISHERIES ABSTRACTS NEWSLETTER

**ISSUE  
#3  
November  
2019**

**PG 5**

**What are people saying about ASFA?**

This article features feedback from users, partners and collaborating centres on ASFA.

**PG 8**

**Joint ASFA-UMT Conference:**

A summary of the recent conference on enabling grey literature to benefit aquatic science research is presented.

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**ASFA Associates scheme launches 1st January 2020:**

The Associates scheme is designed to increase access to the database and participation in ASFA.



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## NEW HORIZONS: PARTNERS AGREE NEW VISION FOR ASFA

This issue of the ASFA Newsletter updates from the recent Advisory Board Meeting, held from 22-26th September 2019, hosted by University Malaysia Terengganu (UMT). A result of three days of intense work and discussion, the meeting produced a number of action points and decisions that will ensure ASFA's successful transition to a new business model- one that increases participation in the ASFA Partnership and access to the ASFA products. The ASFA Secretariat was overwhelmed by the support committed by its Partners-

from the outstanding hosting provided by UMT to the promotional and communication materials being produced by WorldFish – this newsletter being the first of many examples to come! We hope this newsletter provides an insight to the work of ASFA and what steps we are taking to ensure the relevance and use of ASFA information products and services. As ever, we welcome any feedback on ASFA, please get in touch with the ASFA Secretariat: [ASFA-Secretariat@fao.org](mailto:ASFA-Secretariat@fao.org).

### ASFA Editorial Board:

Nikita Gaibor – INP, Ecuador  
Arame Keita – DPM, Senegal  
Florine Lim – WorldFish, Malaysia  
Saida Messaoudi – INSTM, Tunisia  
Tamsin Vicary – FAO ASFA Secretariat  
Dong Wenjing – NMDIS, China  
Mohd Shahrulnizam Bin Zuraim – UMT, Malaysia

# Opening Messages

The ASFA Secretariat, FAO and ProQuest are all stakeholders and decision makers in the ASFA Partnership. Having recently returned from the Advisory Board Meeting (ABM) in Malaysia, here are their takes on the meeting and plans for the future.



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## Message from ASFA Secretariat

The ASFA Secretariat has returned from ABM enthused by Partners' commitment to ASFA, and is ready to ensure plans are put into action. This is a time of great change for ASFA as it seeks to find its role in the digital age, and the ASFA Secretariat is not only responsible for ensuring these changes but must itself be subject to change. With Partners having agreed to take more responsibility for the administration and tasks of the Working Groups, work will be more equally divided across the ASFA Partnership, leaving the ASFA Secretariat with more time to focus on ASFA's technologies and collaborations with FAO and external projects, to secure ASFA's future. We hope that

improved communication across the Partnership will lead to more involvement from ASFA Partners, and are very excited to be creating opportunities for Partners to take responsibility for important areas in the form of the five working groups: Software; Controlled Vocabularies; Impact and Strategies; Partnership Agreement and 50<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary. With ASFA's 50<sup>th</sup> year anniversary celebrations only one year away, the ASFA Secretariat looks forward to implementing the decisions of the Advisory Board and is confident that by doing so, ASFA will retain its place as the primary database in the fields of aquatic sciences, fisheries and abstracts.

## Message from Marc Taconet

As Head of Statistics and Information Branch at FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture department,

*I have been involved with ASFA for a number of years, and first attended an ASFA ABM four years ago in 2015 in Halifax, Canada, where a brainstorming session on the theme "What if ASFA ceased to exist" took place. I think this dramatic theme prepared well for the change which was to happen, actually a lot has changed since then and the 2019 ABM showed ASFA Partners commitment to ensuring ASFA's future.*

Whilst the ASFA partnership continues its core aim of sharing worldwide bibliographic information on aquatic sciences, the decisions taken at the ABM will ensure new technologies lead to new collaborations which enable the sharing of ASFA's information, particularly its valuable grey literature, with other information sources. An openly accessible, interoperable information system

which connects ASFA to new platforms and services is an exciting direction for ASFA and in line with FAO's recently officially released policy for Open data. It is also here my great pleasure to let you know that shortly after the ABM, we got the nice news that the submitted ASFA software business case was cleared by FAO's IT division. The ASFA Secretariat is now taking the practical steps for the development of the software on the iMarine platform having as target time period the first semester 2020.

The decisions taken at the ABM will help prove to FAO's high level management the usefulness of ASFA in providing the information needed for FAO's strategic objectives of ending hunger, moving towards sustainable fisheries and aquaculture practices, supporting social and gender inclusion, responsible trade and post-harvest systems, boosting communities' resilience to disasters. There is a lot of work to be done but with the enthusiastic commitment seen from Partners, ASFA has a bright future – albeit the Secretariat wishes it to be grey in line with the grey literature focus!



Marc Taconet, Chief of FAO Fisheries Statistics and Information Branch

## Message from ProQuest

ProQuest has had an agreement with FAO to publish the ASFA database since 2003, and has worked closely with the Partnership to ensure the hosting and search of the database reflects the level of detail contained in ASFA records. Following the news of ASFA's technology updates, we look forward to working closely with FAO and the ASFA Partners to implement advancements in our ability to ingest and display records in the database.

*We are confident these advances will increase the volume of content in the database while improving researchers' ability to find the material they need.*

We're also excited to be launching the ASFA Associates scheme as part of the new Publishing Agreement between FAO and ProQuest, which is scheduled to come into force on 1st January 2020. The Associates scheme is a great way of increasing access to the database and will provide useful feedback on the database from a wide user base. ProQuest is committed to continuing its relationship with the FAO and pursuing our common goal of ensuring that the ASFA Database remains relevant, useful, and necessary in today's world.



Paula McCoy, ProQuest

# ASFA Introducing: New ASFA Partners

Three new Partners have joined ASFA since the last Newsletter – the Benin Institute of Fishery and Ocean Research; the Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Bangladesh, and; the Marine and Coastal Research Institute “José Benito Vives de Andrés” (INVEMAR) in Colombia. In addition, we were pleased to welcome a new representative to the Advisory Board – Leonel Arao from the National Institute of Hydrography and Navigation, Mozambique. We managed to catch up with Leonel, Coffi, Carmen and Habibur at the Advisory Board Meeting, here’s what they had to say about participating in ASFA.

## How did you come to be in your current role at the National Institute of Hydrography and Navigation, Mozambique?

In 2013 I started working for the state as a press officer for the Minister of Culture on a two-year contract. From 2015 to 2017, with the change of government, I was invited to the position of press officer in the Communication and Image Office of the current Ministry of Culture and Tourism. Later, by transfer, I received an invitation to work as a communications and image advisor at the National Institute of Hydrography and Navigation, which is my current job.

## What are your expectations of ASFA?

My expectations are huge. I have little experience in marine science,

it’s a new area for me. My research has always been focused on the field of letters and social sciences, so I hope to learn a lot about this field of knowledge, which is of vital importance to society.

## How did you find the ASFA Advisory Board Meeting in Malaysia?

Attending the ASFA Advisory Meeting in Malaysia was a memorable experience. First, for the quality and intensity of the presentations made, which mirrored what each one does in their organization. Second, for the excellent organization that characterized the conferences. The good hospitality of the host country is something that deserves attention, which has made the conference a true space for knowledge sharing and exchange of experiences.

## How did you come to be in your current role at IRHOB?

I began working at IRHOB in November 2014. I like my job and the passion with which I practice it has introduced me to many organizations at global level such as the Aquatic Sciences and Fishery Abstracts (ASFA).

## What are your expectations of ASFA?

My expectations from ASFA are of many kinds. First of all, as an information professional, I will have access to ASFA database which is a reservoir of global scientific resources (published materials as well as grey literatures). This will enable me to satisfy broadly users (Researchers, lecturers and students) information requests in my library. Secondly, as an ASFA partner, I look forward to attending any training in scientific edition organized by ASFA/FAO. I’m also interested in internships in library

and information fields available at ASFA/FAO in order to strengthen my professional skills. Finally, I would appreciate if my organization could benefit from ASFA Trust Fund support in order to digitize its collection of grey literature.

For a better balance of the partnership, I should contribute to the monitoring of published and non – published resources in fishery and aquatic domain in my country and their indexation in the ASFA database.

## How did you find the ASFA Advisory Board Meeting in Malaysia?

I attended a very irreproachable meeting. Congratulations to Mr. Shah and his colleagues! Congratulations to ASFA Secretariat! Congratulations to all delegates for their active participation.



**Leonel Arao Parafine Maculane, Instituto Nacional de Hidrografia e Navegação (INAHINA), ASFA National Partner, Mozambique**



**Coffi Ferdinando Rock Gbedo, Institut de Recherches Halieutiques et Océanologiques du Bénin (IRHOB), ASFA National Partner, Benin**

## How did you come to be in your current role at Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Bangladesh (CVASU)?

I passed BA (Honors) and MA in Library and Information Science from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. After my graduation, I started my journey as a library and information professional in a medical college. I joined at Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU), Bangladesh in 2008 as a deputy librarian and in 2014 I promoted as a librarian (Head of the university library) in the same university. Before joining CVASU I worked for another two universities in Bangladesh. However, I attended many meetings and training programs at home and abroad. One of my training programs was organized by UNESCO/IOC IODE and Institute of Oceanography and Environment, University Malaysia Terengganu, Malaysia in 2018. At this program, I met Daryl Superio (SEAFDEC/AQD) who invited all participants to join the ASFA. After returning to my university, I discussed with my Vice-Chancellor, and a few months later, my university signed a partnership agreement with FAO.

## How did you get to your current position at INVEMAR?

I am a librarian, for almost 20 years I have worked in academic and specialized libraries, since the beginning of my work I have seen that libraries have a very important role in research processes within institutions. I also have a specialization in international cooperation project management, in which I focused on environmental issues and for several years I have worked in library cooperation networks in Colombia, Latin America and France.

With the academic training and the experience acquired, I presented my candidacy in the documentation center of the Institute of Marine Research, the perfect place where research, the environment and international cooperation are combined, after a year of work I am sure that was the best choice.

## How did you get to join ASFA?

One of the main functions of Invemar is to produce and disseminate the scientific information resulting from the research work on the seas and

## What are your expectations of ASFA?

As an ASFA Partner, I input all related articles which are being published in Bangladesh into the ASFA database. Bangladesh is the fourth-largest inland freshwater fish producer country. Excellent research activities are going on in fisheries and related fields and I would like to share those activities with ASFA and our ASFA friends. ASFA should build a powerful database where fulltext articles are available with abstracts. There are many prominent research organizations of Aquatic science, fisheries and marine science in the globe which are not yet member of the ASFA. ASFA should invite those research organizations to join ASFA. If they become a member of this organization ASFA would be stronger.

## How did you find the ASFA Board Meeting in Malaysia?

I think the ASFA Advisory Board Meeting in Malaysia has been an outstanding program. Location, meeting room, sound system, seating arrangement, presentation,

coasts that are of interest to our country. Since the beginning of the institute, the Marine and Coastal Research Bulletin has been the most representative means of dissemination of information, and which has also made us a national and international reference in marine information, it is in this way that, from the recommendation of one of the newsletter collaborators, Mr. Nikita Gaibor, we contacted the ASFA secretariat to become the ASFA partner for Colombia.

## What are your expectations of ASFA?

By entering as national ASFA partners, we hope to strengthen the collaborative work of the country’s marine information units, disseminate and position the country and the institute INVEMAR as a producer of marine scientific information and finally, but not least, share experiences and information with colleagues from all over the world to contribute to our work and the generation of knowledge in marine sciences.

participants, menu, venue, in a word everything was nice. The hospitality of UMT authority was unique. I hope all future programs of ASFA will be as enjoyable and fruitful as Malaysia.



**Md. Habibur Rahman, Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU), ASFA National Partner, Bangladesh**



**Carmen Elena Castrillón Vergara, Marine and Coastal Research Institute “Jose Benito Vives de Andreis” (INVEMAR), ASFA National Partner, Colombia**

# ASFA Board Meeting 2019 Sharing a point of view on the impact to UMT

Mohd Shahrulnizam Bin Zuraim of UMT organized the hosting of the ASFA ABM – in this article, he shares his view on the impact of ASFA to UMT.

Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) joined the ASFA partnership on June 26, 2017 as ASFA National Partner in Malaysia, and is the sole public university representing Malaysia due to the research materials related to fisheries, aquatics and marine science. The ASFA partnership allows the university to have access to the resources under broad research topics in aquatic and marine (abstracts/full records) submitted by marine-focused institutions around the globe. Malaysia was chosen as the host for 2019 ASFA Advisory Board Meeting, taking place 22-26 September at UMT. The meeting involved the successful participation of 34 participants from 23 countries. Besides the meeting, UMT and ASFA also successfully organized a joint conference entitled “Enabling Grey Literature discovery benefits aquatic sciences, fisheries and aquaculture research” – see pages 10 for more detail on this. At the end of the programme, ASFA Partners were taken on a tour to Kenyir Lake where they were able to experience the beauty of the flora and fauna. It has been an honor for UMT to be the host for the meeting and I on behalf of UMT would like to express a big gratitude to ASFA Secretariat for the continuous guide and support.

I would like to share my point of view base on 5 days experience attending and organizing the meeting:

- The meeting allowed UMT staff to exchange their knowledge and culture with the partners which is good for their experience.
- Our top management want the library to be more actively involved in ASFA partnership, in terms of Aquatic and Fisheries resource sharing that will benefit the UMT as a whole and increase the visibility of the university.
- The meeting and activities conducted increase the visibility of ASFA activity throughout our nation, ministry as well the user itself.
- It gave us a good experience in handling an international meeting and conference
- Our staff was very excited and happy to meet all the partners from around the globe, the first experience for many of them.
- Our staff were able to exchange contact details with many of the Partners, creating an opportunity to grow their international network.
- I was so excited to be in the ASFA Communication group during

discussion and get more exposure on how to market and promote information product (infographic, WorldFish approach in promotion). Thank you to Tamsin Vicary in moderating a good discussion.

- The training of ASFA input and hands on installing virtual machine refresh my skills on knowledge to be more prompt in doing the inputs. Thank you to Maria Kalentsits and Milos Vojar for the assist and training conducted.

In conclusion, the Advisory Board meeting, Conference and field trip all provided opportunities to collaborate, gain information and exchange ideas with participants. We look forward to further collaboration with ASFA and its Partners!



# What are people saying about ASFA?

The ASFA Secretariat works to ensure that the ASFA Partnership, database and other information products run smoothly. Feedback from stakeholders – including users, ASFA Partners and Collaborating centres – is essential to ensuring ASFA moves in the right direction and remains a relevant and useful information product and service. We've gathered feedback from different groups below, which shows the many ways in which ASFA benefits its stakeholders. If you have any feedback on ASFA, we'd love to hear from you, please email: ASFA-Secretariat@fao.org.

## ASFA Users

During Dr. Amir's presentation at the recent ASFA Grey Literature Conference, he confessed that his usage of ASFA had lapsed following the completion of his studies, and that he had only returned to the database once he heard of ASFA and UMT's involvement. ASFA is heavily used by those beginning their research careers, so we were not surprised to hear Dr Amir had ceased usage, however we were pleased to hear that upon returning to the database, he found ASFA provided access to information not easily accessible via search engines. From a user survey conducted by ASFA last year, we know search engines such as Google are the first option for many users. But should they be the only option? Dr Amir confirmed that by searching a subject specific databases such as ASFA, users are likely to discover information relevant to their search requirements that they would otherwise miss by relying on search engines.

Also in Malaysia, the Communication Strategic Department, PSNZ, at UMT conducted a short survey in library among UMT students taking courses in Fisheries and Marine Sciences. This survey provided a user perspective and feedback on the ASFA Database. Aawehawarthini Sandarasegaran, studying for a Diploma in Fisheries found that searching the database was fast and straightforward, and that it provided detailed information on their specific search requirements. Likewise, Tharisana Kumaresan found the database easy to access from UMT's library website, and found comprehensive information on his search criteria. Finally, Nur Naemah Najwa Samsudin, fed back that searching on keywords was straightforward. ASFA has significantly invested in its subject vocabulary, so we're happy to hear users find these features useful and straightforward to use.

## ASFA Partners

New ASFA Partner Habibur Rahman, of CVASU, Bangladesh, described the ASFA meeting a 'memorable and outstanding event' going on to comment on the ASFA Partnership as *“the best international organization for aquatic, fisheries, marine science and allied disciplines. This organization has been contributing to provide world class authentic information to the researchers, scientists, students and faculties of different corners of the globe for enhancing fish production.”*

## ASFA Collaborating Centres

The ASFA ABM19 greatly benefitted from the participation of two collaborating centres – Mindano State University- Naawan and Samar State University, both in the Philippines. During the meeting, Ethelyn M. Abaday and Kristine Joy Tabogoc both completed workshop on Search Strategies. Kristine had the following feedback: *“I am really grateful for all the learning and skill gained throughout the meeting and conference and having made so many friends, whom I hope I will keep in touch with and see again soon. I appreciate the time I spent with Maria Kalentsits (ASFA Secretariat) most especially on the ASFA Database Search Strategies & User Training Group. I really enjoyed it and it was so much more than I expected, I learnt so much. Rest assured that with all the knowledge I gained I will share it with my colleagues and to my institution as well.”*



# The 47th ASFA Advisory Board meeting

The 47th ASFA Advisory Board meeting was hosted by the University of Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), Malaysia) and held from 22-26 September 2019. The meeting was attended by 25 ASFA Partners from 23 countries. ASFA Board welcomed with applause three new partners who joined ASFA during the intersessional period – CVASU (Bangladesh), IRHOB (Benin), and CFRI (Turkey). Following on from last year's theme – the need for change – the 2019 meeting was a chance to discuss ASFA's steps to more open information products and services and seek engagement and approval from its Partners for this new direction.

Whilst there were a number of important Partnership topics to address – such as approving the new Publishing Agreement between FAO and ProQuest – the three day meeting also ensured there was sufficient time for group discussions and workshops, as well as incorporating a one-day conference on Grey Literature.



## ASFA Collaborations

Partners gave their enthusiastic backing for a number of collaborations the ASFA Secretariat has been investigating. These included FAO's main vocabulary AGROVOC, where ASFA has already begun work to align its subject vocabulary, as well as FAO projects Aquatic Genetic Resources Registry and CEFAC-PESCAO where ASFA is currently investigating how its bibliographic records and information network can contribute. Outside of FAO, the ASFA Secretariat agreed to investigate providing data to OpenAIRE, and will set up a pilot project with the UK and Ugandan ASFA Partners to investigate how the datasets they hold can be made available on this open platform. Finally, the possible

merger of IAMSILIC's repository, Aquatic Commons, with UNESCO/ IOC IODE's repository, OceanDocs, was discussed. ASFA Partners saw great potential in such a merged repository and backed the idea of ASFA becoming a third partner of such a repository. Feedback was reported by Maria Kalentsits at the subsequent IAMSILIC Conference and we look forward to seeing how plans develop in the coming months.

## Engaging ASFA Partners to secure a successful future

With a number of changes being implemented across the ASFA Partnership it was noted that the ASFA Secretariat needs support from its Partners in order to ensure a successful transition. Partners

responded with practical ways in which they can take responsibility for work, namely by increasing the number of Working Groups and standardizing their reporting and administration to ensure work is delivered on time. Chairs and co-chairs of ASFA's five working groups were elected and Terms of Reference will be adopted by January 2020 to help plan the tasks for the coming year. These tasks will include updating ASFA's partnership agreement to ensure it reflects the opportunities, responsibilities and entitlements that come with being an ASFA Partner, and implementing ASFA's Grey Literature strategy to ensure database coverage of these important resources is improved.

None of this would have been possible without support from hosts UMT...

Having secured support and approval from ASFA Partners, the ASFA's transition to a new business model, focused on improving access and participation, is now on track to be adopted by 2021. We have no doubt that the meeting would not have been so successful without the support and professionalism of hosts UMT who provided not only world class facilities and technical support throughout the meeting, but also valuable subject knowledge and feedback on ASFA from a user perspective. We were encouraged by high attention given to the meeting by the University Management. As mentioned by Mr Marc Taconet, Branch Chief, FIAS in the Letter of Appreciation

*"...All these efforts substantially contributed to the quality of the meeting which resulted in a number of important decisions. We believe that this meeting was one of the most productive ASFA has ever had. The impressive energy with which UMT approached the meeting was perceived by FAO and, we are certain, all ASFA meeting participants".*

The media coverage of the meeting - interviews, videos, photo session, press releases, tweets and banners - exceeded expectations and greatly contributed to raising awareness and promoting the ASFA products and partnership in Malaysia. Our special thanks go to UMT for a wonderful organization and funding of the field trip to Kenyir Lake which was no doubt a memorable and joyful event to all the participants.

ASFA is now looking forward to its next Advisory Board meeting, scheduled to take place in 2021, ASFA's 50th Anniversary. Provisionally agreed to be hosted by FAO in Italy, the meeting will be a chance to bring together former, present and future ASFA partners, collaborators and colleagues. We hope to see many of you there!



# Joint ASFA-UMT Conference: Enabling Grey Literature discovery benefits aquatic sciences, fisheries and aquaculture research

In partnership with University of Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), ASFA jointly hosted a conference on Grey Literature in the fields of aquatic sciences, fisheries and aquaculture, and how promoting the discovery of these important resources aids research. A total of 8 presentations were made by 12 presenters, coming from Argentina, Italy, Kenya, Malaysia, Philippines, Tunisia and Uganda. The international representation of presenters lent itself well to the topic of grey literature, with the opportunities and challenges each region faces in making their GL publications accessible being shared and discussed.

## Publishing Grey Literature to benefit global Aquatic Sciences, Fisheries and Aquaculture researchers

Following opening speeches by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dato' Dr. Nor Aieni binti Haji Mokhtar, UMT and Marc Taconet, Chief of Fisheries and Information Branch, FAO, the conference began with two presentations on publishing research. Prof. Dr. Mohd Ikhwanuddin bin Abdullah, editor of the Journal of Sustainability Science and Management (JSSM) presented the impressive growth of JSSM in just a short number of years. Both in terms of volume and prestige the journal has grown considerably, and now receives more manuscripts than it is able to publish. The efforts this Open Access journal has taken to maintain the editorial procedures were outlined, including how the journal manages the editing, peer-review and proof-reading stages. There may be areas that ASFA can assist, such as proof reading, and we would like to hear from other Open Access journals to explore if ASFA can assist.

Abstracts of presentations are available on the ASFA-UMT Conference website: [http://asfa2019.umat.edu.my/?page\\_id=183](http://asfa2019.umat.edu.my/?page_id=183) and full proceedings will be published in due course.



Dr. Amirrudin B. Ahmad

Florine Lim of WorldFish gave an inspiring presentation: *Publishing and Disseminating WorldFish's Research Communications Products*. ASFA was so impressed with the efforts that WorldFish take to ensure their research reaches as wide an audience as possible, that we have asked them to publish this ASFA Newsletter and other promotional materials!

Following a brief presentation by Tamsin Vicary, FAO ASFA Secretariat on ASFA's strategy to increase its coverage of grey literature, ASFA user and academic Dr. Amirrudin B. Ahmad presented: *Mainstreaming Grey literature in the Digital Age*. This presentation focused on the steps authors should take to ensure their grey literature is published, catalogued and archived in a way that enables other researchers to access and benefit from the work. Again, this inspired ASFA and we are now in the process of compiling a Top Tips to help authors ensure their Grey Literature is adequately published and stored.

**Resolving regional difficulties to ensure international access to Aquatic Sciences, Fisheries and Aquaculture Grey Literature** ASFA's international partnership provides a common space for partners around the world to share the difficulties and opportunities facing their institution, seeking solutions and help from others. The conference was no different to this, with ASFA Partners

from Africa, Asia and Latin America presenting how the treatment of GL in their region presents both challenges and opportunities to aquatic sciences, fisheries and aquaculture research.

## Africa: The Valorization of GL in aquatic and marine libraries in Africa by its submission and discovery via new technologies: Aquatic Commons, OceanDocs and ASFA.

Saida Messaoudi (INSTM-Tunisia), Alice Endra (NaFIRRI-Uganda) and Raphael Okeyo (KMFRI-Kenya) presented their paper on the role played by ASFA, OceanDocs and Aquatic Commons in ensuring the visibility of African Grey Literature. Importantly, they noted that the promotion and valorization of African Grey Literature helps to **“reduce publication bias and to protect the scientific community from the monopoly of publishers.”** Much attention is paid to Open Access publishing, but less to promoting other forms of publishing, and Saida, Alice, and Raphaels' presentation was a timely reminder that ASFA has a role to play in ensuring a global platform for aquatic sciences, fisheries and aquaculture research being undertaken around the world.

- Over 3,000 ASFA records from 3 African Partners in last three years
- 274,401 Aquatic Commons downloads by users in 27 African countries
- Financial resources, unwillingness of scientists, lack of awareness of benefits are barriers to publishing GL

**Latin America: Fisheries Development Projects by FAO In The 1960s-1970s: Argentina Case** Gabriela Silvoni of INIDEP presented her paper on the continued importance of FAO Fisheries project documents from Argentina in the 1960's -70's. Still cited today, the documents from the Fisheries Development Project



Saida Messaoudi (INSTM-Tunisia), Alice Endra (NaFIRRI-Uganda) and Raphael Okeyo (KMFRI-Kenya)



Gabriela Silvoni



Ethelyn M. Abaday

**CARPAS** – produced 300 documents on fishery biology, statistics, marketing, gear and products, from the SW Atlantic commercial resources.

**PDP** – Project of Fishery Development, was agreed with different developing countries in Latin America (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela).

Proyecto de Desarrollo Pesquero FAO/Argentina and CARPAS (Regional Fisheries Advisory Commission for the South West Atlantic) are in many cases not only the first but the only available information on these matters. Gabriela wrote in Issue Two of the ASFA Newsletter about 'librarians role as the custodians of GL' and this was demonstrated in her presentation – some of the project documents have been digitized by librarians and made openly accessible, however much remains in print form only, being accessible only to visitors of the INIDEP library. Investment in digitization of these important materials is therefore needed in order to ensure they reach the widest audience.

**Asia: Grey literature usage among Filipino aquaculture researchers: A bibliometric analysis of research from 2009 to 2018.** By V.E.V. Palcullo, J.F. Geromiano, D.L. Superio (SEAFDEC/AQD – Philippines); and **Fifty Shades of Grey: An Evaluation on the Value of Grey Literature to the Fisheries Students of Mindanao State University – Naawan, Philippines.**

By Ethelyn M. Abaday (Mindanao State University at Naawan – Philippines Collaborating ASFA Center)

Two presentations from the Philippines were given, one on the use of GL by aquaculture researchers, the second on its value to fisheries students at Mindanao State University.

The bibliometric analysis proved the value of GL to Filipino aquaculture researchers, and resulted in interesting findings for ASFA – a number of non-traditional sources of GL are being cited, with websites one of the most common sources, and only 25% of publishers being covered on ASFA. Bibliometric analysis is a good way of determining whether a publisher will be useful to include on ASFA – if it is being cited, then it is of use to the scientific community. ASFA looks forward to implementing the results of this paper, which are due to be published in a scholarly journal.

Ethelyn M. Abaday from the Mindanao State University at Naawan, a Philippines Collaborating Centre gave the final presentation of the day. By analyzing the citations of undergraduate fisheries students' theses, Ethelyn discovered that around 50% of the total literature

- Websites emerged as one of most cited sources
- Recommends ASFA includes non-traditional sources; increase number of publishers covered, and replicates study across regions/ countries.



V.E.V. Palcullo, J.F. Geromiano, D.L. Superio

cited was classed as grey literature. These included the following document types: books, theses, conference proceedings, websites, technical reports, abstracts, manuals, research papers, newsletters, case studies and manuscripts. It is therefore essential that ASFA makes an effort to cover these document types to ensure students are able to locate and access to aid their research.

ASFA would like to thank all speakers for their insightful and thought provoking presentations. By listening to those active in aquatic sciences, fisheries and aquaculture – whether as researchers, publishers, students or librarians – ASFA seeks to gain an understanding of the efforts needed to meet these various groups' research needs. The Conference inspired a number of areas for ASFA to work on – we will keep you updated on progress! We would also like to thank UMT for their professional and welcoming hosting of the event, the organization of the success of the event, and will be hard to match!

# ASFA Map



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ASFA Partners

- Current ASFA National Partners
- Former ASFA Partners

# ASFA Advisory Board Meeting

3 days of MEETINGS RESULTING in 20 ACTION ITEMS | 34 PARTICIPANTS from 23 COUNTRIES

3 International Partners | 22 Partners | 2 Collaborating Centres | 1 Publishing Partner (ProQuest)

1 CONFERENCE on aquatic sciences, fisheries and aquaculture grey literature

8 PRESENTATIONS by

1 field trip involving 4 boats feeding 500 of red mahseer fish

12 SPEAKERS from Philippines, Tunisia, Uganda, Kenya, Argentina, Malaysia, Italy

## ASFA Database

3.7 million records on aquatic sciences, fisheries and aquaculture

>15,000 records per year added by ASFA Partners

133,184 records on Sustainable Development

97,470 records on Climate Change

371,086 BOOKS

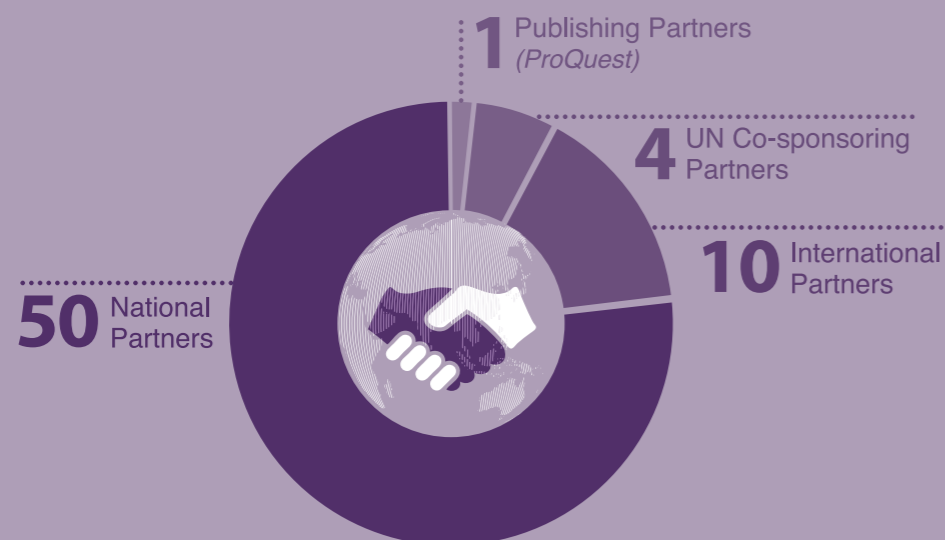
65,764 on Fishery Management

88,389 REPORTS

28,034 CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

1,386 records on SDGs

## ASFA Partnership



# ASFA Associates launches 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020: New Year, New beginnings, New networks

ASFA has some exciting news for the beginning of 2020. The new publishing agreement, recently signed by FAO and ProQuest, will come into force 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 and includes the launch of the ASFA Associates scheme.

This scheme will broaden the current ASFA network of Partners and Collaborating Centres, and is designed to increase access to the database whilst providing opportunities for a wider number of institutions to participate in ASFA.

ASFA Associates will receive complimentary online access to the ASFA Database in return for contributing to the ASFA Partnership. To be eligible to join the ASFA Associates scheme, an institution must have an aquatic sciences, fisheries or aquaculture institutions focus, and produce scientific or technical literature. Although they will not have the same responsibilities as Partners, ASFA Associates will be expected to explore contributing to ASFA, either by adding ASFA records, permitting their institutional repository to be harvested, or by participating in one of ASFA's working groups. In addition, all Associates will be asked to complete a quarterly online survey

on usage of the ASFA Database in order to provide feedback. The Associates scheme is therefore designed to act as a feeder to becoming a full ASFA Partner, giving institutions the benefits of free access to the database whilst allowing time to explore how they could contribute to the Partnership.

The scheme is aimed at small institutions or those in developing countries who would otherwise be unable to afford a subscription. Therefore, institutions which already have a subscription or reasonably be expected to afford a subscription, will not be eligible to participate. The new ASFA Associates scheme will be tested for two years, at which time it will be reviewed by FAO ASFA Secretariat and ProQuest.

An institution's appointment to the ASFA Associates scheme shall be mutually approved by FAO ASFA Secretariat, ProQuest and the national

ASFA partner if present in the country. The total number of ASFA Associates shall not exceed 200 at any one time. Preference to joining ASFA Associates will be given to institutions in low and middle income countries, but institutions from high income countries can also apply. If you are interested in joining and believe your institute would be eligible, please contact the ASFA Secretariat: [ASFA-Secretariat@fao.org](mailto:ASFA-Secretariat@fao.org).

**Did you know?** ASFA has run a project to provide institutions in LIFDC (Low Income Food Deficit Countries) with free access to the database since 1998. This scheme provided the ASFA database on CD or DVD to participating institutions. All institutions who participated in this project are now eligible to become ASFA Associates, ensuring access to the database in developing countries continues.





# ASFA Roles and Governance

This issue updates on news from the ASFA Advisory Board Meeting – but what is the Advisory Board? How does it function to guide ASFA, and what are the other groups involved in ASFA’s governance? This table provides an overview of the roles and governance across the ASFA Partnership.

## ASFA Secretariat

**Members:** The ASFA Secretariat is hosted by FAO and is based in Rome, Italy. Currently, there are three members of the ASFA Secretariat: Maria Kalentsits, Milos Vojar and Tamsin Vicary.

**Role:** The ASFA Secretariat’s role is to implement the decisions of the ASFA Advisory Board and ensure that all aspects of ASFA – its products, partnership, policies and strategies – function smoothly.

## ASFA Advisory Board

**Members:** The ASFA Advisory Board is made up of ASFA Partners. Each Partner institution nominates an individual to represent it at the Advisory Board Meeting and in votes on decisions throughout the year.

**Role:** The Advisory Board’s function is to decide upon, and oversee the implementation of, policy matters with respect to the ASFA service. The Advisory Board meets once every two years to discuss changes, however communication via email and the SharePoint site ensures matters are discussed and voted on whenever the need arises.

## ASFA Working Groups

**Members:** Membership of ASFA’s working groups is open to ASFA Partners and ASFA Collaborating Centres.

**Role:** Each Working Group has a specific focus and agrees Terms of Reference to ensure its work is delivered. Reports and recommendations are presented to the Advisory Board, who vote on whether to adopt the changes. At present, there are five working groups:

### Software Working Group

**Focus** Implementing ASFA’s new software – a Virtual Research Environment. The group is responsible for ensuring the software developers meet ASFA’s needs and will be involved in the testing and training phases of implementing new software.

**Chair and Co-Chair** Alexis Pacey, NAFO, Canada (Co-chair); Andrea Cristiani, IIP, Uruguay (Co-chair)

### Impact and Strategies Working Group

**Focus** This group guides ASFA’s strategic direction to ensure ASFA makes the most impact on its stakeholders. They will be instrumental in developing and implementing ASFA’s strategy to cover more grey literature.

**Chair and Co-Chair** Marco Montes, UNAM, Mexico – Chair; Ekaterina Kulakova, Co-chair

### Vocabularies Working Group

**Focus** This group is responsible for improving, managing and maintaining ASFA’s controlled vocabularies, with considerable efforts going to improving ASFA’s subject thesaurus.

**Chair and Co-Chair** Gabriela Silvoni, INIDEP, Argentina – Chair; Daryl Superio, SEAFDEC/AQD, Philippines – Co-chair; Ian Pettman, FBA, UK – Honorary chair

### ASFA Partnership Agreement Working Group

**Focus** This group was set up to update the ASFA Partnership agreement, which is signed by all partners and FAO prior to an institution becoming a partner.

**Chair and Co-Chair** Analiza Linaugo, CFOS, Philippines – Chair; Saida Messaoudi, INSTM, Tunisia, Co-chair

### ASFA 50th Year Anniversary Committee

**Focus** This is a new group, set up to ensure ASFA makes preparations for its 50th Year anniversary in 2021.

**Chair and Co-Chair** Tamsin Vicary, FAO ASFA Secretariat, Italy – Chair; Florine Lim, WorldFish, Malaysia – Co-chair

# Events Calendar

The 45th International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers (IAMSLIC) Annual Conference was held 20-25 October 2019 and hosted in Port Aransas, TX, USA. More than 50 IAMSLIC members and invited speakers attended the meeting, among them four ASFA partners and one collaborating ASFA centre. Maria Kalentsits (FAO ASFA Secretariat) presented a paper titled “ASFA: Back from the edge and moving towards a new horizon” which provided an update on activities related to the implementation of the new ASFA Business Model (presentation available upon request: [ASFA-Secretariat@fao.org](mailto:ASFA-Secretariat@fao.org), full paper will be published in the conference proceedings). Merger of the Aquatic Commons digital repository (IAMSLIC) and UNESCO/IOC IODE’s OceanDocs repository was discussed and agreed at the meeting. ASFA, along with IAMSLIC and IODE, is to play a role in the new repository governance and management, likely through providing harvesting services and contributing financially to the maintenance costs. The new repository will also consider using the ASFA Thesaurus for indexing and searching. A new Annex to the Memorandum of Understanding between FAO/ASFA and IAMSLIC, detailing proposed collaboration for 2020-2021, was discussed at the IAMSLIC Executive Board meeting and will be finalized by the end of November 2019.

A presentation by Daryl Superio (SEAFDEC/AQD) was given: *“Facebook as a source of information on the current state of Sea Turtles in the Philippines.”*

This gained a lot of interest from the participants. If you are interested to learn more about this project please contact Daryl at [dlsuperio@seafdec.org.ph](mailto:dlsuperio@seafdec.org.ph)

Twenty-first International Conference on Grey Literature: Open Science Encompasses new forms of Grey Literature. German National Library of Science and Technology. Hannover, Germany. 22-23 October 2019.

Tamsin Vicary, FAO ASFA Secretariat attended the above conference where she presented ASFA’s Grey Literature strategy and the steps taken to move to a new business model that encompasses Open Science principles. The abstract and presentation slides are available in the Conference Program Book (<http://greyguide.isti.cnr.it/attachments/category/31/GL21ConferenceProgramBook.pdf>) and a full paper will be published early next year. The Conference was a great opportunity to learn about the technological advances helping to ensure Grey Literature is preserved and openly accessible. Positive feedback on ASFA’s steps to adopting new technologies was received and new ideas on how to present and categorise Grey Literature were discussed. A presentation by Bertrum H. MacDonald, Dalhousie University, Canada, discussed the production and use of grey marine literature and whether this was a model for open science. Bertrum asked whether the distinction between grey and primary literature was useful from a marine science perspective, given



that the grey marine literature, such as that produced by FAO, DFO and NAFO, is integral to informing policy decisions at local and international levels. If grey literature is as important to research and decision making as primary literature, where is the benefit in separating the two? This raises the question of how useful the definition and term ‘grey literature’ is to a user. We heard also from the Gambling Research Exchange (GREO) that they renamed their Grey Literature sources as ‘Specialized Resources’ as a response to user feedback. Other common themes of the conference are that the publication and archiving are only part of the cycle of grey literature – and that promotion is an often overlooked and poorly executed process. We hope this is an area ASFA and its partners can contribute to.



From left to right: Olga Kopytova (IMBR, Russian Federation), Leonel Maculane (INAHINA, Mozambique), Stephanie Ronan (Marine Institute, Ireland), Daryl Superio (SEAFDEC/AQD); Maria Kalentsits (FAO ASFA Secretariat); missing from the photo is Brian Voss (NOAA, USA).

# AFRIAMSLIC launches new look website!

The African Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers (AFRIAMSLIC) has updated its website: <https://www.iamslc.org/afriamslc/>. The website provides a focal point to keep up to date with AFRIAMSLIC's work and find out more about the projects, meetings and people who contribute to this fantastic organization.

## What is AFRIAMSLIC?

AFRIAMSLIC is the African group of IAMSLIC – the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers. It is a non-profit organization whose members are involved with aquatic (marine, freshwater and brackish) science information, and share the common goals of increasing the visibility of research conducted by African institutions and ensuring institutions have access to the information, to carry out their work. Chaired by ASFA Partner Saida Messaoudi (INSTM, Tunisia), AFRIAMSLIC does an outstanding job of coordinating the efforts of African institutions' library and information centers to effectively manage and share their knowledge through networking opportunities, conferences and mailing-lists.

## AFRIAMSLIC Directory

With the support of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO), AFRIAMSLIC is coordinating an online Directory to identify and document African institutions active in the field of aquatic sciences. This directory will be useful not only to AFRIAMSLIC but also FAO and other organizations working in Africa, who will be able to quickly identify contacts. If you would like to participate in this project, or would like to discover more about AFRIAMSLIC, please contact them here: <https://www.iamslc.org/afriamslc/contact/>

## Useful links

AFRIAMSLIC website: <https://www.iamslc.org/afriamslc/>

AFRIAMSLIC Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/AFRIAMSLIC>

IAMSLIC website: <https://www.iamslc.org>

## Future Events

What?	Where?	When?
FAO International Symposium on Fisheries Sustainability: Strengthening the science-policy nexus	FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy	18-21 November 2019
World Fisheries Day	Worldwide!	21 November 2019
Regional workshop - South Atlantic - UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	25-27 November 2019
2020 UN Ocean Conference	Lisbon, Portugal	2-6 June 2020

Saida Messaoudi, of Institut National des Sciences et Technologies de la Mer (INSTM) will attend the North African workshop on Small Scale Fisheries, due to be held 28-30 November 2019 in Tunis, Tunisia. As the ASFA National Partner for Tunisia, Saida will be able to update participants on ASFA's developments and show how ASFA can contribute to increasing knowledge on SSF. Saida will disseminate a short overview of ASFA's coverage of SSF at the meeting, and we'll make sure this overview is available in the next issue of the ASFA Newsletter, which will be focusing on Africa.



## The ASFA Partners are:



National Marine Data and Information Service (NMDIS) China, People's Republic



Institut de Recherches Halieutiques et Océanologiques du Bénin (IRHOB) - Benin



Russian Federal Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography (VNIRO), Russian Federation



Institut National des Sciences et Technologies de la Mer (INSTM) - Tunisia



WorldFish, Malaysia



ProQuest, USA



Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), Malaysia



Direction des Pêches Maritimes, Senegal

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), Belgium

UN/DOALOS

UN Environment

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

FAO- AdriaMed Project

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

IUCN, The World Conservation Union

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)

Pacific Islands Marine Resources Information System (PIMRIS)

Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center/Secretariat

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo Pesquero (INIDEP) – Argentina

Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU) - Bangladesh

Okavango Research Institute, Botswana

Universidade de São Paulo Instituto Oceanográfico (IO/USP), Brazil

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) / Pêches et Océans Canada

Instituto de Fomento Pesquero (IFOP), Chile

Marine and Coastal Research Institute "Jose Benito Vives de Andreis" (INVEMAR), Colombia

Centre de Recherches Océanologiques (CRO), Cote D' Ivoire

Centro de Investigaciones Pesqueras (CIP), Cuba

Instituto Nacional de Pesca (INP), Ecuador

Egyptian National Oceanographic Data Center National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (NIOF), Egypt

Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer (Ifremer), France

Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR), Greece

Marine Research Institute (MRI), Iceland

National Institute of Oceanography (CSIR-NIO), India

Centre for Scientific Documentation and Information Indonesian Institute of Sciences (PDI-LIPI), Indonesia

Iranian Fisheries Science Research Institute (IFSRI), Iran

Marine Institute, Ireland

Società Italiana di Biologia Marina S.I.B.M. ONLUS, Italy

National Research Institute of Fisheries Science (Fisheries Research Agency, FRA), Japan

Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI), Kenya

Korean Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST), Korea

Living Aquatic Resources Research Center (LARReC), Lao, People's Democratic Republic

Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Mexico

Institut National de Recherche Halieutique (INRH), Morocco

INAHINA - Instituto Nacional de Hidrografia e Navegação, Mozambique

National Marine Information and Research Centre (NatMIRC), Namibia

National Institute for Freshwater Fisheries Research (NIFFR), Nigeria

Institute of Marine Research (IMR), Norway

Instituto del Mar del Perú (IMARPE), Peru

University of the Philippines Visayas, Philippines

Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera (IPMA), Portugal

National Marine Fisheries Research Institute (NMFRI), Portugal

Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO), Spain

Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS), Tanzania

Chulalongkorn University, Thailand

Central Fisheries Research Institute – Trabzon, Turkey

National Fisheries Resources Research Institute (NaFIRRI), Uganda

Budgetary Establishment "Methodological and Technological Centre of Aquaculture", Ukraine

Freshwater Biological Association, United Kingdom

Universidad de la Republica, Fac. Vet. Instituto de Investigaciones Pesqueras (IIP), Uruguay

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), USA

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam,



**OUT & ABOUT WITH THE ASFA SECRETARIAT**  
(AKA ASFA PINGUINI)

**The FAO-ASFA secretariat have nicknamed themselves the ASFA pinguini – why?**  
*Because, just like real penguins, ASFA is always in pole position!*

For more information,  
Email the ASFA Secretariat:  
[ASFA-Secretariat@fao.org](mailto:ASFA-Secretariat@fao.org)

Tweet us using the hashtag  
#FAOASFA

Visit our website for more information on ASFA:  
<http://www.fao.org/fishery/asfa>

