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PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH, AND STATISTICS

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VIETNAM

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

PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

2015

VIET NAM's ANNUAL FISHERY REPORT

DIRECTORATE OF FISHERIES
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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, 2016	Yes
If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions:	

CONTENTS

SUMMARIES

In 2015, total fishing vessel of three main fisheries targeting on oceanic tuna species are unchanged with 1,755 longliner/handliner, 973 gillnetters and 1,461 purse seiners. However, fishing structure of tuna fisheries in Viet Nam is slight changed with more compensation of vessel larger groups. It is noted that all tuna fisheries vessels are now operating in Vietnamese EEZ.

Total tuna catch caught in Vietnamese EEZ in 2015 was 105.597 for three gear types. Of those, skipjack tuna contributed of 76.275 MT (72.2), 24.918 MT of yellowfin tuna (23.6%) and 4.405 MT of bigeye tuna (4.2%).

In general, Viet Nam leaded by Directorate of Fisheries and other concerned agencies together with other tuna fisheries stakeholders is attempting to improve its tuna fisheries management system such as establishing and implementing tuna data collection and to strengthen its national capacity and international cooperation particularly on various transboundary concerns in relation to the sustainable conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks. It is noted that a tuna fisheries management plan was officially approved by a ministerial decision No 3562/BNN-TCTS dated on 01 September 2015 by the Minister of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Implementation of this tuna fisheries management plan can significantly improve tuna fisheries management system for better compliance with WCPFC's requirements.

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 a fluctuation trend of tuna LL/HL vessel number between 2012 and 2015 (***Table 1***). The change is about 100 vessels within a year. Total of tuna LL/HL of 2015 is 1,755 vessels (***Table 1***). However, vessels classified at high engine capacity of tuna LL/HL vessels are increasing. All these vessels are registering to fish in the Vietnamese EEZ.

There is also gillnet and purse seine fleets catching tuna and other pelagic species in Viet Nam. In 2015, number of gillnet have keep a stable with a slight change compared to 2013 and 2014. Total number of gillnet vessels registered in 2015 is 973 vessels (***Table 2***). Similarly, purse seine fisheries are unchanged in total number of fishing vessels. After a significant increase of purse seine vessels in 2014 and reached 1,581 in 2014, the purse seine vessels in 2015 decreased about 100 units with total of 1,461 vessels (***Table 3***). Fishing fleet structure of purse seiner are also not changed between two recent years with total more than 700 units classified to vessel group higher than 400 horse power in capacity (***Table 3***).

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

GEAR	**TUNA LONGLINE/HANDLINE**					
Size class (HP)	**YEAR**					
	2010	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**
50 - 89	280	161	122	7	5	1
90 - 149	99	97	513	144	0	8
150 - 249	382	326	738	384	165	102
250 - 399	209	227	251	663	600	533
> 400	7	54	54	536	667	1,111
Unclassified	-	-	-	-	170	-
Total	**977**	**714**	**1,678**	**1,734**	**1,607**	**1,755**

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

Size class (HP)	**YEAR**					
	2010	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**
50 - 89	709	627	605	212	133	125
90 - 149	245	261	200	307	60	60
150 - 249	160	184	174	175	86	93
250 - 399	222	216	204	132	199	281
> 400	33	24	21	72	261	414
Unclassified	-	-	-	-	240	-
Total	**1369**	**1,312**	**1,204**	**898**	**979**	**973**

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

Size class (HP)	**YEAR**					
	2010	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**
50 - 89	139	134	136	131	78	64
90 - 149	115	184	194	118	68	73
150 - 249	117	44	56	114	109	138
250 - 399	131	233	206	242	356	456
> 400	5	20	0	409	726	730
Unclassified	-	-	-	-	244	-
Total	**507**	**595**	**592**	**1,014**	**1,581**	**1,461**

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 2015. Total catch of tuna longline/handline fishery estimated in 2015 in the Viet Nam's EEZ was about 20,000 MT for tuna species (***Table 4***). Of those, big-eye (BET) contributed about 2000 MT (accounting for 10% in total tuna catch) and about 80% of yellowfin (YFT). Details of total catch by species of longline/handline fishery from 2008 to 2015 were indicated in the Table 10.

Total catch of tuna species caught by gillnet fleet 39,902 MT with mainly contributed by skip-jack tuna (SKJ) with more than 38,000 MT of SKJ (***Table 5***). Bigeye and yellowfin tuna in total catch of gillnet fleets is not significant in 2015. Details of total catch by species of gillnet fishery from 2008 to 2015 were indicated in the ***Table 11***.

Total catch of purse seine fishery for tuna species in 2015 was 45.810 MT (***Table 6***). Of those, skipjack (SKJ) is accounting for 81% in total catch of all tuna species with 37,454 MT (***Table 6***). Yellowfin and bigeye are contributing for about 14 and 4%, respectively (Table 6) with total catch of YFT and BET of 6,431 and 1,925. Details of total catch by species of purse seine fishery from 2008 to 2015 were indicated in the ***Table 12***.

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

Province	**Bigeye**	**Yellowfin**	**Total tuna catch**
Binh Dinh	747	10,270	11,017
Phu Yen	459	3,841	4,300
Khanh Hoa	820	3,748	4,568
Total tuna catch	**2,026**	**17,859**	**19,885**

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

Province	**Bigeye**	**Yellowfin**	**Skipjack**	**Total tuna catch**
Da Nang	222	317	5,040	5,578
Quang Nam	-	-	-	-
Quang Ngai	102	128	1,991	2,221
Ninh Thuan	-	-	1,782	1,782
Binh Thuan	-	1	337	338
Ba Ria Vung Tau	129	181	12,853	13,163
Binh Dinh		1	8	9
Phu Yen	-	-	1,000	1,000
Khanh Hoa	-	-	15,810	15,810
Total tuna catch	**453**	**628**	**38,821**	**39,902**

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

Province	**Bigeye**	**Yellowfin**	**Skipjack**	**Total tuna catch**
Da Nang	910	910	9,360	11,181
Quang Nam	474	965	3,602	5,041

Quang Ngai	12	18	495	526
Ninh Thuan	51	88	749	887
Binh Thuan	6	1,933	4,907	6,846
Ba Ria Vung Tau	-	1,625	5,388	7,012
Binh Dinh	435	811	8,537	9,783
Phu Yen	5	8	2,000	2,013
Khanh Hoa	32	72	2,417	2,521
Total tuna catch	**1,925**	**6,431**	**37,454**	**45,810**

Table 7: Total catches (MT) of some main species in gillnet fishery by provinces

Province	**BUM**	**MLS**	**SHK**	**SWO**	**WAH**	**All tuna**	**Other**	**Total**
Da Nang	319	167	73	203	359	5,578	5,187	11,886
Quang Nam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Quang Ngai	78	41	18	50	88	2,221	425	2,921
Ninh Thuan	70	37	16	44	79	1,782	582	2,611
Binh Thuan	22	11	5	14	24	338	397	811
Ba Ria VT	691	360	158	438	776	13,163	10,118	25,704
Binh Dinh	1	0	0	0	1	9	11	22
Phu Yen	35	18	8	22	40	1,000	191	1315
Khanh Hoa	902	471	207	1,594	1,014	15,810	13,592	33,590
Total	**2,119**	**1,106**	**485**	**2,366**	**2,380**	**39,902**	**30,503**	**78,860**

Table 8: Total catches (MT) of some main species in purse seine fishery by provinces

Province	**FRI**	**BUM**	**MLS**	**SHK**	**SWO**	**WAH**	**All tuna**	**Other**	**Total**
Da Nang	1,557	19	5	2	5	475	11,181	3,003	16,246
Quang Nam	953	12	3	1	3	291	5,041	3,646	9,950
Quang Ngai	75	1	0	0	0	23	526	157	783
Ninh Thuan	124	2	0	0	0	38	887	240	1,291
Binh Thuan	954	12	3	1	3	291	6,846	1,850	9,960
Ba Ria - VT	978	12	3	1	3	298	7,012	1,895	10,203
Binh Dinh	1,175	14	4	1	4	359	9,783	924	12,263
Phu Yen	258	3	1	0	1	79	2,013	340	2,695
Khanh Hoa	323	4	1	0	1	99	2,521	425	3,375
Total	**6,397**	**78**	**20**	**7**	**20**	**1,952**	**45,810**	**12,481**	**66,766**

Table 9: Summaries of total tuna catches (MT) caught in Viet Nam's EEZ for three fisheries in 2015

Gear	**Total tuna catch in 2015**			
	Bigeye	**Yellowfin**	**Skipjack**	**Total**
Gillnet	453	628	38.821	39.902
Purse seine	1.925	6.431	37.454	45.810
Longline/Handline	2.026	17.859	-	19.885
Total	**4.405**	**24.918**	**76.275**	**105.597**

Table 10: Total tuna catches (MT) in Vietnam's EEZ estimated for tuna longline/handline fishery by species from 2008 - 2015.

Year	ALB	BET	SKJ	YFT	MLS	SWO
2008	15	3,358	0	10,375	0	375
2009	13	2,992	0	9,244	0	334
2010	4	2,441	0	9,513	0	820
2011	15	3,424	0	10,576	0	382
2012	15	3,761	0	12,456	0	372
2013	251	2,260	0	13,917	0	388
2014	N/A	2,350	0	11,603	515	434
2015	N/A	2,026	0	17,859	1,225	250

Table 11: Total tuna catches (MT) in Vietnam's EEZ estimated for tuna gillnet fishery by species from 2008 - 2015.

Year	BET	SKJ	YFT	SWO
2008	641	11,779	935	0
2009	708	13,016	1,033	0
2010	646	11,866	942	0
2011	606	11,142	884	0
2012	363	20,998	1,024	1,259
2013	400	36,496	2,823	2,189
2014	641	32,789	173	2,015
2015	453	38,821	628	2,366

Table 12: Total tuna catches (MT) in Vietnam's EEZ estimated for tuna purse seine fishery by species from 2008 - 2015.

Year	BET	SKJ	YFT	MLS	SWO
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
2015	1,925	37,454	6,431	20	20

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

In 2015, the Project funded by Global Environment Facilities executed by WCPFC was run

into the second phase. Therefore, some administrative procedures at national and regional must be implemented to continue the second phase of the project. In Viet Nam, there was some delays in completing administrative procedures and thus in the six months of early 2015, there were not any activities conducted even though budget of the project were available. Up to the end of 2015 (July to December 2015), the administrative procedures were completed and project activities were continued accordingly. Similar with the first phase of the project, the second phase project 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 addition ecosystem approach and climate issues were also included in the second phase project. Therefore, in 2015, the project continued to fund for data collection activities at provinces covering Viet Nam's tuna catch of longline/handline, purse seine and other gears. Number of samples collected under this project was indicated in the following tables:

Table 13: Number of samples collected under WPEA project for longliner/handline

Province	Total unloading	Total unloading samples	Port sampling
Binh Dinh	3,351	999	180
Khanh Hoa	2.269	1,375	360
Total	**3,353**	**2,374**	**540**

Table 14: Number of samples collected under WPEA project for gillnet fleet

Province	Total unloading	Total unloading samples	Port sampling
Da Nang	2710	342	46
Quang Nam	611	375	78
Quang Ngai	151	151	54
Ninh Thuan	756	417	90
Binh Thuan		144	18
Khanh Hoa	**2.095**	1,596	324
Total	**6,587**	**2,995**	**610**

Table 15: Number of samples collected under WPEA project for purse seiners

Province	Total unloading	Total unloading samples	Port sampling
Da Nang	2763	258	44
Quang Nam	611	375	78
Quang Ngai	108	59	36
Ninh Thuan	579	217	56
Binh Thuan		480	72
Binh Dinh	1079	698	126
Khanh Hoa	207	173	36
Total	**6,439**	**2,260**	**448**

2. National programs

In 2015, a national program which was approved by Minister of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development by Decision No. 3465/QD-BNN-TCTS was continued to implement 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 reorgan-

ize tuna fishing activities using fishing fleets operating in same areas so that they can support each other for logistic matters.
In 2015, a national project was conducted to collect all fisheries data including tuna fisheries data. The project initially provides and support scientific data to conduct national stock assessments. Importantly, tuna catch data estimated in this report were partly used outcomes from this project.

In addition, Viet Nam was officially endorsed and implemented a national plan of action to protect sea turtle by Decision No 811 /QĐ-BNN-TCTS on 14 March 2016. The main aim of this NPOA is to manage and protect effectively and sustainably sea turtle stocks including their habitats. The plan will be implemented from 2016 to 2020.

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 continued to implement in Viet Nam in 2015. The FIP is focusing on only oceanic tuna longline/handline fisheries. Historically, 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 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 2015, following an action plan of the FIP, a scientist was sent to participate the scientific committee (SC10) and some observer trips were conducted. In addition, several stakeholder meeting were convened to enhance roles of relevant agencies/stakeholders to work together on tuna fisheries management.

4. Socio-economic factors

In 2015, Vietnamese tuna exports reduced about 6% percent in value comparing to 2014. This was a challenge for the tuna industry of Viet Nam. This declining trend was due to reduction of canned tuna (HS 16) with declined rate was 15% compared to 2014 (Table 16). Although there was an increase on other processed tuna (+5.8%) but this was not enough to contribute for a general downtrend of exported values on tuna products of Viet Nam in 2015.

Table 16. Exported value of Viet Nam's tuna products in 2015 (USD)

Product code	**2014**	**2015**	**Compared with 2014 (%)**
Tuna HS code 16 (1)	**232,290,169**	**208,849,526**	**-10.1**
Canned tuna (HS code 16)	177,017,676	150,398,750	-15.0
Other processed tuna (HS code 16)	55,272,492	58,450,776	5.8

Tuna HS code 03 (2)	**251,944,395**	**246,122,926**	**-2.3**
Live /fresh/frozen/dried tuna (HS code 03) (ex. tuna HS code 0304)	58,764,847	43,185,413	-26.5
Tuna HS code 0304 (ex. surimi)	193,179,548	202,937,513	5.1
Total tuna (1 + 2)	**484,234,564**	**454,972,451**	**-6.0**

5. Disposal of catch

In 2015, Viet Nam's tuna products were shipped to 107 foreign markets. The U.S., the EU, Japan, ASEAN, was the main markets for Vietnamese tuna products, accounting for a large percent of total tuna export value (Table 17).

Table 17. Vietnamese tuna exports to markets in 2015 (thousand USD)

Markets	Total value in 2015	% change
The US	190,164	+ 8.5
The EU	97,375	-28.0
ASEAN	38,366	+ 9.7
Thailand	25,694	-5.1
Japan	20,426	-9.5
Israel	17,349	-16.9
Canada	9,931	-17.0
Mexico	9,390	+ 90.3
Russia	5,332	+ 29.7
Others	66,639	-10.4
Total	**454,972**	**-6.0**