



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
THIRTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

**Rarotonga, Cook Islands
9 – 17 August 2017**

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

WCPFC-SC13-AR/CNM-36

VIETNAM

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

PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

2016

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, 2017	Yes
If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions:	

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SUMMARIES

In 2016, total fishing vessel of three main fisheries targeting on oceanic tuna species are unchanged with 1,677 longliner/handliner, 1,003 gillnetters and 1,459 purse seiners. However, fishing structure of tuna fisheries in Viet Nam is slight changed with more compensation of vessel larger groups. However, current fishing effort of Vietnamese tuna fleets is still below the maximum sustainable yield. It is noted that all tuna fisheries vessels are now operating in Vietnamese EEZ.

Total tuna catch caught in Vietnamese EEZ in 2016 was 123,000 MT for three gear types which is still below the maximum sustainable yield of more than 200,000 MT. Of those, skipjack tuna contributed 93,561 MT (76.02%), 23,811 MT of yellowfin tuna (19.35%) and 5,704 MT of bigeye tuna (4.63%).

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 management 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 the tuna fisheries management plan 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 are still being implementing in 2016. Implementation of this tuna fisheries management plan can significantly improve tuna fisheries management system for more 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 fisheries (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). In general, there was a stable trend on tuna LL/HL vessel number between 2012 and 2016 (*Table 1*). Number of LL/HL vessel in 2016 decreased 78 individuals compared to 2015 (*Table 1*). Total of tuna LL/HL of 2016 was 1,677 vessels (*Table 1*). All LL/HL vessels were registered and authorized to fish in the Vietnamese EEZ.

In 2016, number of gillnetter slightly increased (30 vessels) compared to a stable trend between 2013 and 2015 (*Table 2*). Total number of gillnet vessels registered in 2016 was 1,003 vessels (*Table 2*). However, it was noted that there may be mixing between coastal gillnetters targeting on small pelagic fishes and neritic tuna with offshore gillnetters targeting on oceanic tuna in registration system. Therefore, some of the coastal gillnetters may be counted as the offshore gillnetters.

Number of purse seiners targeting on oceanic tuna were unchanged in 2015 and 2016. After a significant increase of purse seine vessels in 2014 and reached 1,581 in 2014, the purse seine vessels decreased more than 100 vessels with a total of 1,461 and 1,459 vessels in 2015 and 2016, respectively (*Table 3*).

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

Size class (HP)	YEAR						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
50 - 89	280	161	122	7	5	1	0
90 - 149	99	97	513	144	0	8	9
150 - 249	382	326	738	384	165	102	90
250 - 399	209	227	251	663	600	533	405
> 400	7	54	54	536	667	1,111	1,173
Unclassified	-	-	-	-	170	-	
Total	977	714	1,678	1,734	1,607	1,755	1,677

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

Size class (HP)	YEAR						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
50 - 89	709	627	605	212	133	125	94
90 - 149	245	261	200	307	60	60	53
150 - 249	160	184	174	175	86	93	85
250 - 399	222	216	204	132	199	281	273
> 400	33	24	21	72	261	414	498
Unclassified	-	-	-	-	240	-	
Total	1369	1,312	1,204	898	979	973	1,003

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	2016
50 - 89	139	134	136	131	78	64	59
90 - 149	115	184	194	118	68	73	58
150 - 249	117	44	56	114	109	138	127
250 - 399	131	233	206	242	356	456	404
> 400	5	20	0	409	726	730	811
Unclassified	-	-	-	-	244	-	
Total	507	595	592	1,014	1,581	1,461	1,459

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

Total catches of all gear types indicated in this report were derived from vessels fishing in the Viet Nam's EEZ covering in the period of 2016. It is also noted that total catch indicated in this report was only derived from total landings at 9 coastal provinces namely Binh Dinh, Phu Yen, Khanh Hoa, Da Nang, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Ninh Thuan, Binh Thuan and Ba Ria - Vung Tau.

Total catch of tuna longline/handline fishery estimated in 2016 in the Viet Nam's EEZ was about 17,500 MT for tuna species including bigeye (BET) and yellowfin (YFT) tuna (**Error! Reference source not found.**). There was about 18% reduction of total tuna catch in 2016 compared to 2015. Of those, BET contributed a significant reduction (about 45% reduction) between 2015 and 2016 with total catch of BET of about 1,115 MT (accounting for 6% in total tuna catch). It was noted that there was a large reduction of total BET catch in 2015 compared to 2016. This can be explained that there were many fishing fleets shifting from longline to handline fishery in 2016 and HL vessel to be set in the shallower water areas and thus catching less BET. In addition, using handline can also reduce a large amount of bycatch comparing to longline vessels. Total catch of YFT in 2016 of 16,400 MT with a reduction of 8% comparing to 2015. Details of total catch by species of longline/handline fishery from 2010 to 2016 were indicated in the *Table 5* and *Table 6*.

Total catch of tuna species caught by gillnet fleet 47,439 MT with mainly contributed by skipjack tuna (SKJ) with approximately 45,000 MT of SKJ (*Table 7*). Bigeye and yellowfin tuna in total catch of gillnet fleets considered as bycatch is not significant in 2016 with more than 2,000 MT. Details of total catch by species of gillnet fishery from 2010 to 2016 were indicated in the *Table 7* and *Table 8*.

Total catch of purse seine fishery for tuna species in 2015 was 59,000 MT (*Table 9*). Of those, skipjack (SKJ) was accounting for 84% in total catch of all tuna species with 48,564 MT (*Table 9*). Yellowfin and bigeye were contributing for 11 and 5%, respectively (*Table 9*) with total catch of YFT and BET of 6,617 and 2,918, respectively. Details of total catch by species of purse seine fishery from 2010 to 2016 were indicated in the *Table 9*.

Table 4: Summaries of total tuna catches (MT) caught in Viet Nam's EEZ for three fisheries in 2016

Gear	Total tuna catch in 2016			
	Bigeye	Yellowfin	Skipjack	Total
Gillnet	1,671	771	44,997	47,439
Purse seine	2,918	6,617	48,564	58,099
Longline/Handline	1,115	16,423	N/A	17,538
Total	5,704	23,811	93,561	123,076
Proportion (%)	4.63	19.35	76.02	100

Table 5: Total tuna catches (MT) in Vietnam's EEZ estimated for tuna longline/handline fishery by species from 2010 - 2016.

Year	Yellowfin	%	Bigeye	%	Albacore	%	Total tuna
2010	9,513	74%	2,441	19%	4	0%	11,958
2011	9,031	70%	2,923	23%	13	0%	11,967
2012	12,456	74%	3,761	22%	13	0%	16,230
2013	13,917	71%	2,260	12%	251	1%	16,428
2014	11,603	71%	2,350	12%	0	1%	13,953
2015	17,859	71%	2,026	12%	0	1%	19,885
2016	16,423	71%	1,115	12%	0	1%	17,538

Table 6: Estimation of some bycatches (MT) in Vietnam's EEZ estimated for tuna longline/handline fishery by species from 2010 - 2016.

Year	Estimated Billfish Catch							
	Blue Marlin	%	Black Marlin	%	Striped Marlin	%	Swordfish	%
2010	418	3%	196	2%	0	0%	326	3%
2011	418	3%	196	2%	0	0%	326	3%
2012	130	1%	146	1%	0	0%	372	2%
2013	384	2%	385	2%	0	0%	388	2%
2014	384	2%	385	2%	515	0%	434	2%
2015	384	2%	385	2%	515	0%	434	2%
2016	16	0.1%	42	0.2%	0	0%	340	1.9%

Table 7: Total tuna catches (MT) in Vietnam's EEZ estimated for tuna gillnet fishery by species from 2008 - 2015.

Year	Estimated Tuna Catch						
	Skipjack	%	Yellowfin	%	Bigeye	%	Total tuna
2010	11,866	88%	942	7%	646	5%	13,454
2011	11,866	88%	942	7%	646	5%	13,454
2012	20,988	94%	1,024	5%	363	2%	22,375

2013	36,496	92%	2,823	7%	400	1%	39,720
2014	32,789	98%	173	1%	641	2%	33,603
2015	29,730	93%	1,762	6%	472	1%	31,964
2016	44,997	95%	771	2%	1,671	4%	47,439

Table 8: Estimation of some bycatches (MT) in Vietnam's EEZ estimated for tuna gill-net fishery by species from 2010 - 2016.

Year	Estimated Billfish Catch							
	Blue Marlin	%	Black Marlin	%	Striped Marlin	%	Swordfish	%
2012	420	1%	20	0%	0	0%	1,259	3%
2013	657	1%	31	0%	0	0%	2,189	3%
2014	657	1%	31	0%	0	0%	2,015	3%
2015	657	1%	31	0%	0	0%	2,015	3%
2016	3,319	7%	16	0%	257	1%	2,994	6%

Table 9: Total tuna catches (MT) in Vietnam's EEZ estimated for tuna purse seine fishery by species from 2010 - 2016.

Year	Skipjack	%	Yellowfin	%	Bigeye	%	Total tuna
2010	12,190	75%	3,738	23%	325	2%	16,253
2011	12,926	75%	3,964	23%	345	2%	17,234
2012	22,638	84%	3,336	12%	965	4%	26,939
2013	18,895	84%	2,784	12%	805	4%	22,484
2014	27,485	83%	4,229	13%	1,572	5%	33,286
2015	31,279	80%	5,947	15%	1,676	4%	38,902
2016	48,564	84%	6,617	11%	2,918	5%	58,099

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 2016, the Project funded by Global Environment Facilities and executed by WCPFC was continued to implement in Viet Nam with a second phase. 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 re-

quirements of the WCPFC. In addition, ecosystem approach and climate issues were also included in the second phase project.

In 2016, the project continued to fund for tuna fisheries data collection activities following WCPFC's data collection protocols 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 10: Number of samples collected under WPEA project for longliner/handline

Province	Total unloading	Landing samples	Port samples	Logbook
Binh Dinh	8,512	2,863	360	2,973
Khanh Hoa	2,278	1,426	360	1,432
Total	10,790	4,289	720	4,405

Table 11: Number of samples collected under WPEA project for gillnet fleet

Province	Total unloading	Landing samples	Port samples	Logbook
Binh Thuan	489	234	36	
Khanh Hoa	1,891	1,596	324	1,244
Ninh Thuan	1,155	528	180	26
Quang Ngai	594	594	94	
Da Nang	3,096	666	90	
Ba Ria-Vung Tau	2,025	367	64	
Grand Total	9,250	3,985	788	1,270

Table 12: Number of samples collected under WPEA project for purse seiners

Province	Total unloading	Landing samples	Port samples	Logbook
Binh Dinh	2,474	1,469	233	1,080
Binh Thuan	1,956	960	144	
Khanh Hoa	222	222	36	138
Ninh Thuan	370	122		
Quang Nam	594	533	90	
Quang Ngai	172	172	86	
Da Nang	2,344	534	90	
Ba Ria-Vung Tau	1,698	855	136	
Grand Total	9,830	4,867	815	1,218

2. National programs

In 2016, a national program which was approved by Minister of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development by Decision No. 3465/QD-BNN-TCTS was still 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 reorganize tuna fishing activities using fishing fleets operating in same areas so that they can support each other for logistic matters.

In addition, to reduce bycatch, Viet Nam is trying to develop a National Plan of Action to manage shark and ray species.

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 2016. 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 components following 3 principles of MSC standard: stock status, ecosystem approach and bycatch mitigation, management system of the tuna LL and HL fishery. In 2016, following an action plan of the FIP, 10 observer trips were conducted for tuna longline/handline fishery. In addition, several stakeholder meetings were convened to enhance roles of relevant agencies/stakeholders to work together on tuna fisheries management.

4. Socio-economic factors

In 2016, Vietnamese tuna exports increase 12 percent in value comparing to 2015 to bring approximately 510 million USD from tuna export value. The most significant increase was tuna with HS code 0304 with increase rate of 15.5% comparing to the year 2015 (*Table 13*).

Table 13. Exported value of Viet Nam’s tuna products in 2015 (USD)

Product code	2014	2015	2016	Compared with 2015 (%)
Tuna HS code 16 (1)	232,290,169	208,849,526	225,605,543	+8.0
Canned tuna (HS code 16)	177,017,676	150,398,750	153,031,643	+1.8

Other processed tuna (HS code 16)	55,272,492	58,450,776	72,573,900	+24.2
Tuna HS code 03 (2)	251,944,395	246,122,926	284,180,745	+15.5
Live /fresh/frozen/dried tuna (HS code 03) (ex. tuna HS code 0304)	58,764,847	43,185,413	43,421,515	+0.5
Tuna HS code 0304 (ex. surimi)	193,179,548	202,937,513	240,759,230	+18.6
Total tuna (1 + 2)	484,234,564	454,972,451	509,786,288	+12.0

5. Disposal of catch

In 2016, Viet Nam's tuna products were shipped to 101 foreign markets with a reduction comparing to 2015 of 107 markets. The U.S., EU, ASEAN, were still main markets for Vietnamese tuna products, accounting for a large percent of total tuna export value (*Table 14*).

Table 14. Vietnamese tuna exports to markets in 2016 (x 1000 USD)

Market	QI/2016	QII/2016	QIII/2016	QIV/2016	Total	Increased rate in 2016/2015 (%)
US	36,402	56,390	51,734	55,751	200,277	+5,3
EU	24,204	26,568	23,198	40,600	115,316	+18,4
<i>Italy</i>	<i>7,698</i>	<i>5,198</i>	<i>7,661</i>	<i>13,154</i>	<i>33,711</i>	<i>+175,5</i>
<i>Germany</i>	<i>4,651</i>	<i>5,137</i>	<i>3,954</i>	<i>7,688</i>	<i>21,429</i>	<i>-21,8</i>
<i>Belgium</i>	<i>2,902</i>	<i>2,944</i>	<i>2,446</i>	<i>4,278</i>	<i>12,570</i>	<i>+45,4</i>
ASEAN	10,279	10,948	11,786	10,381	43,394	+13,1
<i>Thailand</i>	<i>7,351</i>	<i>8,343</i>	<i>8,716</i>	<i>5,871</i>	<i>30,282</i>	<i>+17,9</i>
Israel	4,832	3,693	8,158	9,317	26,001	+49,9
China	6,954	5,276	2,790	5,925	20,945	+67,2
Japan	3,770	4,902	5,405	5,284	19,361	-5,2
Canada	1,151	2,781	3,200	2,958	10,090	+1,6
Mexico	1,239	2,083	2,564	2,535	8,421	-10,3