

Blue Growth: Motivating Innovations in Aquatic Information Management

41st IAMSILIC Conference in conjunction with the 16th EURASLIC Biennial Meeting
Rome, Italy, September 7-11, 2015

The International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centres ([IAMSILIC](#)) encompasses all aspects of aquatic and marine sciences and their allied disciplines. The association provides a forum to exchange and explore ideas and issues of mutual concern. IAMSILIC was established in 1975 and its 2015 conference took place in the [Food and Agricultural Organisation \(FAO\)](#) building of the United Nations, Rome, Italy. EURASLIC is the European wing of IAMSILIC.



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"Blue Growth: Motivating Innovations in Aquatic Information Management"

Following a busy first day with many business meetings, a drinks reception was held on the beautiful FAO rooftop terrace. This provided an excellent opportunity to network with key personnel in the marine and aquatic sector. During the business meetings, I was nominated as the Irish representative for EURASLIC. As the official tweeter for the conference, I established a twitter account for the group '@lamslicOrg' and tweeted under the hashtag #iameura15. A collation of the tweets, photos and blog posts is available through Storify at: <https://storify.com/StephanieRonan/new-story-55f3244492765f6408ac8ed2>.

The seminar began in earnest with a welcome by Arni Mathiesen, the Assistant Director-General of [FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department](#). He praised the role of information specialists, viewing us as key to promoting Blue Growth. Blue Growth is the long term strategy to support sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sectors. The theme of the conference centred on how IAMSLIC supports this strategy. The keynote speaker, Dr. Devin Bartley, stressed the need for further research in inland fisheries, highlighting that in developing countries fish are often the only source of protein. Interestingly, in rice paddies, the species in the water often have more value than the rice itself! Bartley was campaigning for the inclusion of dried fish in the [World Food Basket](#) disaster response kits. He further emphasised that science is rooted in conversation and urged us to tweet and help disseminate this message.

The conference reinforced the importance of IAMSLIC emphasising its engagement on the international field and also illustrating its regional initiatives. Presentation sessions were divided into the following categories: Projects, Vendors and posters, Euraslic posters (European Association of Aquatic Science Libraries and Information Centres), Open Source, Blue Growth invited speakers, Fishing for information panel, Linked repositories, and Diversity in practice.

A noteworthy presentation by Linda Pikula on the collaboration between IAMSLIC and [GE-MIM](#)¹ was excellent. This presentation detailed GE-MIM's

work with the [Ocean Teacher Training Academy](#) and explained how it offers data and training management workshops. These sessions are recorded and available to view on the [website](#).

Wednesday was Blue Growth day, established by the FAO to highlight ocean food sustainability. The FAO has considerable information available on websites such as: <http://www.fao.org/biodiversity/cross-sectoral-issues/ecosystem-approach/en/>. Another interesting development was iMarine (www.i-marine.eu/), presented by FAO's Anton Ellenbroek. With data, the policy of datasets and their derivatives as well as copyright must be considered. To address this issue, iMarine provides an infrastructure to reuse marine data with respect to policies and also provides dataset citations.

A further highlight from the week came from Lisa Raymond, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI), who described WHOI's development of a semantic integration product to link open access data through repositories. This product makes searching across all available materials easier. This will contribute to the DSpace community, creating an environment where linking becomes seamless. To facilitate linked data, please encourage your scientists to get an ORCID!

I presented a poster introducing the Marine Institute, as it was our first time attending this conference. The IAMSLIC posters provided a wonderful insight into the stellar work conducted across the globe in these specialist marine and aquatic libraries. For further information, a detailed conference programme can be viewed [here](#) and a comprehensive overview of the conference is provided on the IAMSLIC [blogspot](#).

The 42nd IAMSLIC conference will be held this October in Merida, Mexico. I can hardly wait, adios amigos!

Stephanie Ronan is Irish EURASLIC representative and Information Professional, Marine Institute.

¹ GE-MIM: Group of Experts on Marine Information Management