



# Viet Nam's effort in Combating IUUF

**Workshop on Strengthening Regional Fisheries Governance and Technology Integration to Combat IUU Fishing in the Indo-Pacific**

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# COMBATING IUU FISHING

A satellite with solar panels and a central antenna is shown in orbit against a light blue background.

## Vietnam's Commitment Against IUU Fishing

- Urgent & long-term priority for sustainable fisheries
- Shared responsibility: government, agencies, businesses, communities
- Linked to modernizing management, resource protection, and fishermen's livelihoods
- Full compliance with international recommendations & legal frameworks
- Updated laws and regulations (2025) to strengthen enforcement

# Improving the legal framework for fisheries management

## Vietnam's Fisheries Legal Framework

- **Completed system:** Fisheries Law 2017, 2 Decrees, 8 Circulars
- Covers **fishing activities, vessel control, traceability, violations**
- **Amended & supplemented** to strengthen enforcement
- Aligns with **international commitments & practices**
- Supports **IUU combat & sustainable fisheries development**

# MONITORING

## Fleet Management

- All fishing vessels registered in **VNFishbase**, linked to **VNeID**
- **No new vessels** allowed in the near future
- Vessels at sea must have **licenses & VMS devices**
- Vessels >15m must have VMS (max 2 if joint fishing)
- Non-compliant vessels will be **strictly monitored**
- By **01/07/2026**, vessels >24m must use **eCDT system**

# Control

A stylized illustration of a satellite with solar panels and a parabolic dish antenna, positioned in the upper right quadrant of the slide.

## Port Departure Control

- All fishing vessels must **notify Port Authority 1 hour before departure**
- **Inspectors** (management agencies, Port Authority) check vessel eligibility
- Documents reviewed:
  - Registration & operating license
  - Submitted logbook
  - VMS equipment
  - Ship markings
  - Crew documents

# Control



## Fishing Port Development

- **86 fishing ports** nationwide now operational
- Ongoing **investment & upgrades** to planned ports
- Enhances **control of fishing vessel operations**

# Surveillance

- FMC will provide information to all management/surveillance agencies if the FV loses its position or is operating near the border of other countries.



# Surveillance

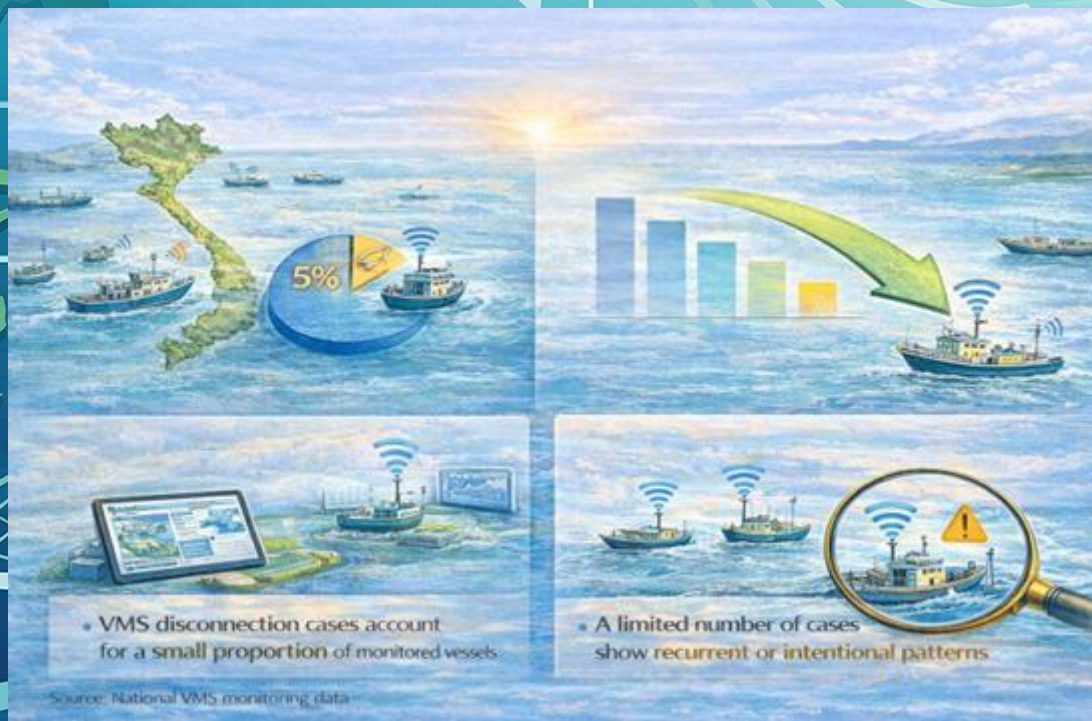
A stylized illustration of a satellite in space, featuring a central body with a parabolic dish antenna and two rectangular solar panel arrays extending outwards.

## **At-Sea Vessel Inspection**

- Inspectors check vessel compliance during operations
- Key items reviewed:
  - Registration & fishing license
  - Submitted logbook
  - Captain's certificates
  - VMS equipment
  - Vessel markings
  - Crew documents
  - Fishing gear
- **Inspection report will be submitted to DOF**

# Technology used for combating IUUF

## VMS System

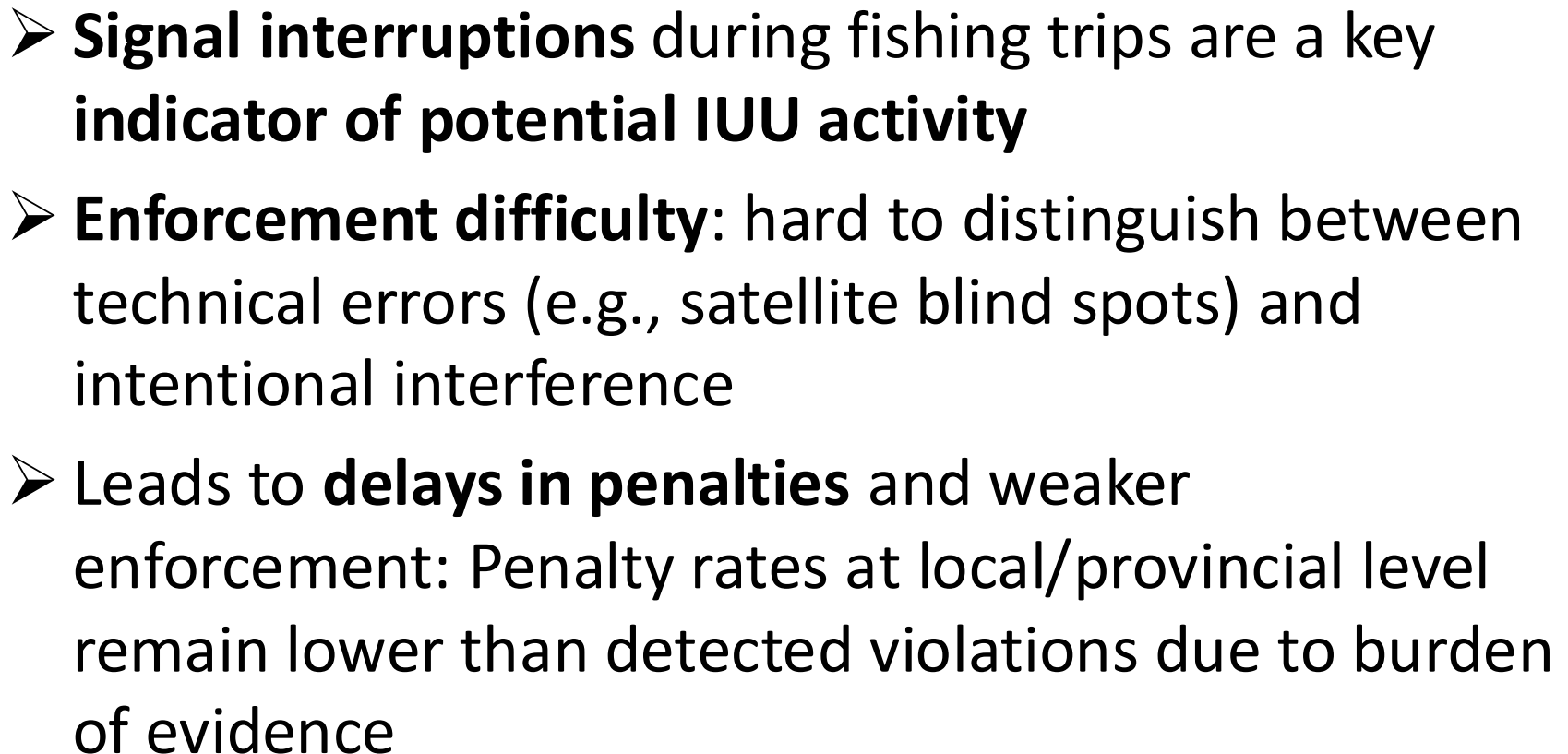


- **Satellite communication:** identify location, speed, direction
- **Real-time tracking** of vessels on digital maps
- **Automatic alerts** when entering restricted waters
- **Monitoring routes & activities** of FV
- **Data storage** maintained for 36 months

**Central software:** managed by Ministry of Agriculture & Environment

# Key challenges: VMS disconnection

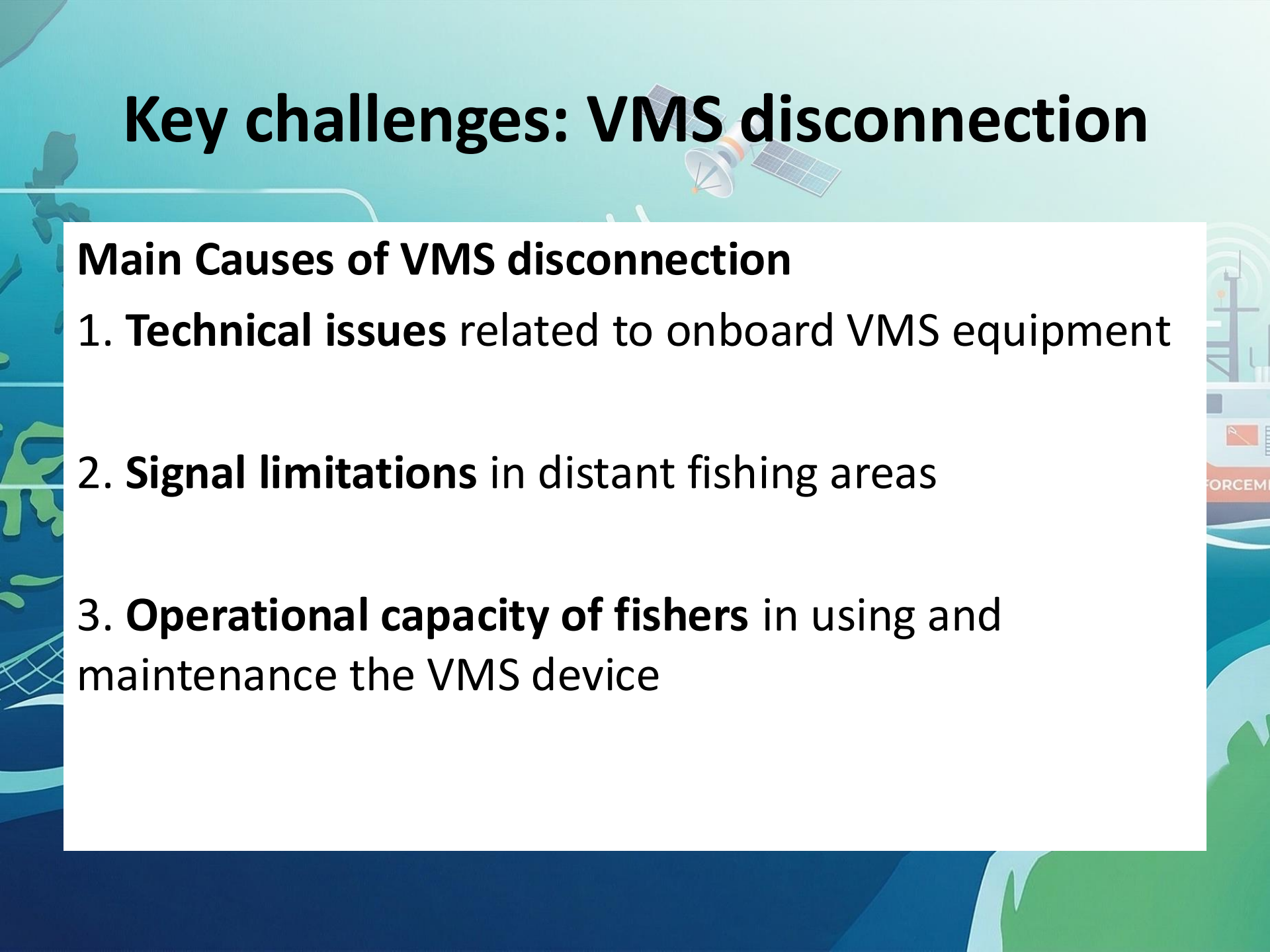
A stylized illustration of a satellite in space, featuring a central body with a parabolic dish antenna and two rectangular solar panel arrays extending outwards.

- **Signal interruptions** during fishing trips are a key indicator of potential IUU activity
  - **Enforcement difficulty:** hard to distinguish between technical errors (e.g., satellite blind spots) and intentional interference
  - Leads to **delays in penalties** and weaker enforcement: Penalty rates at local/provincial level remain lower than detected violations due to burden of evidence
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- The background features a light blue sky with a satellite illustration. On the left, there is a stylized map of the world. On the right, there is a vertical strip showing a ship's mast and a sign with the word 'ENFORCEMENT' partially visible.

# Key challenges: VMS disconnection



A stylized illustration of a satellite with solar panels and a parabolic antenna, positioned above the main title.

## Main Causes of VMS disconnection

1. **Technical issues** related to onboard VMS equipment
  2. **Signal limitations** in distant fishing areas
  3. **Operational capacity of fishers** in using and maintenance the VMS device
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- The background features a light blue gradient with abstract shapes. On the right side, there is a vertical strip containing a stylized ship's mast and the word 'FORCEMENT' in a red box. At the bottom, there are green and blue shapes representing land and water.

# VMS Disconnection: Scope and Trends



1. VMS disconnection cases account for a small proportion of monitored vessels
  2. Year-on-year reduction of over 80% in VMS disconnection cases
  3. Most cases are temporary or technical in nature
  4. A limited number of cases show recurrent or intentional patterns
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# Handling Measures for VMS Disconnection Cases

- Short-term or first-time disconnection:
  - Warning, technical support, corrective actions
- Repeated disconnection cases:
  - Enhanced monitoring, administrative handling
- Suspected intentional interference:
  - Investigation, evidence collection, sanctions
- Serious violations:
  - License suspension; criminal proceedings

# Areas for Further Improvement



## Ongoing Efforts and Needs

- 1. Improving reliability and standards of VMS equipment
  - 2. Clarifying legal treatment of VMS disconnection cases
  - 3. Enhancing data integration between VMS and other MCS tools
  - 4. Strengthening cooperation and experience sharing at the regional level
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## CONTACT US

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