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**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION  
PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH, AND STATISTICS**

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**WCPFC-SC11-AR/CNM-36**

**VIETNAM**

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL  
PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION (WCPFC)**

**PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH  
AND STATISTICS**

**2014**

**VIET NAM's ANNUAL FISHERY REPORT**

**DIRECTORATE OF FISHERIES  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**



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| Scientific data was provided to the Commission in accordance with the decision relating to the provision of scientific data to the Commission by 30 April, 2015 | Yes |
| If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions:  |     |

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Due to its long coastline, the sea is playing an important role in the lives of many Vietnamese, in terms of food security, job creation, income generation, poverty elimination and national economic growth. In the overall development of the country, the fisheries sector in general and tuna fisheries in particular have thus become an important industry.

The potential of the offshore fishery for tuna has been recognized in the general development trend of fisheries sector. Interest in realizing this potential was initially generated by resource surveys focusing on offshore areas in the early 1990s. Oceanic tuna fisheries are one of the main intentions in national key programs in recent years due to huge values that these fisheries created in term of economic and livelihood values. There are three fisheries targeting oceanic tuna species which are being managed by WCPFC. These are longline, purse seine and gillnet fishery catching the oceanic tunas such as bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tuna. The longline fishery appears only in the three central provinces of Viet Nam (Binh Dinh, Phu Yen and Khanh Hoa). In contrast, the purses seines and gillnet fisheries present in many coastal provinces and their catches are mainly skipjack tuna and by catch species such as shark, rays, mackerel, swordfish, etc. Until now, oceanic tuna fisheries are still considered as one of the most significant contribution fisheries in Viet Nam.

## **ANNUAL FISHERIES INFORMATION**

### **A. FLEET STRUCTURE**

Longlines/handline fishery (LL/HL) is the main fishing method used in tuna fisheries and this fishery is highly developed in the central provinces (i.e. Phu Yen, Khanh Hoa and Binh Dinh). There is no LL/HL vessel registered in other provinces. There is a slight down trend on tuna LL/HL vessel number in 2014 comparing to 2013. Total of tuna LL/HL of 2014 is 1,607 vessels (Table 1). All these vessels are registering to fish in the Vietnamese EEZ.

In addition, tuna species can also be caught by purse seine and other fisheries targeting on skipjack tuna and other neritic tuna and bycatch species. In 2014, number of gillnet have keep a stable with a slight change compared to 2013. Total number of gillnet vessels registered in 2014 is 979 vessels focusing on large capacity vessel groups (Table 2). In contrast, there was a significant increase of purse seine vessels in 2014. While there were only more than 500 units of purse seine vessels in 2012, it was increased 1,581 in 2014 (Table 3). However, it is noted that these purse seine vessels are not only targeting on oceanic tuna but many of them are purse seine vessels targeting on small pelagic fishes such as mackerel, anchovy, scad, herring...

*Table 1. Number of tuna longline/handline in Viet Nam by years and capacity*

| <b>GEAR</b>            | <b>TUNA LONGLINE/HANDLINE</b> |             |              |              |              |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Size class (HP)</b> | <b>YEAR</b>                   |             |              |              |              |
|                        | <b>2010</b>                   | <b>2011</b> | <b>2012</b>  | <b>2013</b>  | <b>2014</b>  |
| 50 - 89                | 280                           | 161         | 122          | 7            | 5            |
| 90 - 149               | 99                            | 97          | 513          | 144          | 0            |
| 150 - 249              | 382                           | 326         | 738          | 384          | 165          |
| 250 - 399              | 209                           | 227         | 251          | 663          | 600          |
| > 400                  | 7                             | 54          | 54           | 536          | 667          |
| Unclassified           | -                             | -           | -            | -            | 170          |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>977</b>                    | <b>714</b>  | <b>1,678</b> | <b>1,734</b> | <b>1,607</b> |

*Table 2. Number of gillnet in Viet Nam by years and capacity*

| <b>GEAR</b>            | <b>GILLNET</b> |              |              |             |             |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Size class (HP)</b> | <b>YEAR</b>    |              |              |             |             |
|                        | <b>2010</b>    | <b>2011</b>  | <b>2012</b>  | <b>2013</b> | <b>2014</b> |
| 50 - 89                | 709            | 627          | 605          | 212         | 133         |
| 90 - 149               | 245            | 261          | 200          | 307         | 60          |
| 150 - 249              | 160            | 184          | 174          | 175         | 86          |
| 250 - 399              | 222            | 216          | 204          | 132         | 199         |
| > 400                  | 33             | 24           | 21           | 72          | 261         |
| Unclassified           | -              | -            | -            | -           | 240         |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>1369</b>    | <b>1,312</b> | <b>1,204</b> | <b>898</b>  | <b>979</b>  |

*Table 3. Number of purse seine (daily purse seine) in Viet Nam by years and capacity*

| <b>GEAR</b>            | <b>MARKERAL PURSE SEINE (DAILY PURSE SEINE)</b> |             |             |              |              |
|------------------------|---|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Size class (HP)</b> | <b>YEAR</b>                                     |             |             |              |              |
|                        | <b>2010</b>                                     | <b>2011</b> | <b>2012</b> | <b>2013</b>  | <b>2014</b>  |
| 50 - 89                | 139   | 134         | 136         | 131          | 78           |
| 90 - 149               | 115   | 184         | 194         | 118          | 68           |
| 150 - 249              | 117   | 44          | 56          | 114          | 109          |
| 250 - 399              | 131   | 233         | 206         | 242          | 356          |
| > 400                  | 5   | 20          | 0           | 409          | 726          |
| Unclassified           | -   | -           | -           | -            | 244          |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>507</b>                                      | <b>595</b>  | <b>592</b>  | <b>1,014</b> | <b>1,581</b> |

## **B. ANNUAL TUNA CATCHES IN THE VIET NAM'S EEZ**

Total catches as indicated in this report were derived from vessels fishing in the Viet Nam's EEZ covering in the period of 2014.

Total catch of tuna longline/handline fishery estimated in 2014 in the Viet Nam's EEZ was more than 18,000 MT for all species. Of those, bigeye (BET) and yellowfin (YFT) were about 15,000 MT accounting for approximately 83% in the total catches. There is a slight downtrend in total catch of BET and YFT comparing to 2013 of 16,000 MT. Details of total catch by species of LL/HL fishery from 2008 to 2014 were indicated in the Table 8.

Total catch of purse seine fishery for tuna species in 2014 was 36.646 MT (Table 7). Of those, skipjack (SKJ) is accounting for 78% in total catch of all tuna species (Table 5). Details of total catch by species of purse seine fishery from 2008 to 2014 were indicated in the Table 9.

Total catch of gillnet fishery for tuna species in 2014 was 34,603 MT (Table 7). Of those, skipjack (SKJ) is accounting for 94% in total catch of all tuna species (Table 6). Details of total catch by species of the gillnet fishery from 2008 to 2014 were indicated in the Table 10.

*Table 4: Total tuna catches (MT) in Viet Nam's EEZ estimated for tuna Longline/Handline fishery by provinces and by species*

| <b>Province</b> | <b>BET</b>   | <b>YFT</b>    | <b>SKJ</b> | <b>SWO</b> | <b>BIL</b> | <b>OTHER</b> | <b>Total catch 2014</b> |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| Bình nh         | 1,002        | 4,559         | 0          | 62.8       | 27.3       | 0.4          | 5,653                   |
| Phú Yên         | 448          | 3,580         |            | 371        | 488        | 2450         | 7,337                   |
| Khánh Hòa       | 899          | 3,463         | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0            | 4,362                   |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>2,350</b> | <b>11,603</b> | <b>-</b>   | <b>434</b> | <b>515</b> | <b>2.450</b> | <b>17,352</b>           |

*Table 5: Total tuna catches (MT) in Viet Nam's EEZ estimated for tuna purse seine fishery by provinces and by species*

| <b>Province</b> | <b>BET</b>   | <b>YFT</b>   | <b>SKJ</b>    | <b>SWO</b> | <b>BIL</b>   | <b>OTHER</b>  | <b>Total catch 2014</b> |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| à N ng          | 450          | 910          | 2,250         |            |              | 3,590         | 7,200                   |
| Qu ng Nam       | 128          | 418          | 1,729         | -          | -            | 1,624         | 3,900                   |
| Qu ng Ngãi      | 38           | 38           | 992           | -          | 19           | 151           | 1,237                   |
| Ninh Thu n      |              |              |               |            |              |               | -                       |
| Bình Thu n      | -            | 1,385        | 5,484         | -          | -            | 7,631         | 14,500                  |
| V ng Tàu        | 640          | 850          | 2,900         |            |              | 9,500         | 13,890                  |
| Bình nh         | 316          | 627          | 8,613         |            | 1            | 4,102         | 13,659                  |
| Phú Yên         | 1            | 1            | 3,800         |            | 1,800        | 4,600         | 10,202                  |
| Khánh Hòa       |              |              | 1,716         |            |              |               | 1,716                   |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>1,572</b> | <b>4,229</b> | <b>27,485</b> | <b>-</b>   | <b>1,820</b> | <b>31,198</b> | <b>66,303</b>           |

Table 6: Total tuna catches (MT) in Viet Nam's EEZ estimated for gillnet fishery by provinces and by species

| Province     | BET        | YFT        | SKJ           | SWO          | BIL          | OTH-ER       | Total catch 2014 |
|--------------|------------|------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| à N ng       | 100        | 160        | 2,050         | 212          | 305          | 2,483        | 5,310            |
| Qu ng Nam    |            |            |               |              |              |              | -                |
| Qu ng Ngãi   | -          | -          | 463           | -            | 15           | 94           | 571              |
| Ninh Thu n   |            |            | 2,160         |              | 128          | 537          | 2,826            |
| Bình Thu n   | -          | -          | 302           | -            | -            | 1,048        | 1,351            |
| V ng Tàu     | 500        |            | 13,500        | 650          | 650          | 1,500        | 16,800           |
| Bình nh      | 0          | 1          | 10            |              | 0            | 11           | 23               |
| Phú Yên      |            |            | 1,400         |              | 110          | 1,100        | 2,610            |
| Khánh Hòa    | 41         | 12         | 12,904        | 1,153        | 528          | 2,413        | 17,051           |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>641</b> | <b>173</b> | <b>32,789</b> | <b>2,015</b> | <b>1,736</b> | <b>9,187</b> | <b>46,541</b>    |

Table 7: Total catches (MT) of tuna in Viet Nam's EEZ by gears and by species

| Gear type         | BET          | YFT           | SKJ           | Total         |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Gillnet           | 641          | 173           | 32.789        | 33.603        |
| Purse seine       | 1.572        | 4.229         | 27.485        | 33.286        |
| Longline/Handline | 2.350        | 11.603        | -             | 13.952        |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>4.563</b> | <b>16.004</b> | <b>60.274</b> | <b>80.841</b> |

Table 8: Total tuna catches (MT) in Viet Nam's EEZ estimated for tuna Longline/Handline fishery by species from 2008 - 2014.

| Year | ALB | BET  | SKJ | YFT   | MLS | SWO |
|------|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|-----|
| 2008 | 15  | 3358 | 0   | 10375 | 0   | 375 |
| 2009 | 13  | 2992 | 0   | 9244  | 0   | 334 |
| 2010 | 4   | 2441 | 0   | 9513  | 0   | 820 |
| 2011 | 15  | 3424 | 0   | 10576 | 0   | 382 |
| 2012 | 15  | 3761 | 0   | 12456 | 0   | 372 |
| 2013 | 251 | 2260 | 0   | 13917 | 0   | 388 |
| 2014 | N/A | 2350 | 0   | 11603 | 515 | 434 |

*Table 9: Total tuna catches (MT) in Viet Nam's EEZ estimated for tuna purse seine fishery by species from 2008 - 2014.*

| <b>Year</b> | <b>BET</b> | <b>SKJ</b> | <b>YFT</b> | <b>MLS</b> | <b>SWO</b> |
|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 2008        | 456        | 17,100     | 5,244      | 0          | 0          |
| 2009        | 345        | 12,926     | 3,964      | 0          | 0          |
| 2010        | 325        | 12,190     | 3,738      | 0          | 0          |
| 2011        | 688        | 18,350     | 3,899      | 0          | 0          |
| 2012        | 965        | 22,638     | 3,336      | 0          | 0          |
| 2013        | 805        | 18,895     | 2,784      | 0          | 0          |
| 2014        | 1,572      | 27,485     | 4,229      | 0          | 0          |

*Table 10: Total tuna catches (MT) in Viet Nam's EEZ estimated for tuna gillnet fishery by species from 2008 - 2014.*

| <b>Year</b> | <b>BET</b> | <b>SKJ</b> | <b>YFT</b> | <b>SWO</b> |
|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 2008        | 641        | 11779      | 935        | 0          |
| 2009        | 708        | 13016      | 1033       | 0          |
| 2010        | 646        | 11866      | 942        | 0          |
| 2011        | 606        | 11142      | 884        | 0          |
| 2012        | 363        | 20998      | 1024       | 1259       |
| 2013        | 400        | 36496      | 2823       | 2189       |
| 2014        | 641        | 32789      | 173        | 2015       |

### **C. COASTAL STATE REPORTING**

There is currently no foreign fishing vessels licensed to operate in the Vietnamese waters. There is only some carrier vessels licensed to purchase fisheries products from Aquaculture operating in Viet Nam.

### **D. OTHER INFORMATION**

#### **1. West Pacific East Asian Oceanic Fisheries Management project**

The WPEA OFM Project, funded by the GEF and several co-financing partners, is executed by UNOPS and WCPFC. It is aimed at building capacity in Indonesia, Philippines and Viet Nam to fully engage in regional initiatives to conserve and manage fisheries for highly migratory fish stocks, by addressing tuna catch data gaps in the tuna fisheries of the WCPO, and by addressing compliance shortfalls through reforming policy, legal and institutional arrangements as per the various requirements of the WCPFC. In 2014, WCPFC continued to fund for data collection activities at 9 provinces covering Viet Nam's tuna catch of long-line/handline, purse seine and other gears. Number of biological and landing samples collected under this project was indicated in the following tables:



*Table 11: Number of samples collected under WPEA project in three main provinces*

| <b>Province</b> | <b>Gear</b>        | <b>Unloading</b> | <b>Port sampling</b> | <b>Unloading samples</b> | <b>Log-book</b> |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Khanh Hoa       | Purse seine        | 137              | 33                   | 57                       | 128             |
|                 | Long-line/Handline | 1,845            | 360                  | 1,430                    | 1,135           |
|                 | Other gears        | 1,603            | 312                  | 1,317                    | 137             |
| Phu Yen         | Purse seine        | 73               | 33                   | 73                       |                 |
|                 | Long-line/Handline | 719              | 152                  | 377                      |                 |
|                 | Other gears        | 55               | 23                   | 55                       |                 |
| Binh Dinh       | Purse seine        | 1,817            | 230                  | 1,161                    | 844             |
|                 | Long-line/Handline | 3,557            | 243                  | 1,547                    | 1,620           |
|                 | Other gears        | 71               |                      | 58                       |                 |
| <b>Total</b>    |                    | <b>9,877</b>     | <b>1,386</b>         | <b>6,075</b>             | <b>3,864</b>    |

*Table 12: Number of samples collected under WPEA project in the rest provinces*

| <b>Province</b>    | <b>Unloading</b> | <b>Port sampling</b> | <b>Unloading samples</b> |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Ba Ria VT          | 1,763            | 160                  | 1,000                    |
| Binh Thuan         | 2,078            | 150                  | 992                      |
| Da Nang            | 3,823            | 150                  | 1,000                    |
| Ninh Thuan         | 1,358            | 299                  | 1,270                    |
| Quang Nam          | 875              | 146                  | 787                      |
| Quang Ngai         | 389              | 138                  | 389                      |
| <b>Grand Total</b> | <b>10,286</b>    | <b>1,043</b>         | <b>5,438</b>             |

## **2. National programs**

In 2014, there has been a large improvement on tuna fisheries management in Viet Nam. A National program was approved by Minister of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development by Decision No. 3465/QD-BNN-TCTS dated on August 8<sup>th</sup> 2014 to reorganize tuna fisheries in Viet Nam. The main aims of this program were to develop tuna fisheries by management activities following tuna fisheries supply chain to improve tuna product quality and to balance benefit of all relevant stakeholders. Under this program, there is also an intention to reorganize tuna fishing activities using fishing fleets operating in same areas so that they can support each other for logistic matters.

### **3. MSC Pre-Assessment and tuna fisheries improvement program (FIP) for the Viet Nam's handline/longline fishery**

A Fisheries Improvement Project (FIP) has been started to implement in Viet Nam in 2014 focusing on oceanic tuna fisheries only. In 2012, the tuna stakeholders had agreed on developing and implementing the FIP in order to obtain an eco-labeling Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). Four steps are covered in the progress: (i) conducting rapid/pre-assessment based on MSC standard, (ii) FIP scoping, (iii) FIP stakeholder workshop and work plan development and (iv) FIP implementation. The 4<sup>th</sup> step, FIP implementation, started from 2014 and expected to be completed in 2018.

- 1) In 2012, a MSC pre-assessment on LL and HL for oceanic tuna, including YFT and BET was conducted. It includes: 1) stock status, 2) impacts of fisheries on bycatch and ecosystem, and 3) management system, which is the three principles for MSC standards.
- 2) From that pre-assessment, in 2013, Viet Nam initiated to develop FIP Action plan to help LL and HL fisheries to meet MSC standards, and start implementing FIP action plan from 2014:
  - FIP is a five year plan program (2014-2018) implemented by the partnership among Directorate of Fisheries, Viet Nam tuna fisheries association (VINATUNA) and WWF- Viet Nam with support from WWF-Coral Triangle, Tuna industries.
  - Stakeholders include government (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development), local authorities of provinces (3 key tuna provinces), VINATUNA, Research Institute and fishing industries (tuna fishermen, tuna processors and exporters).
  - FIP action plans focus on 3 component following 3 principles of MSC standard: stock status, ecosystem approach and bycatch mitigation, management system of the tuna LL and HL fishery. In 2014, Action plan of the FIP has been implemented with priority activities considering data collection for statistics, securing commitment from stakeholders and industries, ecosystem and bycatch mitigation measures in tuna handline/longline fishery (1 observer training conducted in Dec 2014 and 9 observer trips deployed in Jan 2015).

### **4. Socio-economic factors**

In 2014, Vietnamese tuna exports reduced about 8.06 percent comparing to 2013. This was a challenge for the tuna industry of Viet Nam. This decline was due to reduction of fresh/frozen tuna (HS 03) with declined rate was 45.63% compared

to 2013 (Table 13). Although there was a large increase on HS 0304 (+17.83) but this was not enough to contribute for a general downtrend of exported values on tuna products of Viet Nam in 2014.

*Table 13. Exported value of Viet Nam's tuna products in 2014 (million USD)*

| <b>Product code</b>   | <b>Value (USD)</b> | <b>Percentage (%)</b> | <b>Increased rate to 2013</b> |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| HS code 03  | 251,944,395        | 52.03                 | -7.38                         |
| Fresh /frozen/dried tuna belonging to HS03 (exclusive HS0304) | 58,764,847         |                       | -45.63                        |
| Tuna (HS0304)   | 193,179,548        |                       | +17.83                        |
| Processed tuna HS16   | 232,290,169        | 47.97                 | -8.79                         |
| Canned tuna (HS16)  | 177,017,676        |                       | -11.28                        |
| Other processed tuna (HS16)                                   | 55,272,492         |                       | +0.23                         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>484,234,564</b> | <b>100.00</b>         | <b>-8.06</b>                  |

## 5. Disposal of catch

In 2014, Viet Nam's tuna products were shipped to many foreign markets. The U.S., the EU, Japan, ASEAN, Israel, Tunisia, Canada and Mexico were the main markets for Vietnamese tuna products, accounting for a large percent of total tuna export value (Table 14).

*Table 14. Disposal of tuna catch of Viet Nam in 2014 (thousand USD)*

| <b>Markets</b>         | <b>Q I/2014</b> | <b>Q II/2014</b> | <b>Q III/2014</b> | <b>Q IV/2014</b> | <b>Total 2014</b> | <b>% compared to 2013</b> |
|------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| US                     | 38,557          | 46,453           | 43,125            | 47,082           | 175,217           | -6.5                      |
| EU                     | 33,430          | 35,964           | 31,128            | 34,693           | 135,215           | -3.9                      |
| <i>Germany</i>         | <i>9,868</i>    | <i>10,531</i>    | <i>7,910</i>      | <i>9,416</i>     | <i>37,725</i>     | <i>-12.1</i>              |
| <i>Italia</i>          | <i>6,151</i>    | <i>6,626</i>     | <i>2,880</i>      | <i>4,902</i>     | <i>20,559</i>     | <i>-22.6</i>              |
| <i>The Netherlands</i> | <i>6,418</i>    | <i>5,508</i>     | <i>2,511</i>      | <i>2,131</i>     | <i>16,567</i>     | <i>+64.8</i>              |
| Asean                  | 6,661           | 7,195            | 11,875            | 9,254            | 34,985            | -1.5                      |
| <i>Thailand</i>        | <i>5,293</i>    | <i>5,419</i>     | <i>8,770</i>      | <i>7,581</i>     | <i>27,063</i>     | <i>+8.1</i>               |
| Japan                  | 7,050           | 6,575            | 5,170             | 3,768            | 22,564            | -46.3                     |
| Israel                 | 7,205           | 6,410            | 4,323             | 2,933            | 20,872            | +16.6                     |
| Canada                 | 2,376           | 4,257            | 2,364             | 2,960            | 11,958            | +15.7                     |
| Tunisia                | 1,471           | 4,045            | 0,760             | 0,795            | 7,072             | -33.2                     |
| Mexico                 | 0,908           | 0,938            | 1,405             | 1,684            | 4,935             | -33.2                     |
| Other                  | 16,932          | 17,890           | 18,492            | 18,103           | 71,417            | -4.5                      |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>114,591</b>  | <b>129,727</b>   | <b>118,644</b>    | <b>121,273</b>   | <b>484,235</b>    | <b>-8.1</b>               |

## 6. Length frequency data of tuna species collected by port sampling data

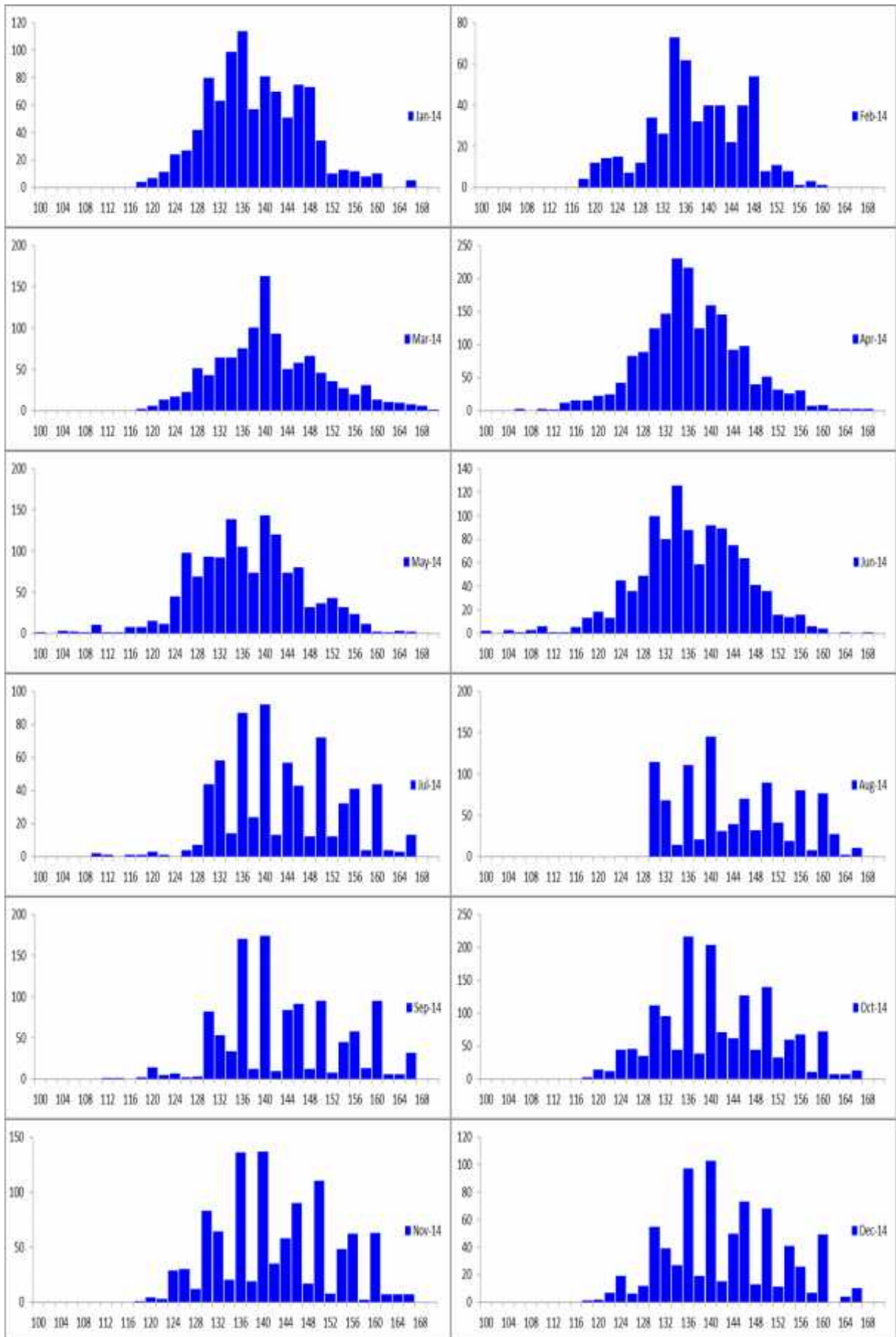


Figure 1. Yellowfin tuna length frequency data of longline fishery collected in 2014.

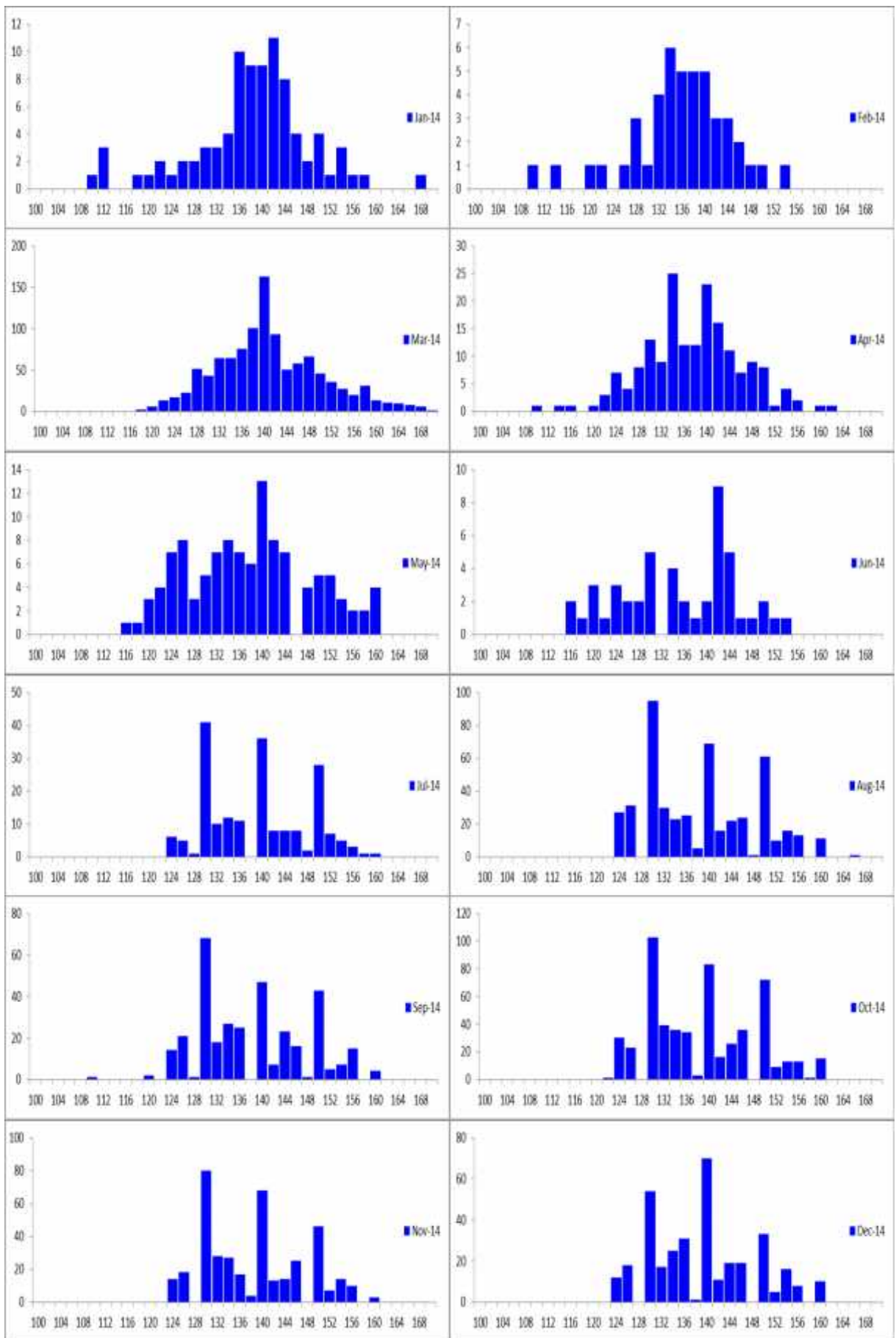


Figure 2. Bigeye tuna length frequency data of longline fishery collected in 2014.

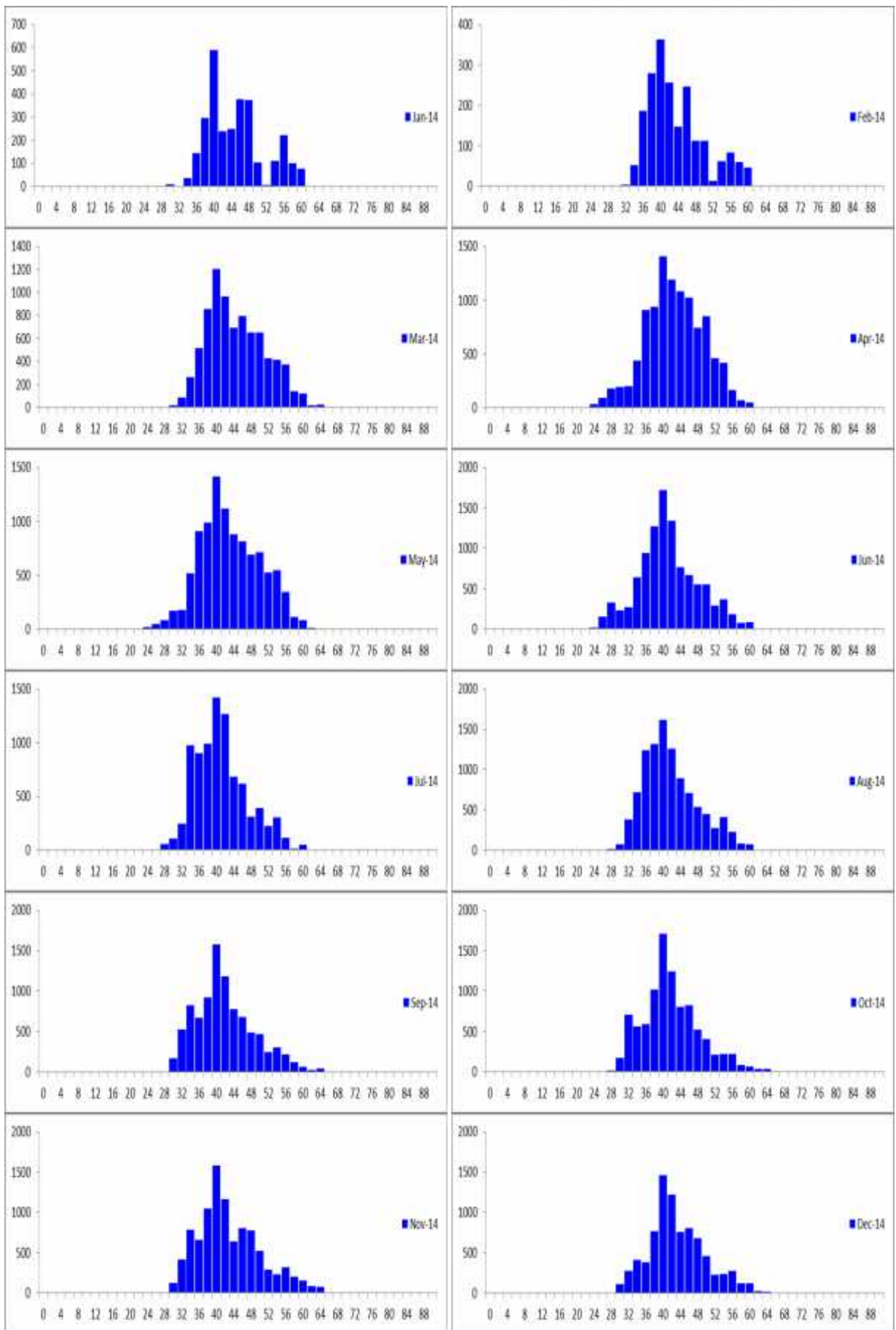


Figure 3. Skipjack tuna length frequency data of gillnet fishery collected in 2014.