

BOOK REVIEWS

On identifying fish species rather than assessing fish stocks: a review of two books on the taxonomy of the neritic fishes of the Western Indian Ocean.

This review is devoted to two books that are very similar in origin and intention, and which provide a marvelous pretext for discussing here some of the things that go on before books hit a startled public. These books are:

Trawled fishes of southern Indonesia. Thomas Gloerfeldt-Tarp and Patricia J. Kailola. Undated. Available since 1984. Published by the Australian Development Assistance Bureau, Canberra, Australia, the Directorate General of Fisheries, Jakarta, Indonesia and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation, Eschborn, Fed. Rep. of Germany. 406 p. ISBN 0-642-70001-x. No price information.

Continental shelf fishes of northern and north-western Australia: an illustrated guide. Keith J. Sainsbury, Patricia J. Kailola and Guy G. Leyland. 1985. Published by arrangement with CSIRO by Clouston and Hall and Peter Pownall, Fisheries Information Services, Canberra, Australia. 375 p. ISBN 0-949742-80-5. 21.5 x 29.5 cm. No price information.

Common to these books is not only their taxonomist, P. Kailola and that many persons and institutions claim credit for them but also the fact that they have similar origins.

Both books are products, practically the only ones to date as we shall see below, of the JETINDOFISH Project,

a venture started between Indonesia, the Federal Republic of Germany and Australia in 1979 for the assessment of the demersal resources of the eastern Indian Ocean coast (Sumatra to Timor for the Indonesian-German and northern and northwestern Australian waters for the Australian Project modules). Coordination of this multimillion dollar project was provided by FAO through a coordinator based in Bali, which was also the base of the Indonesian-German module.

The project had been initiated because way back in the 1960s, someone had suggested that, since traces of upwelling had been detected in the area, there should also be lots of fish. The project ran three large vessels which, combined, took over 1,000 trawl hauls. As far as the Indonesian part of the project was concerned, very few pelagic fishes were detected outside the Bali Straits (where a sardine fishery is long established) and whatever was found in terms of demersals is now inaccessible, given the ban on trawling in that country (see ICLARM Newsletter, July 1982, p. 15). The results of the Australian module—beyond the second book introduced here—seem to be still in preparation.

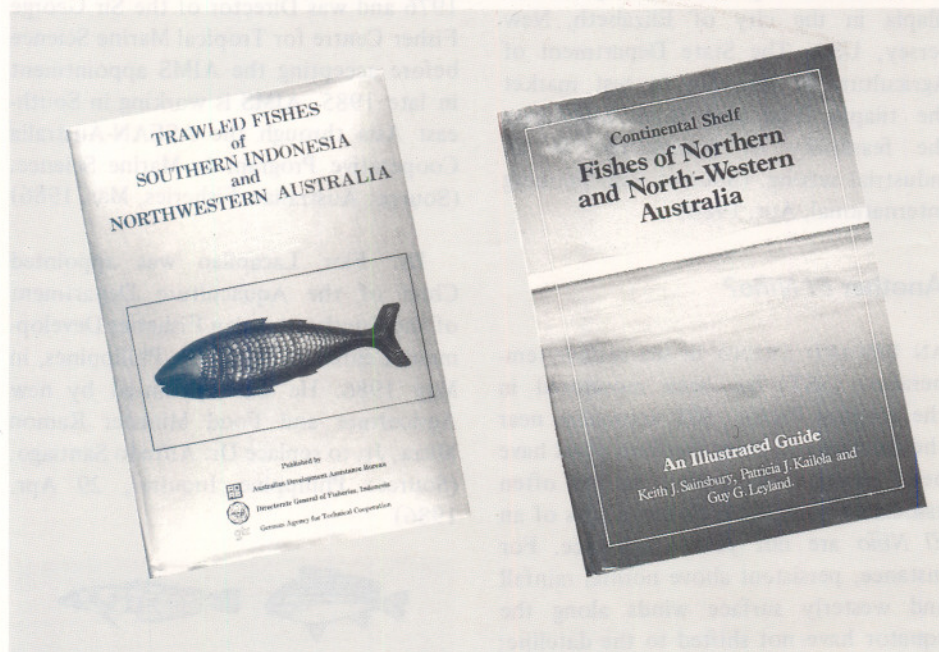
The two books in question are thus, for all practical purposes, the only sizeable results (to date at least) of the JETINDOFISH project, whose opera-

tional phase was concluded four years ago. My estimate of the value of these books is therefore of approximately \$10,000 per page. This provides a scale with which to appreciate the fact that the authors of the first book include an erratum sheet, while the authors of the second book even threw in a one-page addendum into the bargain! (In the last issue of *Naga* (April 1986, p. 3), the cost of a scientific article from Asian fisheries institutions was shown to average \$122,000, or perhaps \$10,000/page, strikingly similar to the present books. From this alone, one could conclude that JETINDOFISH has done its job—if only its mission had been to *describe* the ichthyofauna of the eastern Indian Ocean coast).

Having said all this, the first thing to say about the books themselves is that they are both superb. Both have a large format, and contain beautiful photos on white and blue backgrounds, respectively, of the fish covered. The "Indonesian" volume also contains a large number of outline drawings of fishes or of parts of fishes to facilitate proper identification, while the "Australian" volume provides a pictorial introduction to each fish family. Both books have a short description for each species, plus "voucher specimen number" in the Indonesian volume, or a "code number" for the Australian volume, both of them thus documenting the relevant fish specimens.

Both books should prove invaluable to workers in their respective regions—particularly when both are used simultaneously and this reviewer indeed feels this is the right place to congratulate the books' authors, particularly the responsible taxonomist, Ms. P. Kailola, for her efforts.

However, one question must be asked: why is it so that the JETINDOFISH project produced to date so little published material besides taxonomic books? Is it because the lead time between completion of a survey and publication of results is longer for biologists/stock assessment specialists than for taxonomists, or is it because, in fact, the former have nothing to contribute that would match the books reviewed here? **D. Pauly**, ICLARM



NEWSBRIEFS

ADB assistance to Pakistan fisheries

THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK has approved a technical assistance grant for a study of Pakistan fisheries. The project, which the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Cooperatives will execute for five months starting April 1986, mainly aims to prepare a comprehensive plan to integrate fisheries with national economic, social, technical, institutional and financial aspects.

Operationally oriented, the study will identify development strategies and assist the government in formulating investment fisheries programs. Though fisheries formed only 0.8% of GDP in 1983-1984, it is an important component of Pakistan's economy. Export of fisheries products is a potential source of increased foreign exchange earnings. Fisheries development is high among the government's priorities. Targets by the Sixth Five-Year Plan (1983-1984 to 1987-1988) include a 33% increase in marine and a 10% rise in inland fish production. (Source: ADB News Release, 18 Feb. 1986)

ADB eases loan grants to Philippine fishponds

PHILIPPINE FISH AND SHRIMP pond operators can now get loans for the improvement of ponds up to 50 ha under the new guidelines of the Asian Development Bank.

Private commercial banks are being eyed as additional conduits for the ADB loan apart from the rural banks.

Approved loans as of December 1985 total ₱10.2 million covering an aggregate area of 785 ha. Pending loans cost ₱8.1 million for an aggregate area of 437 ha. (Source: Bulletin Today, 30 Jan. 1986, p. 17)

SARP training

ON 11-22 NOVEMBER 1985, 14 Latin American scientists attended an ad hoc course at the Southwest Fisheries Center (SWFC) in La Jolla, California to learn

the state-of-the-art techniques to make a recruitment program in pelagic fishes possible. The SWFC has successfully pioneered a number of these techniques.

The SWFC was involved in the genesis of SARP, the Sardine/Anchovy Recruitment Project, under the auspices of the Ocean Sciences in Relation to Living Resources program of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The participants from Mexico, Peru, Chile and Ecuador were shown the use of a plankton pump for determining concentrations of larval fish down to 30 m.

The sessions covered determination of birthdate distributions through otolith analysis; proper sample labelling, storing and curating; management of cruise planning; error checking of data; creating a database; basic statistics concepts and application to fishery data; interpretation of age; data analysis for growth and mortality; and seasonal data analysis. Demonstration of all SARP field techniques was done on board the R/V David Starr Jordan. (Source: CPPS, Boletín ERFEN No. 16, p. 36)

Urban aquaculture, New Jersey

A CONVERTED GARAGE is being used for a five-month experiment to grow red tilapia in the city of Elizabeth, New Jersey, USA. The State Department of Agriculture is planning to test market the tilapia. The idea is to investigate the feasibility of aquaculture in an industrial setting. (Source: Fish Farming International, Apr. 1986)

Another *El Niño*?

AN UPWARD TREND in sea surface temperature (SST) has been monitored in the tropical Pacific. SST anomalies near the dateline and along the Peru coast have been positive. But other factors often associated with the incipient stages of an *El Niño* are not yet in evidence. For instance, persistent above normal rainfall and westerly surface winds along the equator have not shifted to the dateline;

the subsurface thermal structure and sea-level slope across the equatorial Pacific do not appear to be far from normal. Nevertheless, the Climate Analysis Center in the USA will continue to monitor conditions and to disseminate information in view of the current SST trend and the fact that it has been four years since the last (1982-1983) *El Niño*. (Source: CPPS, Boletín ERFEN No. 16, 1986, p. 47)

Tamil Nadu

SEVENTH PLAN TARGETS for the Tamil Nadu, India, government include raising annual marine fish catches from 0.28 to 0.34 million t by 1990, and inland catches from 0.18 to 0.21 million t. According to the Minister for Backward Classes and Fisheries, the strategy involves introduction of improved beach landing crafts, mechanization, assistance to cooperatives to buy fiberglass boats and expansion of brackishwater and inland aquaculture. (Source: The Hindu, 21 Apr. 1986)

Appointments, AIMS, SEAFDEC

DR. JOE BAKER is the new Director of the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) near Townsville, Australia. Dr. Baker has been a member of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority since 1976 and was Director of the Sir George Fisher Centre for Tropical Marine Science before accepting the AIMS appointment in late 1985. AIMS is working in Southeast Asia through the ASEAN-Australia Cooperative Program in Marine Science. (Source: Australian Fisheries, Mar. 1986)

Dr. Flor Lacanilao was appointed Chief of the Aquaculture Department of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), Philippines, in May 1986. He was appointed by new Agriculture and Food Minister Ramon Mitra, Jr. to replace Dr. Alfredo Santiago. (Source: Philippine Inquirer, 29 Apr. 1986)

