

The Establishment of the
Philippine Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Information System
(PASFIS)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. Introduction

In December 1982, a National Consultative Workshop on the establishment of a National Fisheries and Marine Sciences Information Network representing 34 institutions, and sponsored by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) and the University of the Philippines in the Visayas (UPV), unanimously agreed on the need to develop a national information system in fisheries and aquatic sciences. That workshop provided broad guidelines for the development of such a system and appointed a ten-agency working group to develop a detailed proposal for its implementation. The resulting development plan was for an information system to be called the Philippine Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Information System or PASFIS, to be established within the University of the Philippines in the Visayas as an independent program, with funding to be provided by both UPV and other agencies.

B. Objectives

The long term objective is the development of an aquatic sciences and fisheries information system for the Republic of the Philippines.

The over-all objectives of the PASFIS program are:

1. To develop an information system (PASFIS) based initially on existing infrastructure in the 13 regions, which will coordinate the various information systems and services; develop the areas of strength, identify and correct deficiencies within the system and services; and interact productively with international and regional information systems and programs.
2. To provide development planners, policy makers, entrepreneurs, industrialists, extension workers, researchers/scientists, fish farmers, municipal fishermen and KKK participants with reliable and timely information and data at reasonable cost.
3. To ensure that the specialized and professional knowledge and expertise on aquatic sciences and fisheries available within the country and elsewhere in the world will be effectively and efficiently utilized in guiding the development of aquatic-related sectors in the national economy.

4. To obtain public and private sector collaboration and financing of the system components.
5. To ensure cohesiveness and sustained growth of the components of the system by formulating and prescribing guidelines for assigning areas of responsibility, financial arrangements and coordinating machinery in conformity with the country's development objectives and plans.

C. Expected Outputs

1. Regular information services to the private sector in the forms of searching-service, packaging of information in forms usable by the fishfarmers and dissemination of technology through popular publications.
2. Regular production of basic information tools - abstract journals and current awareness materials - as well as special subject monographs.
3. Preparation of national PASFIS inventories dealing with development and research activities carried out nationwide.
4. Preparation by the lead center and by commission to other agencies of "value added" publications, such as reviews and digests, aimed at managers, policy-makers, extension workers, etc.
5. Use and adopt appropriate international standards, codes and guidelines in information management.

6. Closer interaction/cooperation between PASFIS and other existing national/regional and international fisheries and aquatic sciences documentation and information centers.
7. Training of information personnel/technicians in the various aspects of fisheries information handling and management as well as of users of information systems and services.

D. Organization and Management

UPV as Lead Center

The operation of the PASFIS shall be performed by a network of coordinating and cooperating institutions headed by the national or lead center within the University of the Philippines in the Visayas. Its locale shall enable the national center to utilize the UPV's existing library and computer facilities. On the other hand, the existence of the national center shall greatly bolster the present collection capability of UPV.

As an independent entity within the UPV, it shall maintain a separate budget and could be endowed from external sources directly. At the initial stages of its development, much of its housekeeping functions, i.e., recruitment, staffing, accounting, auditing, procurement, etc., shall be integrated with the existing offices within the UPV. It is envisioned, however, that at the later stages of the planned period, some of the functions performed for it by the host institution will be devolved to the lead center. As the funding

operations of the lead center stabilize, the continuing support shall be incorporated into the regular budget of the UPV.

The PASFIS lead center, shall be headed by a Director, and shall have the following functions:

1. Administration and coordination
2. Monitoring and evaluation to ensure quality control and feedback
3. Resource generation and allocation
4. Information generation and packaging
5. Manpower development and training
6. Linkages with regional, national and international information centers
7. Publication of PASFIS outputs

Sub-Centers

Twelve sub-centers have been tentatively identified. These will comprise the support network to the lead center, serving as an intermediate conduit for PASFIS operations and management. These sub-centers will ensure that information requirements of users and member agencies are served through a smooth flow of information to and from various sources.

The proposed sub-centers are the following:

National Capital Region (NCR) - Bureau of Fisheries and
Aquatic Resources

- Region 1 (Ilocos) - Mariano Marcos State University
- Region 2 (Cagayan Valley) - Cagayan State University
- Region 3 (Central Luzon) - Central Luzon State University
- Region 4 (Southern Tagalog) - Palawan National Agricultural
College
- Region 5 (Bicol Region) - Bicol University
- Region 6 (Western Visayas) - University of the Philippines
in the Visayas (National or Lead Center)
- Region 7 (Central Visayas) - University of San Carlos
- Region 8 (Eastern Visayas) - Samar Regional Institute of
Fisheries Technology
- Region 9 (Western Mindanao) - Mindanao Regional Institute
of Fisheries Technology
- Region 10 (Northern Mindanao) - Xavier University
- Region 11 (Southern Mindanao) - Davao Regional Institute of
Fisheries Technology
- Region 12 (Central Mindanao) - Mindanao State University

The above institutions have been proposed as sub-centers in view of their meeting the following requirements: adequate library/information services; accessibility; and current involvement in aquatic sciences and fisheries research and development activities.

Personnel

A total of 19 position titles headed by a Director and an Executive Director will be required for PASFIS operations. The UPV Chancellor becomes the ex-officio Director of PASFIS. Administrative and day-to-day operations shall be the responsibility of the Executive Director.

Governing Board

PASFIS shall have a Governing Board, chaired by the Ministry of Natural Resources and co-chaired by the University of the Philippines in the Visayas and the following institutions as members: National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA); National Science and Technology Authority (NSTA); Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MAF); and Private Sector.

The Governing Board shall outline the general policies of PASFIS and will be responsible for operations pertaining to funding. It will meet every quarter.

PHILIPPINE AQUATIC SCIENCES AND FISHERIES INFORMATION SYSTEM
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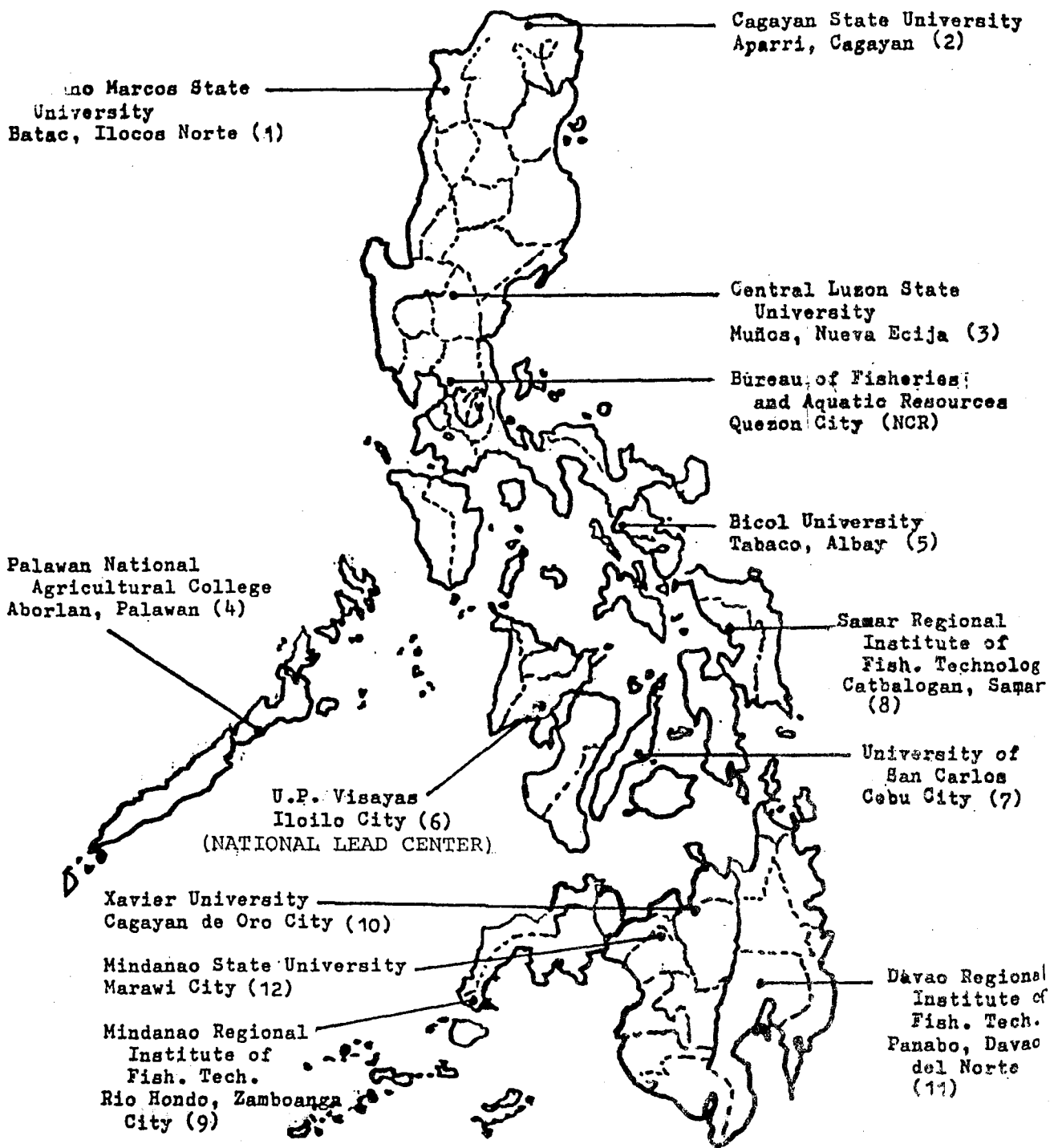


Figure 1

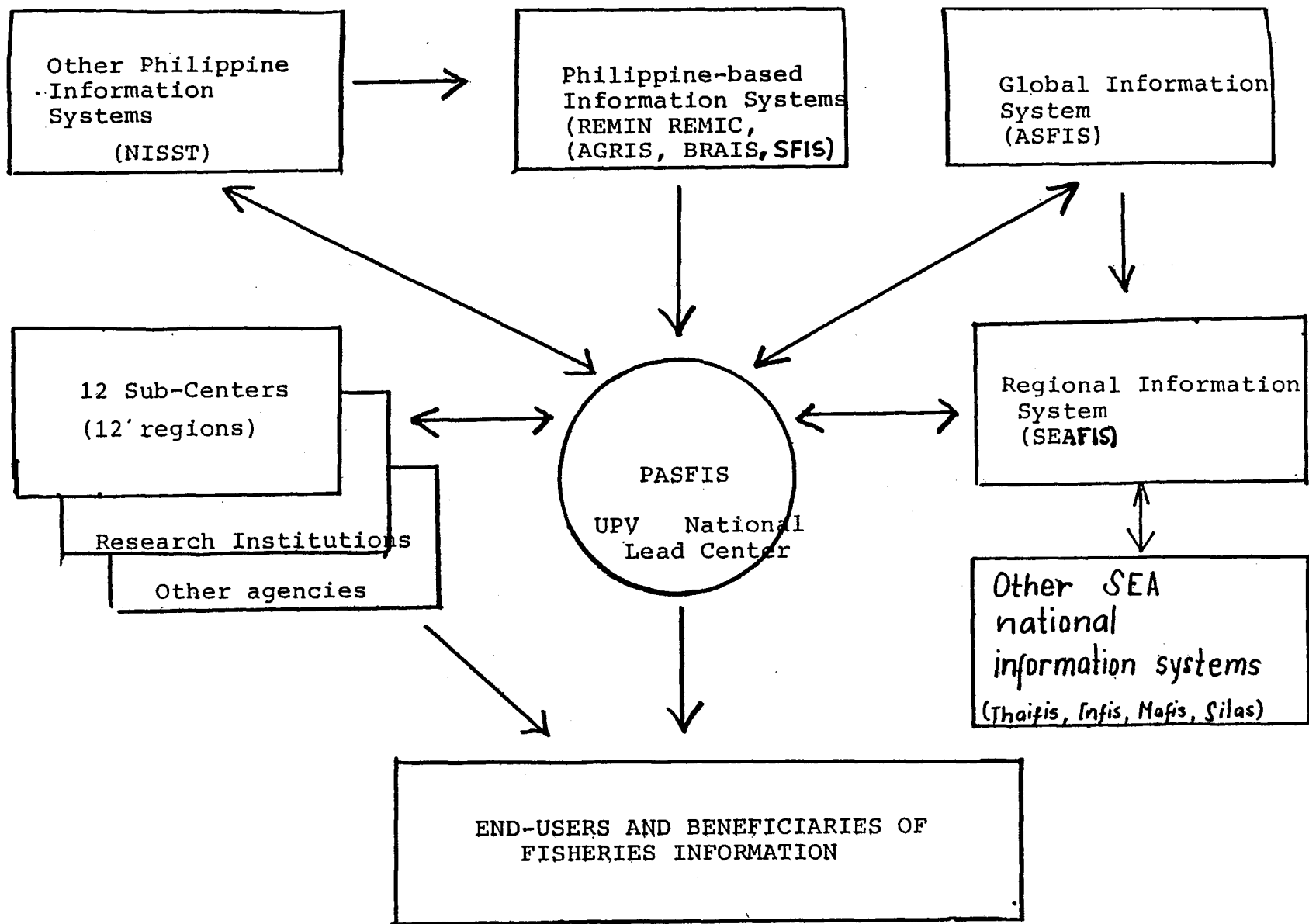


Figure 2, Inter relationships between PASFIS and national/regional information systems.

WORKPLANS/ACTIVITIES

YEAR 0

1. Training of anchor person and back-up staff on ASFIS and SEAFIS methodologies.
2. Submission of revised development proposal and review of the same by proposed funding agency.
3. Initial assessment of lead center's resources and capabilities including the information needs of the Philippine fisheries (private sector).
4. Liaison with national and international centers for information exchange and other collaborative undertakings.
5. Formulation of programs for the initial operating period of PASFIS.
6. Intensive training and observation tours of lead personnel in operations and management of existing national and regional information systems, e.g. INFIS, SEAFIS, BRAIS.
7. Training of cooperating institutions designated as sub-centers for PASFIS on methodologies of the system.

YEAR 1

1. Identification of support personnel for the lead center and sub-centers.
2. Visit to sub-centers.
3. Publication of extension materials for the private sector.
4. Preparation of national bibliographies.

YEAR 2

1. Provision of reference services, current awareness services, and other information activities.
2. Promotion of PASFIS and its services through participation in workshops, seminars, and other activities.
3. Development of bibliographic data base and services in coordination with SEAFIS.
4. Provision of information analysis activities.

YEAR 3

1. Publication of PASFIS monographs and reviews.
2. Provision of referral services at the national and regional levels for the sub-centers and initiation of the PASFIS function as information clearinghouse for fisheries and the aquatic sciences.

YEAR 4

Full operation of PASFIS.

Initial evaluation of the system.

YEAR 5

Continuous operation of PASFIS

Expansion of information activities and services.