

CURRENT STATUS AND ACTIVITIES OF FISHERY AND  
AQUACULTURE INFORMATION SOURCES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA  
- Malfis

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1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 1.1 The paper outlines the current status and activities of fishery and aquaculture information in Malaysia. There has been set up in 1988 an information system known as Malfis under the aegis of SEAFIS. The Department of Fisheries Malaysia with its Headquarters in Kuala Lumpur is the national focal point.
- 1.2 Malfis acts as the national network of agencies concerned with fisheries related information. It serves not only as a storage of documents and publications relating to fisheries but also provides fisheries information services at various levels in Malaysia and to SEAFIS.
- 1.3 Malfis has taken the main task of coordinating with relevant agencies/departments in Malaysia. Coordination is essential in obtaining information and data, and giving support and provide facilities for each other.
- 1.4 Computers are used for effective information storage and retrieval and speedy processing and management of information and data.

1.5 Prior to the setting up of MAFIS, DOF was sending fisheries data and information to SEAFDEC. Informal contacts between SEAFDEC and the local institutions may have been made too. With the setting up of MAFIS each members of the network will still be in a position to maintain contacts with SEAFIS and that it enjoys access to information in both MAFIS and SEAFIS. In essence, the focal point will be responsible to collect, collate, store and process vital fisheries information and statistics.

## 2. Progress To Date

- 2.1 MAFIS has submitted a list of Malaysian fishery bibliographies for 1985 to SEAFIS. It is now in the process of compiling 1986 bibliographies.
- 2.2 SEAFIS has made available the necessary package programme in order to facilitate automation of the processing of fisheries information. The information are entered on special worksheet and sent to SEAFIS for further action.
- 2.3 The bibliographies of 1985 include the followings:-
- (a) culture of mussels in Malaysia.
  - (b) production of Barrumundi fries.
  - (c) The use of formulated feeds in fish/prawn rearing industries.

- (d) Fish/prawn resource survey along the coast of Sarawak.
- (e) Second prawn resource survey along the coast of Sarawak.
- (f) Water analysis method.
- (g) Fishing Gears in Peninsular Malaysia.

2.4 Proposal will be made soon to BRAIS for the coordination on aquaculture information be done by MALFIS. In Malaysia there is another information system known as MALAYBRAIS which is only responsible for aquaculture information. Since MALFIS is the national focal point, its coverage shall not only confine to marine capture fisheries but also aquaculture. A centralized coordination shall ensure better administration and management of the overall fisheries information in Malaysia.

### 3. Fisheries Information In Malaysia

3.1 The fisheries information in Malaysia includes the followings:-

- (a) Marine fish landings in terms of quantity, value, species, regions and months.
- (b) Fishing vessels/boats in terms of number, types of fisheries, tonnage, horsepower, distribution according to regions.

- (c) Fishermen in terms of number, ethnic composition, distribution according to regions/districts.
- (d) Fish prices in terms of use vessel, wholesale and retail, and according to months.
- (e) Effort per unit of the main fisheries in terms of number of hauls, fishing days and fishing trips.
- (f) Exports/imports of fishery commodities in terms of types, country of origin/destination, quantity and value.
- (g) Fishery resources in terms of distribution, types and density.
- (h) Socio-economic data on income level, demographic, ownership of assets etc.
- (i) Fisheries establishments on ice factories, processing factories, net making factories, boat-building yards etc.
- (j) Fisheries operation performance in terms of costs and earnings, benefits, financial returns.
- (k) Aquaculture aspects in terms of production, fry productions prices, area of production, distributions of freshwater fry into public water bodies etc.

3.2 They are collected, compiled, processed and analysed by the relevant agencies or institutions, like the Department of Fisheries. Fisheries Development Authority of Malaysia, University of Agriculture etc. They are documented in various forms, like working papers, project briefs, annual report, thesis, report paper etc.

3.3 There are various fisheries information available in the country. They are found in different forms. Some are made available to the public and other interested parties, while others are not. Those informations not released to the public are treated as "confidentials" and classified. However, the disadvantage is that such treatment may lead to a lot of speculations, misconceptions, and wrong assumptions. Nevertheless, attempts are being made to disseminate information as much as possible and at the right time.

3.5 The setting of MALFIS will serve also as a counter-check on previous work done on a particular topic. It minimises duplication of work, waste of resources and time.

#### 4. Conclusion

MALFIS is in the process of securing more hardware and software for better implementation of the system. The

system is now sharing the use of DOF computer time, which is found to be quite cumbersome. Therefore, the service will be greatly improved with the acquisition of its own hard disk, printer and monitor screen.

MALFIS does not foresee any problem in securing continued cooperation from member agencies/institution. However, it is the hope that continued assistance from regional organisation like SEAFDEC is forthcoming.

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