



# Viet Nam Fisheries in 2025:

## SETTING NEW RECORDS

### 1 Record-Breaking Achievements

#### • Export value: Reached **USD 11,3 billion**

- Up 12.7% compared to 2024 – the highest level in the history of the sector)

#### • Total production: Reached **9,95 million tons**

- Up 3.0%, exceeding the annual target by 2%)

### 2 Value addition:

- Effectively leveraging preferential tariffs from **16 Free Trade Agreements** (including EVFTA, CPTPP, RCEP, etc.)

### 2 Structural Transformation: “Less Capture – More Aquaculture”

- **Aquaculture production: Reached 6.11 million tons** (up 5.1%) → Serving as the main pillar, accounting for nearly **61%** of total fisheries production.

### 2 Capture fisheries: Maintained at **3.83 million tons**

- Following a roadmap to reduce fishing effort in order to protect marine resources and biodiversity.

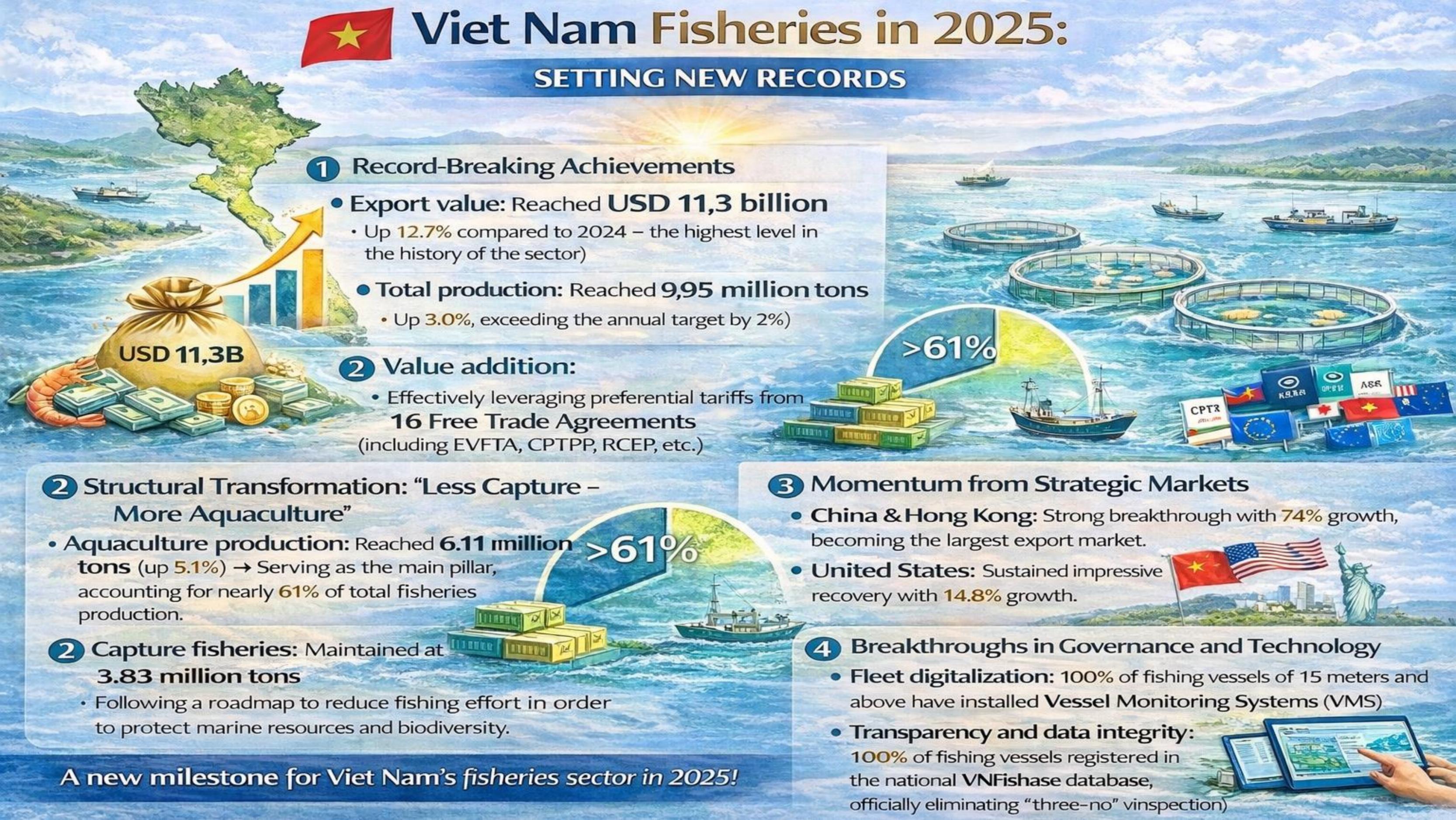
### 3 Momentum from Strategic Markets

- **China & Hong Kong:** Strong breakthrough with **74%** growth, becoming the largest export market.
- **United States:** Sustained impressive recovery with **14.8%** growth.

### 4 Breakthroughs in Governance and Technology

- **Fleet digitalization:** 100% of fishing vessels of 15 meters and above have installed **Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS)**
- **Transparency and data integrity:** **100%** of fishing vessels registered in the national **VNFishase** database, officially eliminating “three-no” vinspection)

**A new milestone for Viet Nam’s fisheries sector in 2025!**





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# Strengthening MCS Implementation: Addressing VMS Disconnection and Enforcement Challenges (Experience sharing from Viet Nam)



Regional Workshop on Information Exchange on Monitoring Control and Surveillance for Combating IUU Fishing  
in Southeast Asia, 24–26 February 2026 Bangkok, Thailand



## Objectives

1. To share Viet Nam's practical experience in addressing VMS disconnection.
2. To highlight challenges in handling and sanctioning related violations.
3. To identify lessons learned that may be relevant for ASEAN Member States.
4. To encourage regional discussion and cooperation on MCS implementation.





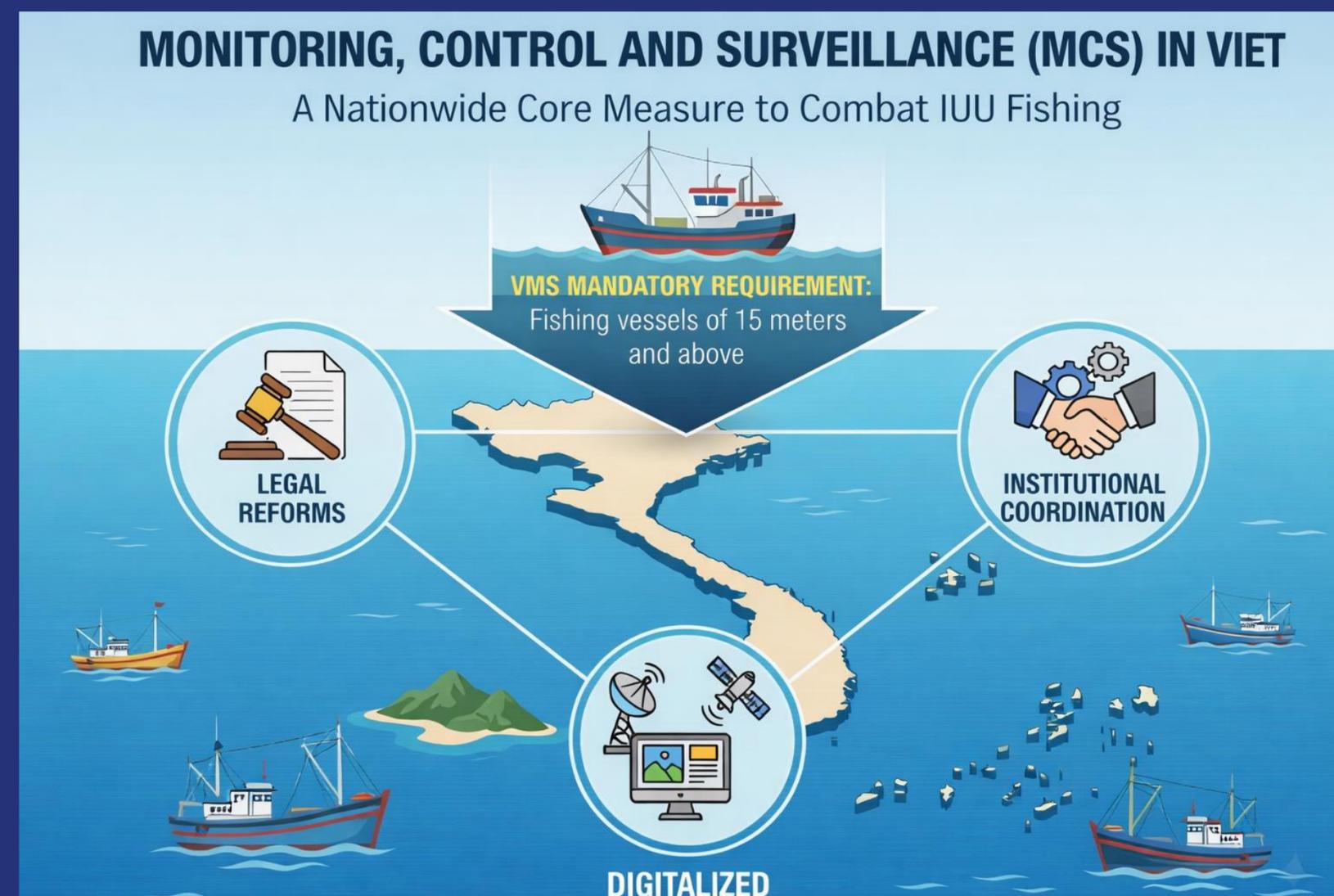
# Background: MCS in Viet Nam





## VMS Implementation Progress

1. Viet Nam has implemented a nationwide MCS system as a core measure to combat IUU fishing
2. VMS is a mandatory requirement for fishing vessels of 15 meters length and above
3. MCS implementation is supported by legal reforms, institutional coordination, and digitalized monitoring systems



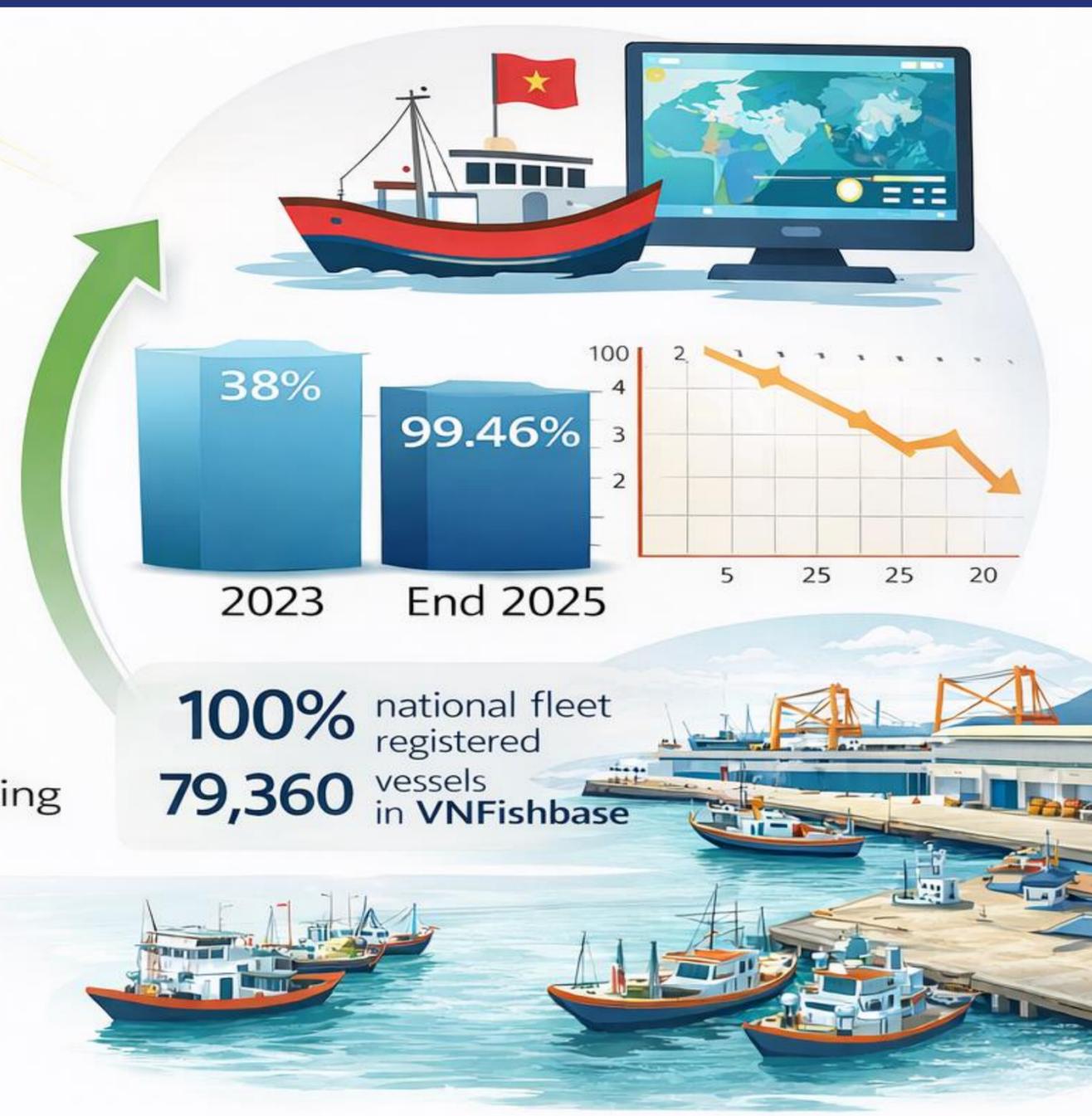


# MCS Implementation progress & key statistics

- ✓ Mandatory VMS for all fishing vessels  $\geq 15$  meters
- ✓ **27,782 vessels (99.46%)** operating VMS in compliance (end 2025)
- ✓ Centralized VMS monitoring supports enforcement actions

## Fishing Ports and Catch Landing Control

- ✓ **86** fishing ports officially announced and operational
- ✓ eCDT implemented at **164** ports and landing sites
- ✓ Catch landing declaration and verification are implemented in accordance with **Circular No. 81/2025/TT-BNNMT**





## Key challenges: VMS disconnection

1. A limited number of vessels experience VMS signal loss or interruption during fishing trips remains the primary indicator of potential IUU activity



2. Difficulties in enforcement: Distinguishing between technical errors (satellite blind spots) and intentional interference is difficult, leading to delays in penalties. Therefore, the rate of penalties at the local/provincial level remains lower than the number of detected violations due to the burden of evidence.





# Main Causes of VMS disconnection

1. Technical issues related to onboard VMS equipment



2. Satellite signal limitations in distant fishing areas



3. Operational capacity of fishers in equipment use and maintenance



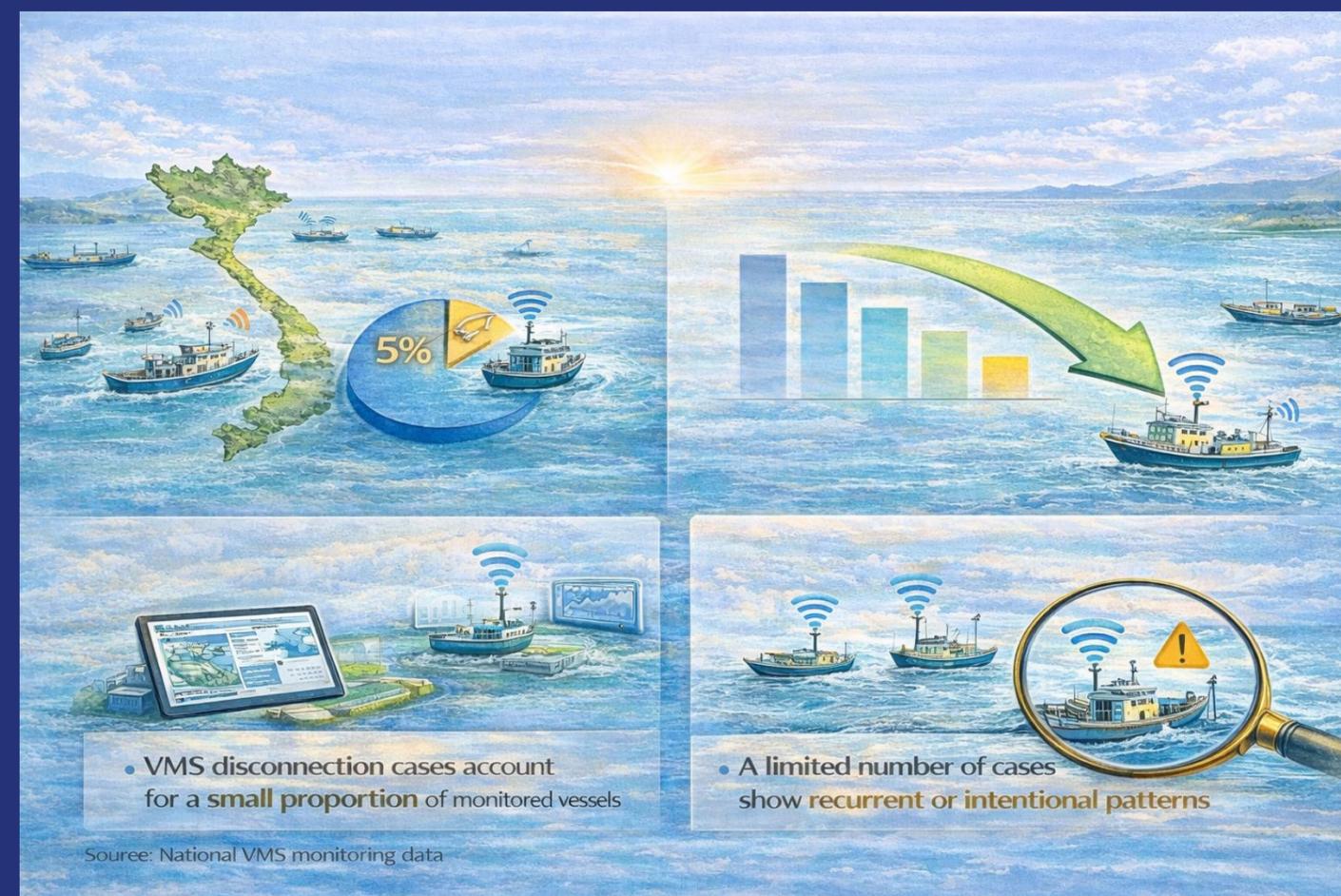
4. Practical difficulty in distinguishing technical failure from intentional disconnection





## VMS Disconnection: Scope and Trends

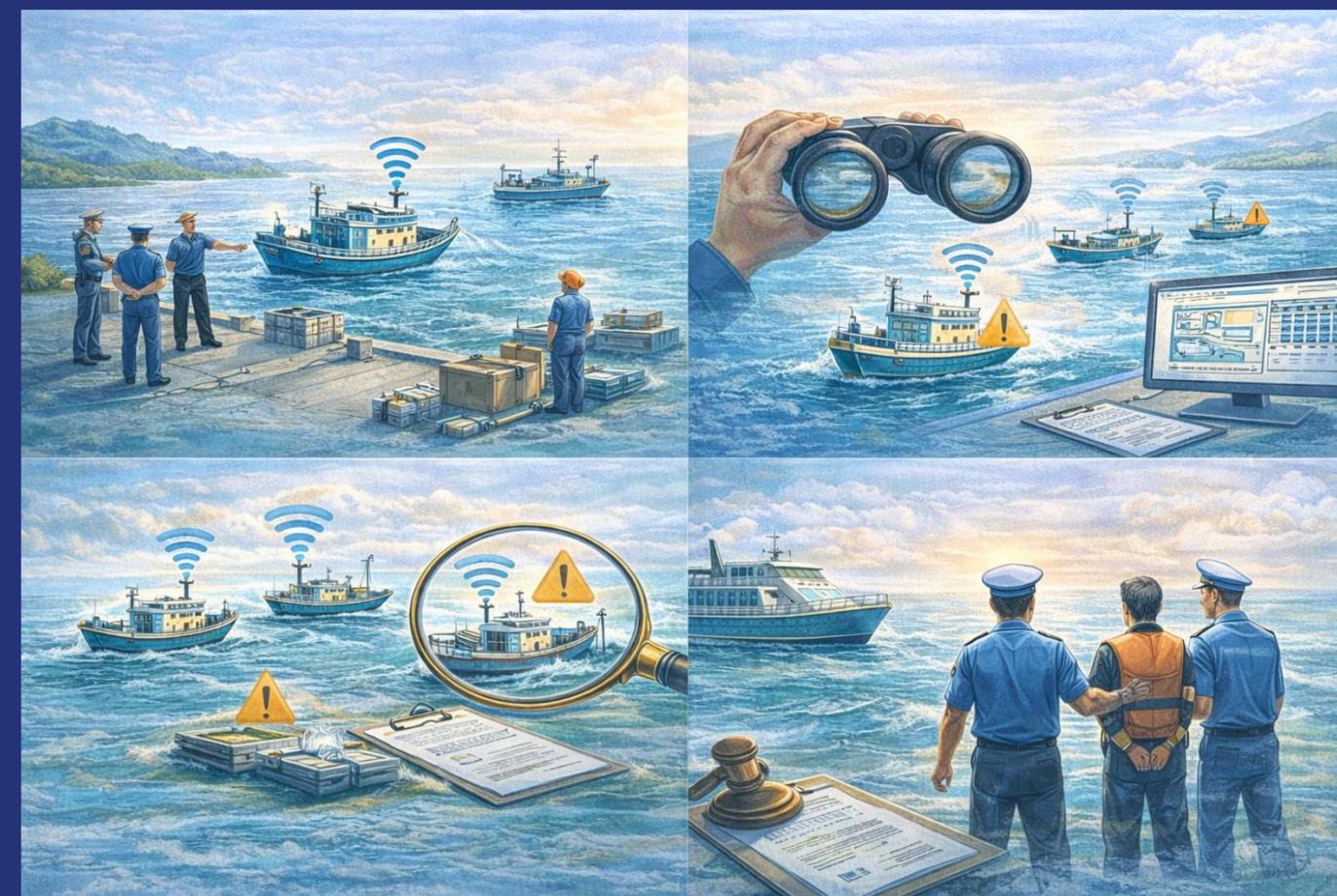
1. VMS disconnection cases account for a small proportion of monitored vessels
2. Year-on-year reduction of over 80% in VMS disconnection cases
3. Most cases are temporary or technical in nature
4. A limited number of cases show recurrent or intentional patterns





## Handling Measures for VMS Disconnection Cases

1. Short-term or first-time disconnection:  
→ Warning, technical support, corrective actions
2. Repeated disconnection cases:  
→ Enhanced monitoring, administrative handling
3. Suspected intentional interference:  
→ Investigation, evidence collection, sanctions under Decree No. 38/2024/ND-CP
4. Serious violations:  
→ License suspension; criminal handling in accordance with national law.

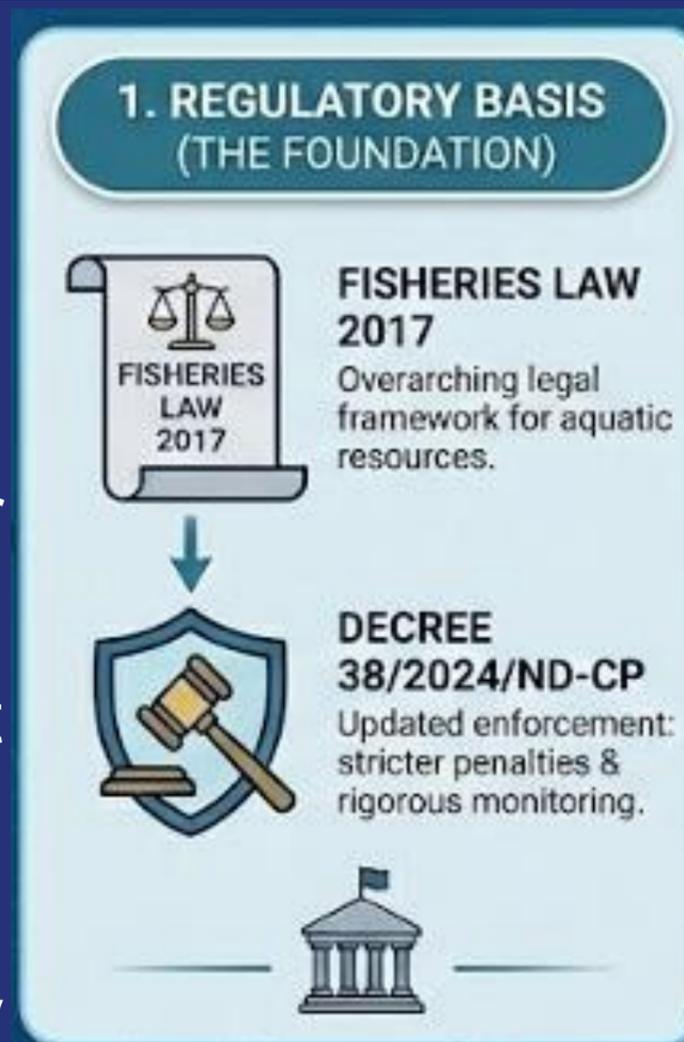




# Enforcement and Sanctioning

## 1. VMS Disconnection Sanctions

- Continuous VMS operation is mandatory for vessels  $\geq 15m$ .
- VMS disconnection or interference is subject to administrative sanctions.
- Sanctions include fines, license suspension, and corrective measures; certain violations may be subject to criminal prosecution, including imprisonment.
- Enforcement is based on verification and evidence assessment

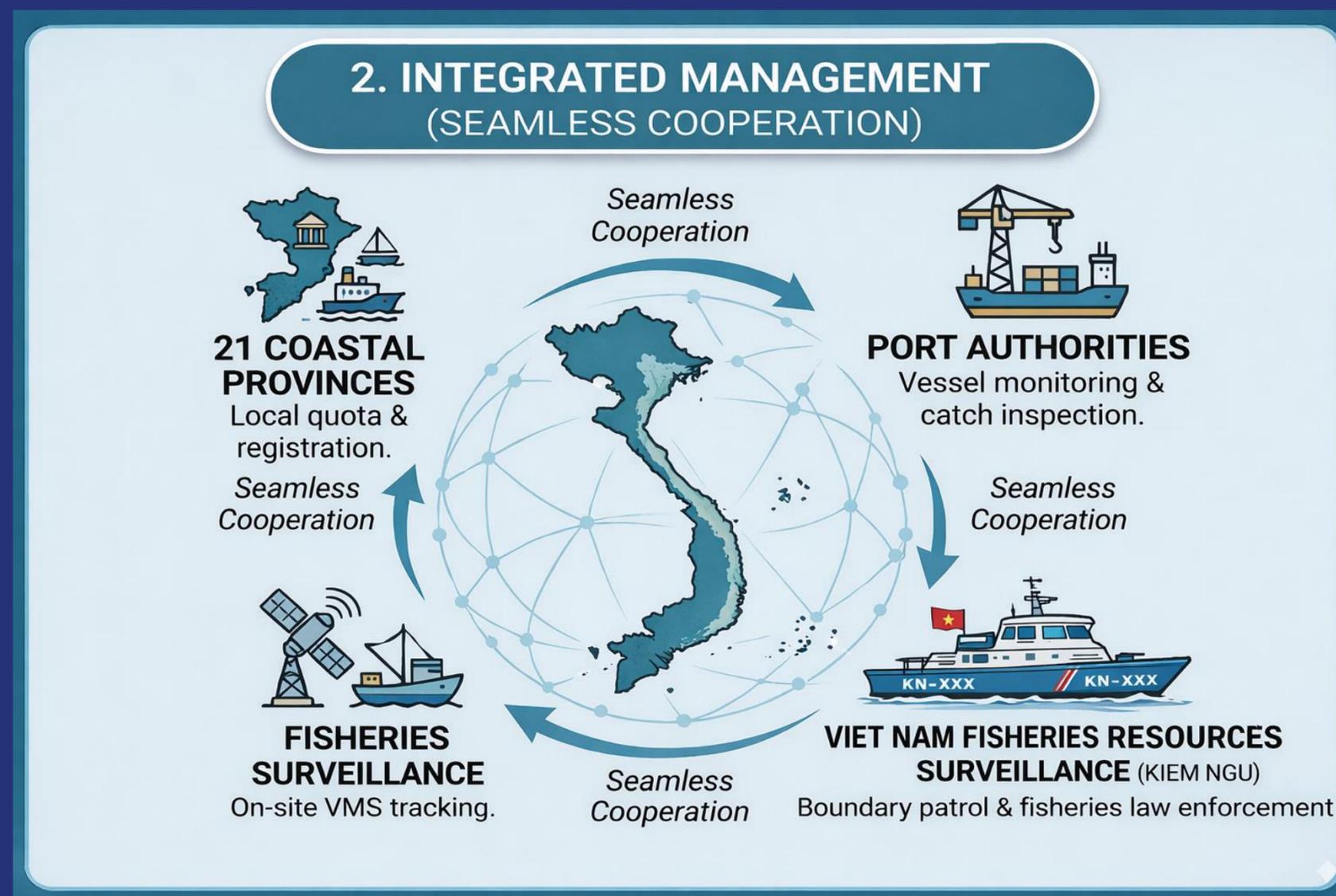




# Legal & Institutional Coordination

## 2. Integrated Management

- Local management by coastal provinces
- Port-based monitoring and inspection
- VMS-based surveillance at sea
- Offshore patrol by Fisheries Surveillance and coast guard forces
- Seamless inter-agency cooperation





## Handling Challenges

1. VMS disconnection cases are subject to verification before any sanctioning decision
2. Legal procedures require sufficient and reliable evidence to determine violations
3. Verification focuses on distinguishing technical failures from intentional interference
4. Administrative handling involves coordination among multiple competent authorities
5. Some cases remain under verification until adequate evidence is established

### Handling VMS-Related Violations

Verification → Evidence → Coordination → Decision





# Lessons Learned from Viet Nam

## KEY LESSONS FROM IMPLEMENTATION

### 1. TECHNOLOGY ALONE IS NOT SUFFICIENT



For effective MCS, technology must be integrated with other elements.

### 2. LEGAL CLARITY IS ESSENTIAL



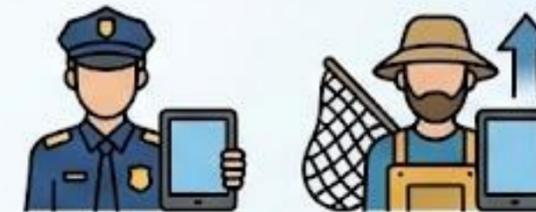
To support enforcement actions and define clear regulations.

### 3. PREVENTIVE MEASURES & EARLY INTERVENTION



Are more effective than reactive measures.

### 4. CAPACITY BUILDING IS IMPORTANT



For both authorities and fishers to ensure compliance.



# 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





## Suggested Recommendations and Support Needed

### Regional (ASEAN) Level

1. Promote experience sharing and good practices on handling VMS disconnection cases.
2. Work toward more comparable VMS monitoring standards across ASEAN.
3. Enhance information exchange and cooperation for offshore and transboundary fishing activities.
4. Strengthen collaboration with regional and international partners in MCS capacity building.





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