



Our Ref.:

Your Ref.:

20 December 2016

Dear Dr Mikhail Glubokovsky:

**Subject:** *Letter of Gratitude and Appreciation to the Russian Federal Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography (VNIRO) regarding its participation in the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) indexing and abstracting service/system.*

Now that the **Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA)<sup>1</sup>** Database has reached over 2 million records, the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations** would like to mention with great appreciation the contribution of VNIRO to the ASFA bibliographic database. At present 50 National Partners, 4 United Nations agencies, 11 International Organizations and 1 commercial publisher participate in the international cooperative efforts to produce the ASFA database and to disseminate the World's scientific literature on fisheries, aquaculture, oceanography, pollution etc.

Russia began its ASFA activities in 1972, when VNIRO became the National ASFA Partner (*i.e. one of the first institutes to join ASFA!*). Thanks to the work of the VNIRO ASFA Center, the Russian aquatic science literature is well represented in the ASFA database and Russian scientists are highly visible world-wide. Also, because of VNIRO's participation in ASFA, Russian scientists are entitled to free access to the ASFA database and its world-wide coverage of the aquatic science and fisheries literature. Likewise, the world-wide scientific community has the opportunity to view the scientific information produced by Russian scientists.

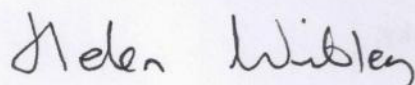
The **success** of ASFA is the merit of all the ASFA Partners, but here **we would like to thank the Direction and staff of VNIRO** for its participation in ASFA and its continuous effort and commitment to pushing forward the development of ASFA and in particular **Ms Sofia Levashova**, the Head of Russian ASFA Center, who directs and supervises both VNIRO's participation in ASFA and that of the Russian collaborating ASFA centers (11 regional Russian fishery institutes involved in ASFA) with great expertise and professionalism.

Ms Levashova also participates in the annual ASFA Advisory Board Meetings (she is an Advisory Board Member). Her input to the meetings and contribution to the advancement of international scientific cooperation is always highly appreciated, both by the ASFA Partners and by the FAO ASFA Secretariat. Her presentation at the recently held ASFA Advisory Board Meeting in Vietnam was especially well received by the ASFA Partners as the topic was considered of high importance by ASFA Partners. Ms Levashova shared her experiences in conducting workshops to train specialists on how best to use the ASFA database to obtain the most relevant information.



In conclusion, it is our hope that this short letter has been able to adequately express our high esteem for Russia's participation in and contribution to ASFA, through VNIRO, and also to convey our sincere desire that VNIRO's participation in ASFA will continue in the future for the benefit of the aquatic science community both inside and outside of Russia.

Yours sincerely



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1 ASFA (Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts - ([www.fao.org/fi/asfa/asfa.asp](http://www.fao.org/fi/asfa/asfa.asp)) is an international co-operative information system for the collection and dissemination of information covering the science, technology and management of marine, brackishwater, and freshwater environments (see Annex for more details)