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WPEA OFM Project: Progress Report – Vietnam

WCPFC-SC8-2012/ RP-WPEA-06 Rev 1

VIETNAM



**WEST PACIFIC EAST ASIA
OCEANIC FISHERIES
MANAGEMENT**

**PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE
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WPEA OFM/PSC02/WP-07**

Progress Report (July 2011 – June 2012)

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VIETNAM

I. Introduction

West Pacific East Asia Oceanic Fisheries Management project (WPEA OFM) has been carried out in Vietnam since early 2010 throughout executive implementation agency of Department of Capture Fisheries and Resources Protection (DECAFIREP). The main objective of the project is to strengthen national capacities and international cooperation on priority trans-boundary concerns relating to the conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks in the West Pacific Ocean and East Asia including Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam. The project include two main components: (i) the first aspect aiming to legal, policy and institutional issues to fulfill WCPFC's requirements and the second one is to focus on capacity building for tuna data collection systems and tuna data collection for stock assessment in Vietnam.

In the third year, the project's activities have continued to focus on these two main components as to enhance national data collection system and legal, policy and institutional arrangements for Vietnam's tuna fishery management. Accordingly, the first component is to focus on data collection, review of data collection system at local levels and provide guidelines/assurances for enumerators so that they can be familiar with their collection tasks. On the other hand, legal, policy and institutional arrangement aspects was also considered with activities such as development of National Tuna Management Plan (NTMP), review and revise national legal, policy and institutional arrangements to propose the necessary reforms in the light of WCPFC's requirements.

II. Monitoring, data enhancement and fisheries assessment

In 2011, a second data collection system review workshop was conducted at Nha Trang, Vietnam from 20-24 November 2011 to review current status of tuna data collection system at the local levels. The main objectives of the workshop were (i) to review data collection activities for longline (LL), gillnet (GN) and purse seine (PS) that have been implemented in Vietnam since 2010; (ii) to review logistic matters such as financial, manpower, compliance issues in the data collection of Vietnam and (iii) to recommend better solutions for improvements of data collection systems for LL, GN and PS in Vietnam.

In addition, the enumerators and local supervisors have also continued to be hired to conduct port sampling tasks and other related activities for LL, GN and PS fisheries at the existing landing sites. The logbook program for LL has also been conducted in the second year of the project. However, the recovered rate was not very high indicating lack of cooperation of fishing industry for data provision (**Table 2, 3&4**).

Table1. List of enumerators and local supervisors hired for data collection.

Ord	Name	Position in the project	Fishing port to cover	Contact email
1	Nguyen Hai Binh	Local supervisor	Tam Quan, Binh Dinh	
2	Le Van Bich	Enumerator	Tam Quan, Binh Dinh	
3	Vo Van Thanh	Enumerator	Tam Quan, Binh Dinh	
6	Le Duc Tuong	Local supervisor	Phuong 6, Phu Dong	
4	Doan Thuong Huynh	Enumerator	Phuong 6, Phu Dong	
5	Nguyen Hai Trieu	Enumerator	Phuong 6, Phu Dong	
7	Vo Khac En	Local supervisor	Ho Ro, Khanh Hoa	
8	Lu Thanh Phong	Enumerator	Ho Ro, Khanh Hoa	
9	Vu Ba Duy	Enumerator	Ho Ro, Khanh Hoa	

Table 2. Total collected samples by different types of data throughout sampling periods in Binh Dinh

Month/year	Fishing port/ landing site	Gear	Total landing vessel	Biological data collection	Landing data collection	Logbook
Oct-10	Tam Quan	Longline	128	150	128	60
Nov-10	Tam Quan	Longline	46	10	35	40
Dec-10	Tam Quan	Longline	42	0	34	219
Jan-11	Tam Quan	Longline	296	30	169	82
Feb-11	Tam Quan	Longline	310	30	192	19
Mar-11	Tam Quan	Longline	256	30	150	5
Apr-11	Tam Quan	Longline	246	30	150	0
May-11	Tam Quan	Longline	252	30	150	0
Sep-11	Tam Quan	Longline	123	20	77	68
Oct-11	Tam Quan	Longline	77	18	55	56
	Total		1776	248	1140	549
Sep-11	Quy Nhon	Purse	131	10	68	

Oct-11	Quy Nhon	Purse	63	6	38	
	Total		194	16	106	
Sep-11	Tam Quan	Gill net	46	6	24	
Oct-11	Tam Quan	Gill net	25	0	19	
	Total		71	6	43	
Jan-12	Quy Nhon	Gill net	19	7	13	
Feb-12	Quy Nhon	Gill net	104	25	86	
Mar-12	Quy Nhon	Gill net	156	25	133	
Apr-12	Quy Nhon	Gill net	124	25	80	
May-12	Quy Nhon	Gill net	130	25	88	
	Total		533	107	400	
Jan-12	Quy Nhon	Purse	0	0	0	
Feb-12	Quy Nhon	Purse	9	0	8	
Mar-12	Quy Nhon	Purse	8		7	
Apr-12	Quy Nhon	Purse	17	0	15	
May-12	Quy Nhon	Purse	17	0	7	
	Total		51	0	37	
Jan-12	Tam Quan	Longline	150		57	
Feb-12	Tam Quan	Longline	272		56	
Mar-12	Tam Quan	Longline	313		44	
Apr-12	Tam Quan	Longline	302	20	73	
May-12	Tam Quan	Longline	596	20	171	
	Total		596	20	171	

Table 3. Total collected samples by different types of data throughout sampling periods in Phu Yen

Month/ year	Landing sites	Fish. method	Arrival vessels	Collected samples		
				Biological data	Landing data	Logbooks
7/2010	Ward 6	Longline	159	51	159	159
7/2010	Phu Dong ward	Longline	120	67	120	120
10/2010	Phu Dong ward	Longline	11	11	11	11
10/2010	Ward 6	Longline	39	24	39	39
11/2010	Ward 6	Longline	06	06	06	03
12/2010	Ward 6	Longline	06	06	06	06
1/2011	Ward 6	Longline	92	31	92	92
2/2011	Phu Dong ward	Longline	73	30	37	73
2/2011	Ward 6	Longline	69	31	38	69
3/2011	Phu Dong ward	Longline	197	30	100	
3/2011	Ward 6	Longline	144	30	72	
4/2011	Ward 6	Longline	144	31	72	
9/2011	Phường Phú	Longline	99	10	50	

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9/2011	Ward 6	Longline	44	14	22	
10/2011	Phu Dong ward	Longline	34	10	17	
10/2011	Ward 6	Longline	36	10	18	
1/2012	Phu Dong ward	Longline	127	87	23	
2/2012	Phu Dong ward	Longline	147	87	24	
3/2012	Ward 6	Longline	92	47	28	
1/2012	Tuy An	Gillnet	N/A	2	2	
2/2012	Tuy An	Gillnet	N/A	3	2	
3/2012	Tuy An	Gillnet	N/A	11	3	
4/2012	Tuy An	Gillnet	N/A	6	3	
5/2012	Tuy An	Gillnet	N/A	5	2	

Table 4. Total collected samples by different types of data throughout sampling periods in Khanh Hoa

Month	Fishing port	Gear	Arrival vessels	DATA COLLECTION		
				Biological samples	Landing samples	Logbook
9/2011	Hon Ro	Longline	110	25	110	
	Da Bac	Longline	15	03	10	
10/2011	Hon Ro	Longline	115	22	115	
	Da Bac	Longline	10	04	10	
11/2011	Hon Ro	Longline	110	21	110	
	Da Bac	Longline	10	06	10	
9/2011	Hon Ro	Gillnet	N/A	27	120	
10/2011	Hon Ro	Gillnet	N/A	16	125	
11/2011	Hon Ro	Gillnet	N/A	28	120	

In term of capacity building, the NTC/Data Manager was assigned to attend the six tuna data workshop convened at SPC's headquarter from 23-27 April 2012. The main objectives of this training were to provide participants in the region with the skills and knowledge to satisfy the data reporting obligations to the WCPFC, including the provision of advice on the best methods for preparing their annual tuna catch estimates and the Annual Report (Part 1), which is prepared for the annual WCPFC Scientific Committee meeting each year. The workshop will also investigate current issues with respect to data management and the latest tuna data system auditing procedures.

Also under the framework of the project, a consultancy task was allocated to invent tuna fishery data over some recent years in order to re-estimate total catch of tuna fisheries in Vietnam. This activity has provided suitable information to produce Annual Report – Part 1 to submit to WCPFC for SC meeting. Moreover, the project also supported to develop three tuna fisheries profiles carried out by Research Institute for Marine Fisheries (RIMF) to disseminate available tuna fishery data. At the moment, three profile reports are on the process to be reviewed and amended for final submission to WCPFC and national project management board.

III. Policy, institutional strengthening and fishery management

A consultancy task to review and recommend necessary reforms on functions, structures, roles and responsibilities of National Tuna Association (VINATUNA) was conducted in 2011. The main aims of the consultancy report were: (i) to review roles, structures and functions of VINATUNA; (ii) to recommend necessary reform measures of roles, structures and functions of VINATUNA for more effective activities in the future and (iii) to recommend closer links between provincial tuna associations and national association. The output of this consultancy task was a consultancy report to submit to Vietnamese Government for necessary changes on current national tuna association.

Furthermore, a review report to define positive and negative progresses on legal, policy and institutional arrangements in Vietnam was also developed. The report has reviewed what Vietnamese Government doing in order to manage tuna fisheries at the local level and in the light of WCPFC's requirements on the other hand. The project also supported for DECAFIREP, a national fisheries management and project executive implementation agency to conduct a legal, policy and institutional workshop to evaluate and recommend necessary amendments for legal and policy related consultancy reports in May 2012. The overarching objective of the workshop were: (i) to update, refine and finalize the policy and legal arrangements related with Vietnam's tuna fisheries in light of WCPFC requirements and (ii) to review, refine and finalize national tuna management plan, national level tuna association activities. For these consultancy reports, some were quite good and covers almost all issues while others were insufficient information and need to be refined because of insufficient data and manpower for the completion of the report.

IV. Activities on Japanese Trust Fund

1. First Annual Catch Estimate Workshop (VTFACE-1)

A first annual catch estimate workshop (VTFACE-1) was convened from 2-6 April 2012 at Da Nang city, Vietnam. The objective of the workshop was to produce historical estimates for Vietnam's tuna fisheries, by GEAR and SPECIES. The process would involve reviewing all available information, reconciling each source of data, where possible, acknowledging that information on catch volume by GEAR and species composition is critical. Once all information was presented and available, participants would then discuss, compile and decide which estimates are the most appropriate. It was suggested that the workshop deal with the gears and years where estimates would be the easiest to produce initially and then work towards the more difficult, acknowledging that producing estimates for all years and species would not be possible at this stage and would be better dealt with in subsequent workshops.

The outcomes of the workshop were catch estimates by year (2000-2011) and by species. This was the first time official oceanic tuna catch estimates by SPECIES and GEAR had been produced for Vietnam's fisheries and while there remains some work to do, this workshop should be acknowledged as a significant milestone.

2. Training for tuna species identification

The objective of the training were to build capacity in Vietnamese port samplers and scientists to correctly identify and sample juvenile yellowfin and bigeye in catches by surface fishing gears (purse seine and gillnet) in the Vietnam tuna fishery

Good training was provided in all three provinces on adult and by-catch identification, and through classroom presentations and exercises on all sizes of tunas. Comprehensive in-situ training for enumerators with smaller fish taken in surface gears was possible in only one province (Binh Dinh), and the trainer has committed to returning to these provinces in late May to complete the training when access to unloading by purse seine and gillnet vessels will be available. Despite this, the training was rated very helpful and successful by the participants, with the additional benefit of providing training on by-catch species for longline and purse seine gears, and a range of coastal tunas e.g. longtail, frigate and bullet tunas, mackerel tunas, oriental bonito, whose identification and separation in catches had been problematic in some cases.

V. Summary of status of project activities (July 2011 – June 2012)

Activity title	Commencement and Completion Date	Objectives of the activity	Proposed budget (US \$)	Current status
<u>Activity VNM Y3-01</u> (item 1): Review Workshop of port sampling	22-24 November 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To review data collection activities for LL, GN and PS that have been implemented in Vietnam since 2010 up to now; • To review logistic matters such as financial, manpower, compliance issues in the data collection of Vietnam; • To recommend better solutions for improvements of data collection systems for LL, GN and PS in Vietnam 	6,240	Completed
<u>Activity VNM Y3-01</u> (item 2): Continuation of port sampling and logbook	2011-2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue conducting data collection systems for tuna longline fishery; • To expand tuna fisheries data collection systems with gillnet and purse seine fisheries; • To establish a tuna data collection programs with standardization of WCPFC/SPC and can be inherited in Vietnam once the project finished; • To provide tuna fisheries data for regional and national stock assessment purposes in order for management and decision-making process. 	36,000	On going
<u>Activity VNM Y3-01</u> (item 3): Conduct historical data inventory and	2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To discover historical data of tuna fisheries in Vietnam in order to provide scientific information for stock assessment; • To discover historical research 	1,000	Completed

research inventory for tuna fisheries in Vietnam		for policy makers on tuna fisheries management to find out big gaps in tuna fishery research for future implementation		
<u>Activity VNM-Y3-02 (item 1):</u> Complete installation of a central database system at DECAFIREP; Install and maintain TUFMAN database in the server for data entry; and submit a quarterly data summary report to WCPFC/SPC	2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To manage, control and analyze collected tuna fishery data; • To facilitate for equipment for installing tuna fishery database (TUFMAN) 	1,200	Completed
<u>Activity VNM-Y3-02 (item 2)</u> Preliminary survey to provinces for the development of Tuna Fisheries Statistics Proposal	2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of tuna data collection to provide sufficient input information, data for better managing the fishery toward sustainability in Vietnam • Identify current status of tuna fishery in Vietnam including fishing efforts, gear types, distribution of tuna fishery in Vietnam, fishing season and grounds, rough estimates of catch etc; • The first draft of national proposal for tuna fishery statistics in Vietnam 	12,000	On going
<u>Activity VNM-Y3-03 (item 2)</u> Participation in SPC Data WS – in conjunction with Activity VNM-Y3-08	2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To guideline produce national country reports on the status of data collection, management and dissemination, • To prepare the annual catch estimates for submission to the WCFPC, • To prepare data summaries for their Annual Report to the WCPFC – Part I (to be submitted, for the WCPFC Scientific Committee meeting – August 2012), 	N/A	Completed

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To review resources required for collecting and managing data in member countries offices, • To audit tuna fishery data collection and management systems 		
<p><u>Activity VNM Y3-04:</u> Continue to support national tuna coordinator</p>	2011-2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To implement WPEA project in Vietnam and produce outputs as planned in the Annual Work Plan for 2012. • To coordinate historical tuna fisheries data for review of trend of Vietnamese tuna fisheries. • To assist a proper and in-time implementation of WPEA OFM Project in Vietnam and to produce outputs as planned in the Annual Work Plan for 2012 	16,800	On going
<p><u>Activity VNM Y3-05:</u> Complete Vietnam's Tuna Fishery Profile Report</p>	2011-2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide general information to the WCPFC on the tuna fisheries in Binh Dinh, Phu Yen and Khanh Hoa provinces; • To contribute as a guideline for Annual country report of Vietnam Tuna Fisheries to WCPFC. • To strengthening awareness of the local people through a technical/on-job training on how to develop TFP and data analysis. 	13,870	On going
<p><u>Activity VNM Y3-6:</u> Review the progress of addressing any gaps identified at PLI-WS using PLI-consultancy report</p>	2012	To review the progress of addressing any shortfalls in relation with policy, legal and institutional arrangements to fully comply with WCPFC requirements, as requested by the log-frame in the Project Document (“develop the checklist of shortfalls in compliance with WCPFC requirements; implement the proposed initiatives and necessary actions to address the shortfalls”)	2,500	Completed
<p><u>Activity VNM Y3-7:</u> Convene a workshop to review PLI-related reports</p>	2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To update, refine and finalize the policy and legal arrangements related with Vietnam's tuna fisheries in light of WCPFC requirements; • To review, refine and finalize national tuna management plan, national level tuna association activities, and Vietnam's tuna 	11,725	Completed

		fishery profile; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To introduce and plan for the development of “Implementation manual of WCPFC CMMs”. 		
Activity VNM Y3-9: Maintain the WPEA website and WPEA information open to public	2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of WPEA OFM web page for better disseminations of information and data base. Dissemination and knowledge transfer gleaned from the WPEA OFM project to the wider audience of policy-makers, stakeholder, media and the general public. The portal will give information about the project and its activities, partners, key stakeholders and other information. Monthly/quarterly updating of data, based on need. Ensure availability and transparency for the project related activities for all its stakeholders. 	1,200	Completed

VI. Issues and problems

- Lack of collaboration mechanisms among responsible management agencies (port authorities vs. Sub-DECAFIREP);
- Challenges on data collection especially on logsheet program. This is due to lack of raising awareness for fishing industries/communities and thus sometimes they did not collaborate with local authorities;
- Lack of legal frameworks to implement tuna fisheries data collection;
- Some local agencies have not understood importance of tuna fisheries data collection and thus, they were not interested in data collection task.

VII. Foreseen activities

- Assist the activities of a national level Vietnamese Tuna Association and support its involvement in WCPFC activities, if needed;
- Continue to implement port sampling and logbook program;
- Conduct a local stock assessment workshop.
- Conduct a study tour to Korea for capacity building of Government staffs on matters in relation to re-structure the functions and roles of National Tuna Association.