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

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VIET NAM

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

PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

2018

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

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SUMMARIES

In 2018, total fishing vessel of three main fisheries targeting on tuna species was 2,277 longliner/handliner, 1,018 gillnetters and 1,772 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 2018 was 120,533 MT for three gear types which is still below the maximum sustainable yield of more than 200,000 MT. Of those, skipjack tuna contributed 91,528 MT (76%), 24,704 MT of yellowfin tuna (20%) and 4,301 MT of bigeye tuna (4%). Total tuna catches in Vietnamese in 2018 was increased 7% comparing to of those of 2017.

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 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 2018. Implementation of this tuna fisheries management plan can significantly improve tuna fisheries management system for more compliance with WCPFC's requirements. Especially many new regulations in fisheries management in the Fisheries Law 2017.

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 2018 was 2277 vessels (*Table 1*) increased 353 vessels compared to 2017. It is noted that all LL/HL vessels were registered and authorized to fish in the Vietnamese EEZ.

In 2018, number of gillnetter decreased more than 43 vessels with total vessels in 2017 (*Table 2*). Total number of gillnet vessels registered in 2018 was 1018 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.

Total number vessels of tuna purse seiners of 2018 was 1,772 vessels (*Table3*) increased 279 vessels compared to 2017.

Table 1: Number of tuna longline/handline in Viet Nam by years and capacity 2011-2018

Size class (HP)	YEAR							
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
50 - 89	156	173	9	0	1	0	0	3
90 - 149	142	518	169	22	8	9	5	5
150 - 249	531	742	399	201	85	89	73	70
250 - 399	240	270	647	687	418	407	391	395
> 400	33	69	505	735	1111	1184	1455	1804
Total	1102	1772	1729	1645	1623	1689	1924	2277

Table 2: Number of gillnet in Viet Nam by years and capacity 2011-2018

Size class (HP)	YEAR							
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
50 - 89	627	605	212	133	125	94	81	56
90 - 149	261	200	307	60	60	53	48	47
150 - 249	184	174	175	86	93	85	67	56
250 - 399	216	204	132	199	281	273	271	197
> 400	24	21	72	261	414	498	594	662
Total	1312	1204	898	979	973	1003	1061	1018

Table 3: Number of purse seine (daily purse seine) in Viet Nam by years and capacity 2011-2018

Size class (HP)	YEAR							
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
50 - 89	134	136	131	79	64	59	64	78
90 - 149	184	194	118	90	73	58	66	81
150 - 249	44	56	114	154	138	127	120	147
250 - 399	233	206	242	513	456	404	350	423
> 400	20	0	409	750	730	811	893	1043
Total	595	592	1014	1586	1461	1459	1493	1772

According to Vietnamese Fisheries Law 2017 (came into force from 01 January 2019), the management of fishing vessels has been being based on the fishing vessel maximum length (m) instead of engine capacity (Horse Power – HP).

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 2018. 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 2018

Gear	Total tuna catch in 2018				2018/2017 (%)
	Bigeye	Yellowfin	Skipjack	Total	
Gillnet	276	521	34,229	35,026	-15,1
Purse seine	3,123	7,683	57,299	68,105	24,5
Longline/Handline	902	16,500	0	17,402	4,3
Total	4,301	24,704	91,528	120,533	7,0
Proportion (%)	4	20	76	100	

Table 5: Total tuna catches (MT) in Vietnam's EEZ estimated for tuna longline/handline fishery by species from 2010 - 2018.

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
2018	16,500	95%	902	5%	0	0	17,402

Table 6: Total tuna catches (MT) in Vietnam's EEZ estimated for tuna gillnet fishery by species from 2010 - 2018.

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
2018	34,229	97,5%	521	1,5%	276	1%	35,026

Table 7: Total tuna catches (MT) in Vietnam's EEZ estimated for tuna purse seine fishery by species from 2010 - 2018.

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
2017	46,014	84%	6,170	11%	2,508	5%	54,692
2018	57,299	84%	7,683	11%	3,123	5%	68,105

The tuna catch by gillnets (Table 6) decreased, but purses seine increased (Table 7), because a certain number of fishing vessels employing gillnets had transferred to purse seines.

Table 8: Total bycatches (MT) in Vietnam's EEZ estimated for tuna fisheries in 2018

Species		2018 ESTIMATES (Metric tons)					
		HANDLINE		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	897	0	1,109	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. 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.

2. Socio-economic factors

In 2018, Vietnamese tuna exports increase 10.1 percent in value comparing to 2017 with a total value from tuna export approximately of 653 million USD (Table 9).

Table 9. Exported value of Viet Nam's tuna products from 2014-2018 (mil USD)

Product code	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Tuna HS code 16 (1)	232	208	226	270	323
Canned tuna (HS code 16)	177	150	153	179	198
Other processed tuna (HS code 16)	55	58	73	91	125
Tuna HS code 03 (2)	252	246	284	323	330
Live /fresh/frozen/dried tuna (HS code 03) (ex. tuna HS code 0304)	59	43	43	50	51
Tuna HS code 0304 (ex. surimi)	193	203	241	273	279
Total tuna (1 + 2)	484	454	510	593	653

3. Disposal of catch

In 2018, Viet Nam's tuna products were sold to many foreign markets. Of those, there are some main markets including US, EU, Israel, ASEAN, Japan, China, 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 10).

Table 10. Export markets of tuna products from Viet Nam in 2018

Market	Export value in 2018 (mil USD)	Changes compared with 2017
US	226	+2,0
EU	160	+11
Israel	63	+42
ASEAN	50	+14
Japan	25	+2,5
China	14	-20,0
Other market	115	+19,7
Total	653	+10