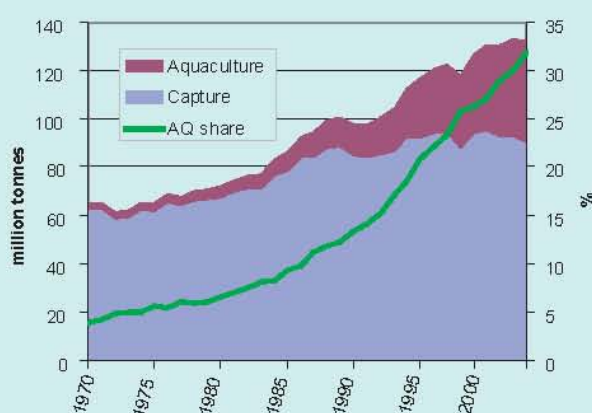


Towards improving global information on aquaculture



Cover photograph:

A local fish market in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Courtesy of Felix Marttin, FAO.

Towards improving global information on aquaculture

FAO
FISHERIES
TECHNICAL
PAPER
480

by
FAO Fisheries Department

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

ISBN 92-5-104995-5

All rights reserved. Reproduction and dissemination of material in this information product for educational or other non-commercial purposes are authorized without any prior written permission from the copyright holders provided the source is fully acknowledged. Reproduction of material in this information product for resale or other commercial purposes is prohibited without written permission of the copyright holders. Applications for such permission should be addressed to:

Chief

Publishing Management Service

Information Division

FAO

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy

or by e-mail to:

copyright@fao.org

© FAO 2005

Preparation of this document

The COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture (COFI-AQ), during its First Session in April 2002, identified data collection and reporting (to improve knowledge and management of the sector) as a key priority area for future work. The Sub-Committee considered information needs for aquaculture at the global level and recommended that FAO develop an approach (strategy) for improving reporting on aquaculture status and trends similar to that developed for capture fisheries, with special attention to the quality of the information on which it is based.

Following up with this recommendation, the FAO convened, in January 2004, an Expert Consultation on Improving Information on Status and Trends of Aquaculture, which reviewed and approved, with amendments, a draft strategy for aquaculture prepared by FAO.

This document represents background documentation and reviews prepared for the Expert Consultation, the final draft of the strategy which incorporates the recommendations and suggestions of the Consultation and those of the Working Group of Experts on the FAO Aquaculture Questionnaire, “FISHSTAT AQ”, which immediately followed the Expert Consultation.

The document has been prepared by the FAO Fisheries Department with the major contribution of Mr Ziad Shehadeh, former Senior Fishery Resources Officer at the Fisheries Department, Mr Rohana Subasinghe (Inland Water Resources and Aquaculture Service), Mr Alan Lowther (Fishery Information, Data and Statistics Unit), and Mr Raymon VanAnrooy (Development Planning Service), with page layout assistance from Mr Juan Carlos Trabucco.

Abstract

In order to work towards improving information on global status and trends for aquaculture, the FAO Fisheries Department convened two meetings of international aquaculture experts in January 2004. The first Expert Consultation on Improving Information on Status and Trends of Aquaculture was held from 20 to 23 January. The 16 technical experts included participants from five continents and a mix of government aquaculture officials, academic researchers, and representatives of producers associations and regional aquaculture organizations. The Expert Consultation approved a draft Strategy and Outline Plan for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Aquaculture.

Following this Expert Consultation, the Working Group of Experts on the FAO Aquaculture Questionnaire “FISHSTAT AQ” met from 24 to 26 January to suggest improvements to the data collection form used by FAO in its annual inquiry to member countries for aquaculture statistics. They were asked to deliberate improvements, while keeping in mind the relevant recommendations of the preceding Expert Consultation. Many of the same experts participated in this Working Group as well as additional participants representing national providers of data to FAO and two survey research specialists in questionnaire design.

These meetings are seen as the beginning of the already existing parallel process for status and trends reporting for capture fisheries. The outcome there was the adoption of the Strategy for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Capture Fisheries, which was formally agreed on and accepted by the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in February 2003. The process for aquaculture status and trends was envisioned to produce a similar strategy document for the aquaculture sector.

The draft strategy for aquaculture, the reports of the two meetings and background documents prepared for the meetings are contained in this volume. These background documents include an overview of current FAO procedures for collecting and reporting aquaculture statistics, a summary of the issues confronting attempts to improve data collection and reporting and a collection of regional reviews in which countries have described their systems and strategies for the collection of aquaculture status and trends information.

FAO Fisheries Department.

Towards improving global information on aquaculture.

FAO Fisheries Technical Paper. No. 480. Rome, FAO. 2005. 172p.

Contents

Preparation of this document	iii
Abstract	iv
Draft strategy and outline plan for improving information on status and trends of aquaculture	1
Report of the Expert Consultation on Improving Information on Status and Trends of Aquaculture	15
Report of the Meeting of the Working Group of Experts on the FAO Aquaculture Questionnaire "FISHSTAT AQ"	41
Supporting documents prepared for the Expert Consultation on Improving Status and Trends Reporting on Aquaculture	61
Current FAO procedures for monitoring and reporting production and status of aquaculture	63
General issues in relation to status and trends reporting on aquaculture	81
Asia regional synthesis: information for status and trends reporting on aquaculture	107
Latin America regional synthesis: information for status and trends reporting on aquaculture	139
Summary and excerpts from the Africa regional synthesis: information for status and trends reporting on aquaculture	161
Europe and Near East regional synthesis: information for status and trends reporting on aquaculture	165