

The Regional Workshop on Enhancing Policies and Countermeasures Against IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia

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CURRENT SITUATION OF THE NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT IUU FISHING (NPOA-IUU) AND POLICY ACTION TO IMPLEMENT COMBATING IUU ACTIVITIES OF VIETNAM

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I. INTRODUCTION

- ✓ Vietnam has a long coastline of 3,260 km; and a large Exclusive Economic Zone of more than 1 million km²;
- ✓ Marine capture fisheries: dominated by small-scale; multi-species, multi-fishing gears;
- ✓ Fishing Zones are divided into: Coastal area; In shore area; Off- Shore area
- ✓ Vietnam is a country with a relatively large number of fishing vessels in Southeast Asia
- ✓ Main fishing gears: Gillnets; Hook and line; Trawl; Purse seine; Stick falling nets and other.

II. THE NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT IUU FISHING (NPOA-IUU) AND POLICY ACTION TO IMPLEMENT COMBATING IUU ACTIVITIES OF VIETNAM

- ❑ On January 16, 2018, the Prime Minister of Vietnam signed Decision No. 78/QD-TTg promulgating the National Action Plan to combat (IUU) fishing through 2025.
- ❑ Vietnam has issued strategies, programs, projects, and plans for sustainable fisheries development to 2030, with a vision to 2045.
- ❑ In addition, every year Vietnam also issues an implementation plan in line with the European Commission's (EC) recommendations on combating IUU fishing.



II. THE NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT IUU FISHING (NPOA-IUU) AND POLICY ACTION TO IMPLEMENT COMBATING IUU ACTIVITIES OF VIETNAM

2.1. The objective of the Plan:

To prevent, reduce, and eliminate IUU fishing activities conducted by Vietnamese and foreign organizations and individuals in Vietnam's waters; to promote the development of a sustainable and responsible fishery sector, contributing to national and regional security and international integration; and to put an end to the illegal fishing activities of Vietnamese fishing vessels and fishermen in foreign waters.

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2.2. Some key tasks of Vietnam's National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate IUU Fishing (NPOA-IUU) implemented in recent years include:

- Established the National Steering Committee on combating IUU fishing, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister;
- Reviewed and improved the legal framework and fisheries management system (amending the Fisheries Law, decrees, circulars, decisions, etc.);
- Approved participation in international and regional fisheries management agreements relevant to combating IUU fishing, such as the Agreement on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA) and the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA);
- Upgraded and completed the national fisheries database (Vnfishbase);

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2.2. Some key tasks....(next)

- Upgraded the vessel monitoring system (VMS) and expanded the installation of monitoring devices on offshore fishing vessels; required 100% of Vietnam's offshore fishing vessels operating in inshore and offshore waters to be monitored through VMS;
- Continue to conduct surveys and assessments of fishery resources, determining the allowable catch to serve fisheries planning and management of fishing capacity in various sea areas;
- Implement programs and plans for managing fishing capacity and protecting fishery resources in Vietnam's waters;
- Developed and implemented policies on occupational transition and sustainable livelihoods for fishermen;

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2.2. Some key tasks....(next)

- Strengthen the law enforcement capacity of competent authorities (Border Guard, Coast Guard, Fisheries Surveillance, and specialized inspectors) in Vietnam's waters and at fishing ports, in order to completely put an end to illegal fishing activities of Vietnamese vessels and fishermen in foreign and international waters;
- Issued control procedures (quantity, species, origin) for imported seafood consignments in accordance with the PSM Agreement;
- Upgraded fishing port infrastructure; designated and announced ports eligible to certify the origin of seafood from catches; strengthened capacity for controlling, inspecting fishing vessels, certifying landed catches at fishing ports, and ensuring synchronized traceability; ensuring that 100% of landed catches are controlled and certified at designated ports; applied electronic catch documentation and traceability (eCDT);

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2.2. Some key tasks....(next)

- Cooperated closely with regional countries to collect case files and verdicts for strict handling in accordance with Vietnamese regulations;
- Investigate, verify, detect and strictly handle cases of organizations and individuals participating in and assisting in IUU fishing activities;
- Implemented communication programs on combating IUU fishing in coastal educational institutions;
- Implemented programs for education, training, and capacity building to improve legal compliance of vessel owners, captains, fishermen, and service providers in the fishing industry;

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2.3. Plan for the Upcoming Period:

- Continue to implement approved strategies, programs, projects and plans on sustainable fisheries development to 2030, with a vision to 2045.
- The Government of Viet Nam has identified combating IUU fishing as a critical and priority task, decisive for the sustainable development of Viet Nam's fisheries sector at present and in the future.
- Viet Nam will continue to strictly control fishing vessel operations at sea and implement effective measures to prevent vessels from crossing maritime boundaries and violating foreign waters. Strict sanctions and criminal prosecution will be applied to vessels engaged in boundary-crossing and foreign water violations. The functions of the VNFishbase, VMS, and eCDT database systems will be upgraded; Fishing vessels and seafood arriving at ports will be strictly controlled according to the provisions of the PSMA Agreement, including container ships... ..

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2.4. General Assessment and Recommendations:

- ❖ With the strong and determined engagement of the Government of Vietnam in efforts to combat IUU fishing and promote sustainable fisheries development, the European Commission (EC), through four inspection missions, has acknowledged and recognized very positive results in Vietnam's fisheries management and in the fight against IUU fishing.
- ❖ On the basis of trusted cooperation, Vietnam calls upon FAO, SEAFDEC, and regional countries to continue supporting Vietnam in combating IUU fishing and in lifting the EC's "yellow card" warning on Vietnam's fisheries sector.
- ❖ FAO, SEAFDEC, and regional countries are requested to continue close coordination with the competent authorities of Vietnam to promptly prevent and strictly handle fishing vessels engaged in IUU fishing."



**Thank you for
your attention!**