

## A N N E X E IX 5

### USE OF FISHBASE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE BDRM<sup>1</sup>

by

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#### INTRODUCTION

The International Centre for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM) is assembling, in co-operation with FAO and numerous other institutions and individual scientists through the world, a computerized encyclopedia of fish called "FishBase".

This database, supported by the Commission of the European Communities (CEC), will eventually cover all fish species in the world (>20,000). It presently contains various information (nomenclature, morphometry, growth, reproductive biology, etc.) on over 7,000 species, of which a large fraction consists of the marine and freshwater fishes of West Africa, from Morocco to Namibia.

A draft version of FishBase, in form of 3.5" diskettes for MS-DOS computers is presently being distributed to project collaborators, for verification and expansion.

A revised expanded version, covering about 10,000 species will be made widely available in early 1994, in the form of cheap (> 100 US\$) CD ROM (laser) disks, for use in the Windows environment.

It is anticipated that this first CD ROM version will be updated at annual intervals, to move towards a coverage of all the world's fish species, and towards a more comprehensive coverage of the species for which much information is available.

#### FISHBASE AS COMPONENT OF BDRM

The Base de Données Régionale Maritime (BDRM) presently being elaborated between the 22 countries along the West African Coast, the FAO and the CEC will include numerous specialized (sub) databases, covering numerous coastal activities of resource types, as well as routines to analyze this data.

The International Centre for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM) would be pleased to see FishBase become a component of BDRM. To this effect, ICLARM will:

- \* offer a copy of FishBase (and subsequent updates) to the Secretariat of the BDRM and the scientific institutes associated with the BDRM;
- \* interact with the Secretariat of the associated institutes to ensure a complete coverage, by FishBase, of the fishes in the area covered by the BDRM;

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- \* interact with the architects of the software through which the BDRM will be implemented to ensure that FishBase can be straightforwardly accessed through the BDRM.

Interested parties may contact Dr. Rainer Froese, FishBase Project Leader, ICLARM, PC P.O. Box 2631, Makati Metro Manila (Fax 632 816 3183). For details on the French version of FishBase, presently under development, write to Dr. Maria-Lourdes Palomares or to this author (both ICLARM, same address).

References:

PALOMARES, M.C., J. MOREAU, P.REYES-MARCHANT, R.FROESE and D. PAULY 1991 FishBase : une base de données sur les poissons. Fishbyte, December 1991 : 58-61.

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