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

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VIETNAM

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

PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

2017

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, 2018	Yes
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SUMMARIES

In 2017, total fishing vessel of three main fisheries targeting on tuna species was 1,924 longliner/handliner, 1,061 gillnetters and 1,493 purse seiners. 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 catches in Vietnamese EEZ in 2017 was 112,625 MT for three gear types which is still below the maximum sustainable yield of more than 200,000 MT. Of those, skipjack tuna contributed 86,295 MT (77%), 22,407 MT of yellowfin tuna (20%) and 3,923 MT of bigeye tuna (3%). Total tuna catches in Vietnamese in 2017 was significantly reduced comparing to of those of 2016.

In general, Viet Nam led 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 trans-boundary 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). Total of tuna LL/HL of 2017 was 1924 vessels (*Table 1*). It is noted that all LL/HL

vessels were registered and authorized to fish in the Vietnamese EEZ.

In 2017, number of gillnetter increased (58 vessels) compared to a stable trend between 2013 and 2016 (*Table 2*). Total number of gillnet vessels registered in 2017 was 1061 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 off-shore gillnetters.

Number of purse seiners targeting on tuna were unchanged in 2013 and 2017. After a significant increase of purse seine vessels in 2014 and reached 1586 in 2014, the purse seine vessels decreased more than 100 vessels with a total of 1461, 1459 and 1493 vessels in 2015, 2016 and 2017, respectively (*Table 3*).

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

Size class (HP)	YEAR						
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
50 - 89	156	173	9	0	1	0	0
90 - 149	142	518	169	22	8	9	5
150 - 249	531	742	399	201	85	89	73
250 - 399	240	270	647	687	418	407	391
> 400	33	69	505	735	1111	1184	1455
Total	1102	1772	1729	1645	1623	1689	1924

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

Size class (HP)	YEAR						
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
50 - 89	627	605	212	133	125	94	81
90 - 149	261	200	307	60	60	53	48
150 - 249	184	174	175	86	93	85	67
250 - 399	216	204	132	199	281	273	271
> 400	24	21	72	261	414	498	594
Total	1312	1204	898	979	973	1003	1061

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

Size class (HP)	YEAR						
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
50 - 89	134	136	131	79	64	59	64
90 - 149	184	194	118	90	73	58	66
150 - 249	44	56	114	154	138	127	120
250 - 399	233	206	242	513	456	404	350
> 400	20	0	409	750	730	811	893
Total	595	592	1014	1586	1461	1459	1493

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 2017. 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.

Table 4: Summaries of total tuna catches (MT) caught in Viet Nam's EEZ for three fisheries in 2017

Gear	Total tuna catch in 2016			
	Bigeye	Yellowfin	Skipjack	Total
Gillnet	411	560	40,281	41,252
Purse seine	2,508	6,170	46,014	54,692
Longline/Handline	1,004	15,677	N/A	16,681
Total	3,923	22,407	86,295	112,625
Proportion (%)	3.5	19.9	76.6	100

Table 5: Total tuna catches (MT) in Vietnam's EEZ estimated for tuna longline/handline fishery by species from 2010 - 2017.

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
2017	15,677	88%	1,004	6%	N/A	N/A	16,681

Table 6: Total tuna catches (MT) in Vietnam's EEZ estimated for tuna gillnet fishery by species from 2010 - 2017.

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
2017	40,281	98%	560	1%	411	1%	41,252

Table 7: Total tuna catches (MT) in Vietnam's EEZ estimated for tuna purse seine fishery by species from 2010 - 2017.

Year	Skipjack	%	Yellowfin	%	Bigeye	%	Total tuna
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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
2017	46,014	84%	6,170	11%	2,508	5%	54,692

Table 8: Total bycatches (MT) in Vietnam's EEZ estimated for tuna fisheries in 2017

Species		Hook and line		GILLNET		PURSE SEINE	
		RET	DISC	RET	DISC	RET	DISC
Albacore tuna	ALB	0	0	0	0	1	0
Blue marlin	BUM	10	0	970	0	47	0
Black marlin	BLM	128	0	956	0	53	0
Striped marlin	MLS	0	0	19	0	8	0
Swordfish	SWO	997	0	2,109	0	8	0
Silky Shark	FAL	0	10	0	0	0	16
Blue shark	BSH	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oceanic White-tip shark	OCS	0	0	0	38	0	4
Mako sharks	MAK	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thresher sharks	THR	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hammerhead sharks	SPN	0	0	0	0	0	0
Porbeagle shark	POR	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whale shark	RHN	0	0	0	0	0	0
Frigate tuna	FRI	0	0	16,729	0	14,029	0
Bullet tuna	BLT	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kawakawa	KAW	0	0	4,416	0	3,572	0
Rainbow Runner	RRU	0	0	709	0	6,373	0
Wahoo	WAH	6	0	1,768	0	1,488	0
Mahi mahi	DOL	0	0	2,258	0	3,335	0

C. COASTAL STATE REPORTING

There are currently no foreign fishing vessels licensed to operate in the Vietnamese waters. There are 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 2017, 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 requirements of the WCPFC. In addition, ecosystem approach

and climate issues were also included in the second phase project.

In 2017, 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 long-line/handline, purse seine and other gears. Number of samples collected under this project was indicated in the following tables:

Table 9: Number of samples collected under WPEA project for longliner/handline

Province	Total unloading	Landing samples	Port samples	Logbook
Binh Dinh	9,155	3,072	360	3,486
Khanh Hoa	2,147	1,440	360	1,435
Total	11,302	4,512	720	4,921

Table 10: Number of samples collected under WPEA project for gillnet fleet

Province	Total unloading	Landing samples	Port samples	Logbook
Binh Thuan	363	205	33	
Khanh Hoa	1,924	1,557	324	1,132
Ninh Thuan	1,732	960	180	
Quang Ngai	445	445	108	
Da Nang	1,672	622	72	
Ba Ria-Vung Tau	4,136	840	132	
Grand Total	10,272	4,629	849	1,132

Table 11: Number of samples collected under WPEA project for purse seiners

Province	Total unloading	Landing samples	Port samples	Logbook
Binh Dinh	2570	1521	246	1303
Binh Thuan	1945	873	144	
Khanh Hoa	239	36	208	208
Ninh Thuan				
Quang Nam	1205	177	1047	
Quang Ngai	299	299	72	
Da Nang	1133	244	45	
Ba Ria-Vung Tau	1768	360	64	
Grand Total	9159	3510	1826	1511

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 of sea turtle, Viet Nam has adopted a national plan of action to protect sea turtle. In 2017, the plan is continuously implemented.

3. Socio-economic factors

In 2017, Vietnamese tuna exports increase 16.3 percent in value comparing to 2016 with a total value from tuna export approximately of 593 million USD (Table 12).

Table 12. Exported value of Viet Nam's tuna products from 2014-2017 (mil USD)

Product code	2014	2015	2016	2017
Tuna HS code 16 (1)	232	208	226	270
Canned tuna (HS code 16)	177	150	153	179
Other processed tuna (HS code 16)	55	58	73	91
Tuna HS code 03 (2)	252	246	284	323
Live /fresh/frozen/dried tuna (HS code 03) (ex. tuna HS code 0304)	59	43	43	50
Tuna HS code 0304 (ex. surimi)	193	203	241	273
Total tuna (1 + 2)	484	454	510	593

4. Disposal of catch

In 2017, Viet Nam's tuna products were shipped to nearly many foreign markets. Of those, there are some main markets including US, EU, Israel, ASEAN, Japan, China, Mexico, Canada, etc. The U.S., EU, ASEAN, were still main markets for Vietnamese tuna products, accounting for a large percent of total tuna export value (Table 13).

Table 13. Export markets of tuna products from Viet Nam in 2017

Market	Export value in 2017 (USD)	Changes compared with 2016
US	225,693	+12,7
EU	141,936	+23,1
<i>Italy</i>	<i>33,024</i>	<i>-2,0</i>
<i>Germany</i>	<i>26,667</i>	<i>+24,4</i>
<i>The Netherlands</i>	<i>17,510</i>	<i>+46,8</i>
Israel	44,260	+70,2
ASEAN	43,862	+1,1
<i>Thailand</i>	<i>25,376</i>	<i>-16,2</i>
Japan	24,396	+26,0
China	17,515	-16,4
Mexico	13,558	+61,0
Canada	11,769	+16,6
Other market	69,883	+5,9
Total	592,873	+16,3