**DRAFT 2019-2021 PLAN FOR THE INITIATION OF A NATIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAM IN VIET NAM**

This draft plan was designed at a Observer Planning/Strategy Meeting held in Viet Nam on March 22-23, 2019. Participants included staff from national and provincial government agencies, WCPFC, SPC, VINATUNA, WWF and technical advisers.

2019: Scoping/Pilot of 8 Trips by 8-12 people - 1 for GN, 4 for PS, 2 for HL, 1 for LL.

* Provisional data collection forms and protocols for each gear will need to be developed prior to workshop. (First review of forms/data fields at VTFACE – June 2019; finalized prior to October 2019)
* Training Workshop (8-9 days?) for 8-12 people (from RIMF, SUBDECAFIREP, VINATUNA and potentially WWF, VIFEP) in mid October/early November 2019.
* Planning for the trips need to take into account season for fishing, full-moon period (GN), etc. (Nov-Dec 2019)
* Trained observers will then leave for Observer Trip immediately after the training workshop to pilot/test forms/processes/methods, etc.
* Need to train local experts for debriefing after the observer training workshop.
* Debriefers will meet with observers immediately after their trips (Jan 2020?)
* Possibility of WCPFC or SPC to visit to participate with the debriefing.
* As an alternative option, if appropriate/required, a remote review/audit of data by WCPFC, SPC.

2019: Other Project activities:

* Start review and assess needs related to Legislation to establish Professional Observer Program
* Cost Recovery Study : WCPFC and D-Fish to identify potential consultant
* Plan for consultancy on Developing Observer Diploma/Certificate Program at VN universities
* Visit in October 2019 to implement Tufman2 database and reporting systems, including training.

2020: 8-12 people from 2019 do 2 trips each, plus 8-12 more people for two trips each. One training for both groups together. Total 32 Trips.

* Debriefing of 2019 trips will identify any initial issues to resolve in forms/protocol, etc.
* 8-12 Observers (that were trained in 2019) will conduct another trip in Feb-Mar 2020
* Next training workshop in March/April 2020 will cover 8-12 observers from 2019 training and 8-12 new observers (and potentially others from VINATUNA ?). The experienced observers will undertake refresher training and help train the new observers.
* All observers from this training (16-24 observers) will set out immediately on observer trips (April 2020 before the end of the peak fishing season).
* Debriefing of these trips (May 2020) – (WCPFC/SPC involved ???).
* The newly trained (8-12) observers conduct their second trip (June/July 2020)
* Debriefing of these trips (July/August 2020) – (WCPFC/SPC involved ???).
* 2nd Observer Planning meeting to review progress and plan for 2021 and onwards (October 2020)

2020: Other Project activities:

* Hire consultant to draft legal framework to establish Professional Observer Program
* Consultancy on Developing Observer Diploma/Certificate Program at VN universities – funding, legislation changes, length of course, type of course, basic entry needs for candidates. Produce cadre of professional observers – delivery pipeline
* 2nd Observer Planning meeting to be held in October 2020.

2021: Initiate Professional Observer Program with Training of Trainers/Briefers/Debriefers, Training for First Batch of Professional Observers.