

Vietnam swordfish - handline

Overview

FIP Description

Hong Ngoc Seafood is implementing the Vietnam swordfish – handline FIP with the goal of attaining an MSC-certifiable status for the fishery by December 2024.

Swordfish is a highly migratory species of fish found throughout most of the world's oceans. This FIP focuses on the Western and Central North Pacific Ocean (WCNPO) swordfish stock, under the management of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), fished by the Vietnamese handline fishery.

The Vietnamese handline fishery began operating in late 2011. The fishery primarily targets large tunas — such as yellowfin and bigeye — in offshore areas within the Vietnam Economic Exclusive Zone (EEZ), although swordfish and other large pelagic species are also taken. Fishing is conducted on wooden handline vessels with a length of 15 to 23m carrying four to 6 fishers, including master. Handliners attract fish using bait (mostly squid or small scads) and lights, with vessels usually operating up to four lines, each with two hooks.

The fishing fleet is composed of 2,000+ handline vessels. The vessels are licensed at the provincial level but any management measures (i.e. capacity management and operational restrictions) are generally imposed at a national level. All fishing currently occurs within the Vietnam EEZ.

All catch is initially landed in Vietnam, with higher quality catch exported as both whole fish and processed product. The remainder is retained for local consumption and processing.

Key problems/issues at the beginning of the FIP:

According to the MSC Pre-Assessment of the fishery (MRAG 2017), the main obstacles to sustainability were:

- No explicit limit or target reference points are defined by which to manage the exploitation of the stock more robustly.
- There is not a well-defined harvest control rule in place for swordfish, although there are rules and

management tools available from other fisheries in the Western Central Pacific Fishery Commission (WCPFC) area for reducing catch or effort in the swordfish fishery should critical limits be approached.

- Currently, there is not sufficient information to rule out the finning of sharks.
- There is poor information on catches in the fishery.
- There is little information regarding bycatch and ETP species in the fishery.
- The fishery management system in Vietnam does not explicitly embody the precautionary approach and certain provisions of conservation and management of the WCPFC need to be addressed by the national legislation.
- There are no fishery-specific objectives for swordfish at the national level.
- There is no management plan for the fishery.
- There are shortcomings in addressing illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the country.

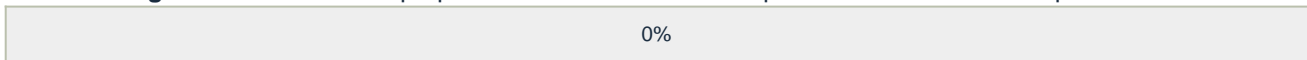
The FIP was initiated and co-led by Sea Delight and CeDePesca; however, in July 2024 the FIP transitioned to be fully led by Hong Ngoc Seafood.

How is this FIP Doing?

Current Status:



Actions Progress This shows the proportion of actions in the workplan that the FIP has completed.



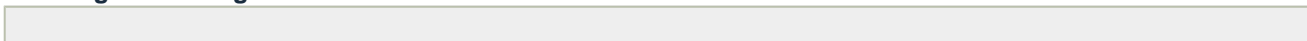
Actions Overview This shows the proportion of actions that are behind schedule, on track, completed, or not yet started.

Behind	On Track	Complete	Future
25%	75%	0%	0%

Red Indicator Progress This shows the proportion of actions specifically addressing red indicators that are behind schedule, on track, completed, or not yet started. This helps users understand the progress the FIP is making on the biggest challenges in the fishery.

Behind	On Track	Complete	Future
0%	100%	0%	0%

FIP Progress Rating



FIP Objective(s)

The ultimate objective of this FIP is to achieve the fishery's certifiable status against the MSC standard by the end of December 2024. To this purpose, the FIP has updated its specific objectives as follows:

- [COMPLETE] To adopt explicit limit or target reference points for the swordfish stocks by January 2021.
- [COMPLETE] To design and adopt a well-defined harvest control rule by January 2021.
- To ensure the adoption of a national Management plan for swordfish in line with WCPFC harvest strategy by December 2024.
- To continue improving data collection in the fishery until December 2024.
- [COMPLETE] To assess the impacts of the Vietnamese handline fleet over other ecosystem components, such as bycatch species and endangered, threatened and protected (ETP) species by July 2022.
- To ensure the adoption of a fins-naturally-attached policy for sharks by December 2023.
- To better address illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing by December 2024.
- To achieve an MSC-certifiable status in a socially responsible way by December 2024.

FIP Type

Comprehensive

FIP Stage

Stage 5: Improvements on the Water

Start and Projected End Dates

October, 2018 -
December, 2024

Species

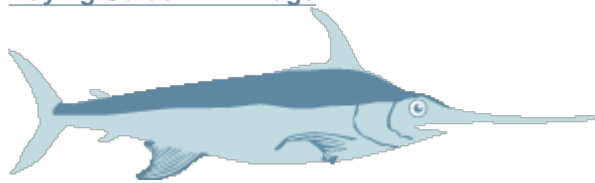
Common Name

Swordfish

Scientific Name

Xiphias gladius

[Buying Guide Link Image](#)



[Swordfish](#)
[Buying Guide](#)

Gear Type

[Handline](#)

Location

FAO Major Fishing Area

[Area 71 \(Pacific, Western Central\)](#)

Exclusive Economic Zones

Country

Viet Nam

Geographic Scope

Primarily, waters off the provinces of Binh Dinh, Khanh Hoa, and Phu Yen

Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO)

WCPFC

High Seas Name

Pacific Ocean

Estimated Total FIP Landings

200 metric tons

FIP Leads

Organization Name

Hong Ngoc Seafood

Organization Type

Industry

Primary Contact

Yen Nguyen

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Website Name

[Hong Ngoc Seafood](#)

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