

The Fishery Information

Annex 12

of

The Department of Fisheries, Thailand

by

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Introduction

Fishery information in Thailand could be obtained from two main sources that is the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives and the Faculty of Fisheries, Kasetsart University. Both institutions are not only prepare, collect and provide information and library services on fishery aspects but also use the information as well.

In the case of the Department of Fisheries, the responsible units for its information system are the Documentation and Information Unit under the Fishery Extension Division and the Libraries, As for the technical papers, the technical divisions produced that papers will be the responsible units.

Type of Information produced

Various types of information are produced in the Department of Fisheries such as Extension pamphlets, Manuals, Newsletters, Annual reports, Proceedings, Technical papers, Occasional papers. Thai Fisheries Gazette etc.

Producers of fishery information

1. The Documentation and Information Unit, Fishery Extension
Division

The main function of this unit are to disseminate fishery information and to carry out public relation for the Department of Fisheries through the various media and publications. Thus activities could be described as follows.

- (1) preparation of press release and press conferences, collection and compilation of news clippings on fisheries from daily newspaper and periodicals for circulation to the superior administrator
- (2) Preparation of Radio Broadcasting which include writing articles on fisheries, tape recording
- (3) Preparation of Television Broadcasting
- (4) Preparation of articles for newspapers to publicize the accomplishment and activities of the Department
- (5) Produce extension pamphlets on specialized subjects such as aquaculture, fish processing and conservation for free distribution to fish farmers
- (6) Produce Department of Fisheries Newsletter, a semi-monthly publication, published for officials in the Department to inform them the activities in the Department. The Newsletter is distributed free of charge to all units under the Department. SEAFDEC has partly supported this programme by contributing ₱ 10,000 annually since 1981

- (7) Other publications which are published on special occasions including annual reports.

2. Technical Divisions covering freshwater, brackishwater marine, exploration and post-harvest technology also produce the following information

- (1) Technical papers which cover report on research projects in all topics in the field of fisheries and those technical papers will be published by individual technical divisions and institutes
- (2) Proceedings which is subsequent to technical conferences
- (3) Manual : handbooks of technical know-how in certain areas

3. National Inland Fisheries Institute (NIFI) is assigned to undertake the following activities :-

- (1) Publication of Thai Fisheries Gazette which is the bi-monthly journal issued by the Department of Fisheries since 1948, contains articles on various aspects on fisheries, particularly on Thai fisheries. The annual subscription rate is ฿ 60 for Thai Officials and US \$ 25 (including postage) for overseas subscribers.
- (2) Technical papers which cover topic in the field of fisheries undertaken by NIFI.

Libraries Services

At present there are four libraries in the Department of Fisheries. Two libraries located in Bangkok at the National Inland Fisheries Institute (NIFI) and at the Marine Fisheries Division. One located in Phuket at the Marine Biological Center (PMBC) and another one at the National Institute for Coastal Aquaculture (NICA). These libraries work independently but in the near future when the reorganization of the Department is completed there will be only one Central library located in Bangkok but the other two at PMBC and NICA still open to provide information on new technology and technical knowledge to the research personnel working in those research institutes. Each library will concentrate on each field but the working system is similarly, that is to provide library services and fishery information services. They collect information on fisheries and other related fields in the form of books, journals, technical reports, annual reports, reprint, pamphlets theses and dissertations. Services will be given to fishery officers, research personnel, fishery extension workers, local fish farmers, students and other interested individual. Type of services are regular circulation, interlibrary loan, reference service, current awareness, circulation of new periodicals and accession list.

Thai Fisheries Information System (THAIFIS)

1. Background

The Thai Fisheries Information System (THAIFIS) was established with the support and assistance from the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) under the Southeast Asian Fisheries Information System Project (SEAFIS). Under this network, THAIFIS would coordinate with

SEAFDEC Secretariat in compiling and exchanging fishery information both within and outside the region.

During 12-14 December 1984, a workshop on the Thai Fisheries Information System was organized by the SEAFDEC Secretariat in Bangkok to formulate a long term plan for the establishment and operation of a national fishery information network as an integral part of the SEAFIS. The workshop has agreed that the Library of the National Inland Fishery Institute (NIFI) of the Thai Department of Fisheries would serve as the National Center for THAIFIS. Consequently, NIFI Library was designated as the national focal point on thai fisheries in 1985. At present, the system has sixteen participating libraries. The list of the libraries is appended to this paper.

2. Operation

The first activity carried out by THAIFIS was to collect and compile existing literature, both published and unpublished, on the aquatic resources and the fisheries of Thailand. The bibliographic citation system was developed for computerization with the assistance of Mr. Ronald Needham, Editor in Chief of the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) who served as SEAFIS Project Advisor at that time.

THAIFIS has requested the cooperation from the participating libraries in submitting their acquisitions list and slips of new arrivals for inclusion in the THAIFIS Acquisition List.

However, due to budgetary constraint, limited personnel and lack of knowledge in computerization, SEAFDEC has assisted NIFI in paying for a temporary librarian to work with the NIFI librarian and also funded for operating supplies and equipment during the beginning period.

3. Service

The first bibliography produced by THAIFIS is "Thai Fisheries Bibliography 1981-1985" which contains materials on aquatic resources and fisheries issued during the period stated. The next volume covering the years 1976 to 1980 is still in print. It is hoped that another volume of the bibliography containing literatures published before 1976 will be compiled and printed in the near future.

THAIFIS Acquisition List is issued bi-monthly containing titles of new arrivals on aquaculture and fisheries of Thailand of the sixteen participating libraries.

The documents are prepared for the use of academicians, research workers, and interested persons in searching for literature on fisheries of Thailand and related fields.

4. Future Projects

- 4.1 Compilation of directory on fisheries trade in Thailand, to collect names of hatchery, exporters and local salers, fish feed manufacturers, local distributors and frozen fisheries exporters etc.
- 4.2 Establishment of a data base on fisheries information resources in Thailand, to collect names and addresses of organizations, agencies, and individuals.
- 4.3 Establishment of a data base on specialized subjects on fisheries of Thailand to assist the researchers and academicians in searching for research topics and for problems solving.

From time to time, THAIFIS has received inquiries on these subjects but unable to provide accurate information. Therefore, these projects would ~~arrive~~ the requirement of the users, whether they are businessmen, researchers, or laymen.

5. Problems

5.1 Lack of Publicity

THAIFIS is not widely known because the informations are published in English language so there are limited number of users. Thus the services of THAIFIS are not fully utilized.

5.2 Lack of Personnel

NIFI Library which serves as the national center for THAIFIS has only one librarian who is already occupied with the work of the Library. A temporary librarian was hired only for a short period at the beginning of the operation. This matter is being solved by requesting for assistance from the other two librarians of the Department of Fisheries. A training Programme was convened for the two librarians so that they could perform the tasks for THAIFIS.

5.3 Budget Constraint

NIFI Library, the focal point of the System is only a unit in the National Inland Fisheries Institute which is the research institute so major portion of the budget will be used for research work and the library receives very limited funding support so some programme could not be developed as planned

Although THAIFIS faces with the afore-mentioned problems, it has tried its best to fulfill its objectives. It is hoped that with the strong support of SEAFDEC and of the Department, the THAIFIS could be strengthened to perform its tasks completely and provide more services to the users.

List of Participating Libraries to THAIFIS

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Library

Bank of Agriculture & Agricultural Cooperatives

469 Nakhon Sawan Road

Dusit, Bangkok 10300

Thailand

Library and Documentary Service Division

National Research Council of Thailand

Bangkhen, Bangkok 10900

Thailand

Thai National Documentation Centre

196 Phahonyothin Road

Bangkhen, Bangkok 10900

Thailand

Academic Resource Center

Chulalongkorn University

Phyathai Road

Bangkok 10500

Thailand

Main Library

Kasetsart University

Phahonyothin Road

Bangkhen, Bangkok 10903

Thailand

Library

Faculty of Fisheries

Kasetsart University

Phahonyothin Road, Bangkhen

Bangkok 10903

Thailand

Main Library
Ramkhamhaeng University
Ramkhamhaeng Road, Huamark
Bangkok 10240
Thailand

Main Library
Thammasart University
Taphrachan Road, Phranakorn
Bangkok 10200
Thailand

Library
Faculty of Economics
Thammasat University
Taphrachan Road, Phranakorn
Bangkok 10200
Thailand

Library
Srinakharinwirot University
Eastern Campus, Bangsaen
Chonburi 20131
Thailand

Institute of Marine Science
Srinakharinwirot University
Bangsaen, Chonburi 20131
Thailand

Library
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Maliwan Mansion
39 Phra Atit Road
Bangkok 10200
Thailand

Faculty of Natural Resources
Prince of Songkla University
Hatyai, Songkla 90110
Thailand

Mekong Documentation Centre
Mekong Secretariat
Pibultham Villa, Kasatsuk Bridge
Bangkok 10500
Thailand

Phuket Marine Biological Centre
P.O. Box 60
Phuket Province 83000
Thailand

Marine Fisheries Division
89/1 Chareonkrung Road
Yanawa Bangkok 10120
Thailand