

## A new web-based information system for aquaculture development: the regional aquaculture information system (RAIS)

A new Web site has been established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) under the aegis of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) to facilitate the exchange of aquaculture information in the Gulf area among regional experts and stakeholders, and to promote and develop a sustainable aquaculture industry.

RECOFI member countries (Bahrain, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates) are responsible for the timely data entry and validation along with the promotion of the information system at the national, regional and global level.

The new aquaculture information system is now up-and-running

and it is available at the following address:

[www.raisaquaculture.net](http://www.raisaquaculture.net)

The Web site is organized in nine databases (Annual aquaculture statistics; Aquaculture experts; Production centres; Suppliers of technology; Research institutions; Research and development programmes; Photo library; Virtual library and Selected links) to store regional aquaculture information.

RAIS is organized and maintained through a regional and national mechanism: (1) a Regional Centre located in Kuwait City and linked to the FAO in Rome and to the RECOFI Secretariat in Cairo, Egypt; and (2) a National Centre in each RECOFI member country under the supervision of an officially nominated RAIS National

Coordinator. All authorized users have the right to directly post new information through user friendly online submission forms.

The system has been conceived to be as user-friendly as possible and allows rapid data entry from the administrators and authorized users and easy data retrieval. Users who want to contribute by submitting new items are kindly requested to contact the RAIS Regional Centre or the RAIS National Coordinators. Full addresses are provided in the "Contact us" section accessible from the entry page.

Further details can be obtained by writing to:

Valerio Crespi at FAO  
E-mail: [valerio.crespi@fao.org](mailto:valerio.crespi@fao.org)

## The new FAO aquaculture electronic bulletin

The FAO Aquaculture e-Bulletin delivers all the latest information from the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department including upcoming key meetings and events, recent aquaculture publications, updates on technical cooperation programmes world wide and coverage of major news related to emerging aquaculture issues. FAO users are kindly invited to subscribe the FAO Aquaculture e-Bulletin by following the online instructions at:

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