

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)**

**Twenty-first Session of the IOC Committee on International Oceanographic Data and
Information Exchange (IODE-XXI)
Liège, Belgium, 23-26 March 2011**

ASFA, Aquatic Science and Fisheries Abstracts
Linda Pikula, Chair, IODE GEMIM, U.S.NOAA

GEMIM Report 2009-2010

1. REPORT ON ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT DURING THE INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD

ASFA

The GEMIM workplan as to ASFA involvement was completed during the intersession. L. Noble through FAO Secretariat to ASFA advised journal publishers connected with ASFA to make use of the ASFA Thesauri. Grey Literature input by ODIN's as ASFA partners has been encouraged.

As per the GEMIM X Workplan, Chair L. Pikula attended the ASFA Board Meeting 5-9, July 2010 and GEMIM presented the possibility of a collaborative project with ASFA, the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts database during its Board meeting in June, 2010. A presentation was made regarding statistics gathered during OceanTeacher workshops in 2010 which presented the current state of digitization and print and other media holdings in ODIN countries. It is hoped that IODE ODINs can cooperate in digitization projects and then link their holdings through the ASFA database, thus making difficult to locate, regional gray literature and other unique holdings more accessible to the interested scientific public.

Agenda Item 7.6. (Status of efforts by ASFA Partners to include more grey literature in ASFA, including digitization) Ms Pikula (IODE) gave a presentation on the IOC-IODE/ODIN programme activities related to capacity building in marine information management, digitization and repositories She raised the possibility of collaboration between ASFA and the IODE/ODIN regarding digital projects **The FAO ASFA Secretariat agreed** to investigate means to increase ASFA collaboration with, and also ASFA participation in, IOC-IODE/ODIN activities and initiatives (e.g. capacity building in digitization and repositories). And also OceanTeacher training activities were discussed.

It should be noted that ASFA has new software with capabilities to allow input of Inmagic records (the library system used by ODIN Africa members). Also, of interest is their project to develop a multi-language ASFA Thesauri which will facilitate greater input to ASFA. The discussion on ASFA Trust Fund Grants was quite interesting and methods to put together a proposal are available on the ASFA web site. It is a fact that many of our ODIN MIM members are also participating in the ASFA database.

During this meeting retiring ASFA Editor in Chief, Richard Pepe was presented with an IODE Achievement Award in recognition of his role in making ASFA a successful and comprehensive bibliographic reference tool of choice for many marine and freshwater researchers. For IODE participation in ASFA as one of the founding organizations was its first activity in the area of marine information management. Today the ASFA database contains more than 1.3 million bibliographic references to the world's aquatic science literature accessioned since 1971. Input to the ASFA Databases is prepared by the international network

of ASFA Partners, who are together responsible for the monitoring of more than 5000 serial publications, as well as books, reports, conference proceedings and grey literature.

2. PROPOSED WORK PLAN AND TIME TABLE FOR THE NEXT INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD

4.2.1 ASFA	107	The Group recommended that ODIN MIM Coordinators approach the ASFA Board referring to the substantial archives of grey material available in their libraries. Local experts could visit national institutions with portable equipment to undertake the scanning.	M.Odido to request to ODIN MIM coordinators	6/2010
	109	The Group recommended to coordinate with ASFA the possible funding of this digitization effort through ODINCARSA LA.	Secretariat/ODINCARSA-LA	Early 6/2010
	110	The Group recommended that attention be given to providing training on digitization (and include course material in OceanTeacher). In this regard reference was made to the Courses "Preservation and Archiving of Digital Media", "Digital Asset Management", and "Funding for Digital Projects".	OceanTeacher SG	>3/2011 In process
	111	The Group requested Ms Pikula to attend the upcoming ASFA Board meeting and propose cooperation on "ASFA enhancement" through joint action between ODIN partner institutions and ASFA input centres (when these are not identical) on digitization of national/institutional holdings and related updating of the ASFA bibliographic records. In this regard it was requested to prepare a full list of ODIN partner institutions and ASFA input centres to identify collaborative opportunities. The Group further requested ODINs to identify materials that should, as a priority, be digitized, and provide this information to Ms Pikula prior to the ASFA Board. In addition the Group recommended an analysis of ASFA records prepared by individual countries and focus on digitizing those documents.	Chair	7/2010 Done
	112	The Group requested its Chair to convey its gratitude to Mr Pepe during the upcoming ASFA Advisory Board in Morocco in July and to invite him to continue sharing his valuable knowledge and expertise with the GE-MIM in the future. The Group further requested the Secretariat to send a Letter to FAO to express IODE's appreciation.	Chair Secretariat	7/2010 Done 11/2010 Done

3. REQUESTED FUNDING FOR THE NEXT INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD

Funding to attend the ASFA Board Meeting in September 5-9, 2011 Guayaquil, Ecuador?

4. TEXT FOR THE ACTION PAPER

NONE