



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
SIXTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

**ELECTRONIC MEETING**

11-20 August 2020

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

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**WCPFC-SC16-AR/CCM-37**

**VIET NAM**

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

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

**TUNA FISHERIES IN 2019**

**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, 2020	Yes
If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions:	

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## SUMMARIES

In 2019, total fishing vessel of three main fisheries targeting on tuna species was 3,248 longliners/hand-liners, 2,156 gillnetters and 2,284 purse seiners. It is estimated that the current fishing effort of Vietnamese tuna fleets is below the total allowable effort. Noticeably, all tuna fisheries vessels are just operating in Vietnamese EEZ, no fishing activities have been done in the WCPO.

Total 2019 tuna catches in Vietnamese EEZ was estimated 109,314 MT for three gear types which is still below the maximum sustainable yield (more than 200,000 MT) and decreased 9.3% compared to those in 2018. Of those, skipjack tuna contributed 87,357 MT (80%), 19,499 MT of yellowfin tuna (18%) and 2,458 MT of bigeye tuna (2%).

Implementing the WCPFC CMMs to maintaining the productivity and sustainability of the tuna stocks, Viet Nam Directorate of Fisheries in collaboration with other stakeholders try to improve its tuna fisheries management system such as establishing and implementing tuna data collection, revising its national management capacity, conducting pre-assessment of MSC for tuna fisheries and strengthening international cooperation particularly on various transboundary concerns in relation to the sustainable conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks.

## INTRODUCTION

The tuna industry has recognized and developed in Vietnam since 1990s. It has become more and more important by providing an annual export value, income and livelihoods for millions of people in coastal areas. There are eight species of tuna caught in the Vietnamese EEZs (skipjack, yellowfin, bigeye, bullet, kawakawa, frigate, hardtail, albacore tuna) with the total catches of around 110,000 MT per year. Three main gears of longline/handline, purse seine and gillnet fisheries used in some provinces from Da Nang to Vung Tau for catching the tunas. Tunas are also caught and landed in other provinces such as Tieng Giang, Thua Thien – Hue, Quang Tri, Nghe An, Ca Mau, etc.

In order to improve the tuna fisheries management system, Vietnam has involved into the WCPFC as an observer since 2005 and being accepted as a CNM from 2012. This report provides the main information on the 2019 tuna fishing fleets and catches as required by the Annual Report – Part 1 template of WCPFC in Vietnam.

## ANNUAL FISHERIES INFORMATION

### A. FLEET STRUCTURE

In general, the number of vessels in 2019 increased compared to 2018 due to some other fishing vessels shifting to tuna fishing, and some provinces have additional statistics on the number of small tuna fishing vessels near shore.

Longlines/handline fisheries (LL/HL) is the main fishing method used for catching oceanic tunas (i.e. yellowfin, bigeye tuna) and developed in the central provinces (i.e. Phu Yen, Khanh Hoa and Binh Dinh). Total number of LL/HL vessels in 2019 was 3,248 vessels (*Table 1*) increased 971 vessels compared to 2018. It is noted that all LL/HL vessels were registered and authorized to fish in the Vietnamese EEZ.

The total number of gillnet vessels registered in 2019 was 2156 vessels (*Table 2*) increased 1,138 vessels in comparison with those in 2018. However, it was noted that there may be mixing between coastal gillnetters targeting on small pelagic fishes and neritic tuna with offshore gillnetters targeting the skipjack in the vessel registration system. Therefore, some of the coastal gillnetters may be counted as the offshore gillnetters.

Similarly, the total number of the tuna purse seiners in 2019 was 2,284 vessels (*Table 3*) increased 512 vessels compared to 2018.

*Table 1: Number of tuna longline/handline vessels in Viet Nam in 2011-2019*

Size class (HP)	YEAR								
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
50 - 89	156	173	9	0	1	0	0	3	87
90 - 149	142	518	169	22	8	9	5	5	244
150 - 249	531	742	399	201	85	89	73	70	45
250 - 399	240	270	647	687	418	407	391	395	323
> 400	33	69	505	735	1111	1184	1455	1804	2549
<b>Total</b>	<b>1102</b>	<b>1772</b>	<b>1729</b>	<b>1645</b>	<b>1623</b>	<b>1689</b>	<b>1924</b>	<b>2277</b>	<b>3248</b>

*Table 2: Number of tuna gillnetters in Viet Nam in 2011-2019*

Size class (HP)	YEAR								
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
50 - 89	627	605	212	133	125	94	81	56	317
90 - 149	261	200	307	60	60	53	48	47	301
150 - 249	184	174	175	86	93	85	67	56	71
250 - 399	216	204	132	199	281	273	271	197	297
> 400	24	21	72	261	414	498	594	662	1170
<b>Total</b>	<b>1312</b>	<b>1204</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>1003</b>	<b>1061</b>	<b>1018</b>	<b>2156</b>

*Table 3: Number of tuna purse seine (daily purse seine) in Viet Nam in 2011-2019*

Size class (HP)	YEAR								
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
50 - 89	134	136	131	79	64	59	64	78	81
90 - 149	184	194	118	90	73	58	66	81	185
150 - 249	44	56	114	154	138	127	120	147	186
250 - 399	233	206	242	513	456	404	350	423	483
> 400	20	0	409	750	730	811	893	1043	1349
<b>Total</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>1014</b>	<b>1586</b>	<b>1461</b>	<b>1459</b>	<b>1493</b>	<b>1772</b>	<b>2284</b>

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

The estimation of the tuna catches landed in 2019 in 9 key coastal provinces (i.e. Binh Dinh, Phu Yen, Khanh Hoa, Da Nang, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Ninh Thuan, Binh Thuan and Ba Ria - Vung Tau) was 109,314 MT. These catches were caught by the Vietnamese vessels in

the Vietnamese EEZ. The table 4 shows that the total of tuna catches in 2019 decreases in comparison to those in 2018, although the total number of vessels increased. This is explained that the number of the active vessels is lower than the number registered in the vessel registration system. In fact, the new Fisheries Law has created a new measure to reduce fishing effort in general and limit the number of fishing license in the offshore waters. The tuna catches of Vietnam in 2019 are illustrated in the following tables.

Table 4: The total catches of tuna in Vietnamese EEZ by fisheries in 2019

Gear	Total tuna catch in 2019				2019/2018 (%)
	Bigeye	Yellowfin	Skipjack	Total	
Gillnet	228	599	31,977	<b>32,804</b>	<b>-6.3</b>
Purse seine	676	4,247	55,380	<b>60,303</b>	<b>-11.5</b>
Longline/Handline	1,554	14,653	0	<b>16,207</b>	<b>-6.9</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,458</b>	<b>19,499</b>	<b>87,357</b>	<b>109,314</b>	<b>-9.3</b>
<b>Proportion (%)</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>80%</b>		

Table 5: Total tuna catches (MT) in Vietnam's EEZ estimated for tuna longline/handline fishery by species from 2010 - 2019.

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
2019	14,653	90%	1,554	10%	0	0	16,207

Table 6: Total tuna catches (MT) in Vietnam's EEZ estimated for tuna gillnet fishery by species from 2010 - 2019.

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

2019	31,977	97%	599	2%	228	1%	32,804
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Table 7: Total tuna catches (MT) in Vietnam's EEZ estimated for tuna purse seine fishery by species from 2010 - 2019.

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
2019	55,380	92%	4,247	7%	676	1%	60,303

### C. COASTAL STATE REPORTING

There are no foreign fishing vessels licensed to operate in the Vietnamese waters.

### D. OTHER INFORMATION

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

In 2019, the Project funded by New Zealand and executed by WCPFC was continued to implement in Viet Nam. Similar with the previous phase of the 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 insufficiencies through reforming policy, legal and institutional arrangements towards requirements of the WCPFC.

In 2019, 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 8.

Table 8: Number of samples collected under WPEA project in 2019

Province	Total unloading	Landing samples	Port samples	Logbook	Total
Binh Dinh	9,118	3,522	774	3,908	17,322
Binh Thuan	1,701	453	161		2,315
Khanh Hoa	1,576	1,455	386	444	3,861
Phu Yen	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ninh Thuan	1,116	340	282	195	1,933
Quang Nam		672	-	2,688	3,360

Quang Ngai	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Da Nang	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ba Ria-Vung Tau	3,836	391	88	263	4,578
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>17,347</b>	<b>6,833</b>	<b>1,691</b>	<b>7,498</b>	<b>33,369</b>

## 2. Socio-economic factors

In 2019, the export value of the Vietnamese tuna gained 719 million USD and increased 10.2% in comparison to those in 2018 (Table 9).

*Table 9. Export value of the Vietnamese tuna products from 2014-2019 (mil. USD)*

Product code	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Tuna HS code 16 (1)</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>415</b>
Canned tuna (HS code 16)	177	150	153	179	198	
Other processed tuna (HS code 16)	55	58	73	91	125	
<b>Tuna HS code 03 (2)</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>304</b>
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	
<b>Total tuna (1 + 2)</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>719</b>

## 3. Disposal of catch

In 2019, the Vietnamese tuna products were sold many international markets. Of those, there are some main markets including US, EU, Israel, ASEAN, Japan, China, etc. (Table 10).

*Table 10. Export markets of the Vietnamese tuna products in 2019*

Market	Export value in 2019 (mil USD)	Changes compared with 2018
<b>US</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>+38</b>
<b>EU</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>-11.8</b>
<b>ASEAN</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>+7</b>
<b>Israel</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>-39</b>
<b>Other markets</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>+10.7</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>+10.2</b>