

Vung Tau Fishery Improvement project

Vietnam mixed species - trawl

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) OF COMPONENT 2.1 - DEVELOPING GUIDANCE FOR MULTI-SPECIES STOCK ASSESSMENT APPLICABLE FOR TRAWL FISHERIES

1. Project context

Fisheries in Vietnam in general and particularly in BRVT bears multi-species and multi-fishing gear characteristics. Official statistics indicated that BRVT province contributed 5.73% to the total number of fishing vessels in the country, in which trawlers are dominant, comprising 27-30% in total number of fishing units and total catch estimated at 260-450 thousand tons per year in the period 2015-2019. The main faced issues in trawl fisheries in general are fisheries resources in the coastal water have been overfished; big trawlers fishing in coastal and inshore waters and catching more juvenile fish; no selectivity, trawl fisheries catch species, no by-catch; insufficient information on catch composition, species composition and size of species caught; and poor complement of fisheries management measures, no harvest strategy, no harvest control rules.

Regarding catch volume, the precise scale of the BRVT bottom trawl fishery is unclear and there is discrepancy in the landing proportion categorisation applied by relevant fishery state agents and the General Statistics Office of Vietnam.

Catch composition information on the species caught by the BRVT trawl fishery is also varied and many species can only be identified to genus or family level.

Information about current status of the fishery resources, ETPs, habitats and the ecosystem is not available; data collection is insufficient to comprehensively support the fisheries management in Vietnam; and stakeholders from the private sector have no access to fishery data and information.

Hence, high priorities for the implementation phase of FIP Vung Tau are identified, including the multi-species stock assessment methodology, the stock assessment for other species of trawl fisheries in BRVT, fishery related data collection frameworks, assessments of ETP species and Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems. Outcomes will be communicated and discussed with authorities at provincial level so that recommendations can be incorporated in the provincial fishery management plan.

2. Deliverables

The ultimate of this component is 'The Guidance for multi-species stock assessment applicable for trawl fisheries in Ba Ria - Vung Tau province'.

The component constitutes 2 (two) Deliverables:

- a. **Deliverable 1:** 2.1.1f - 'The draft guidance for multi-species stock assessment applicable for trawl fisheries in Ba Ria - Vung Tau province.'

- b. **Deliverable 2:** 2.1.4fa - 'The Guidance for multi-species stock assessment applicable for trawl fisheries in Ba Ria - Vung Tau province'

We ask the consultant to provide and agree with us on a Logical Framework, determining the scope, quality criteria and means of verification.

The project documents of FIP Vung Tau - Implementation phase are shared with the consultant.

2.1 Background

The two standard owner schemes involved in multi-species fisheries assessment are Marine Stewardship Council (known as MSC) and Marin Trust.

MSC plans to launch their Public review of the proposed revised Standard by February 2022, and then the standard will be released by June 2022 (*Source: MSC website*).

The MarinTrust multispecies criteria¹ have been launched in order to be tested during 3 years with relevant fisheries such as mixed trawl fisheries in South East Asia. There is currently one Fishery Improvement Project that has been accepted onto the Improver Programme as part of the multispecies pilot project², the Gulf of Thailand mixed-trawl fishery in February 2020 (*Source: MarinTrust website*).

As the only pilot of mixed trawl fisheries happening in Thailand, which is comparable to Ba Ria - Vung Tau, is with Marin Trust, hence the guidance for multi-species stock assessment applicable for trawl fisheries in Ba Ria - Vung Tau province will adopt Marin Trust guidance and be interpreted in specific conditions of the province.

2.2 Scope

This ToR is under activities 2.1 of the '*FIP Vung tau Implementation Workplan 2022-2024*'

a. Technical:

The Multi-species Assessment begins with the assumption that an unmanaged but fully developed fishery would represent a very high risk to the following four categories:

- The species caught in the fishery (the catch);
- ETP species with which the fishery interacts;
- The critical habitats within which the fishery occurs; and
- The ecosystems within which the fishery occurs.

This ToR will focus on the species caught in the fishery (the catch).

b. Stakeholders:

Key stakeholders of the project are:

- Government agents: the provincial Fishery Department of Ba Ria - Vung Tau, landing ports authorities, the provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and provincial Committee of People.

¹ Based on "best practice" fisheries management as specified in international norms and guidance including the 1982 Convention of the law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as captured in the 1995 Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), with additional input from the 2006 regionalisation of the code for Southeast Asia (Regional CCRF).

² To enable MarinTrust to test the methodology in active fisheries and ultimately develop a credible and realistic set of criteria to eventually include within the full MarinTrust fishery assessment.

- Other Consultants: Kim Delta T&C, Nha Trang university (NTU) and Can Tho university (CTU).
- Fishmeal chain actors: fishermen, fishmeal producers and feed companies.
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs): WWF Vietnam and Centre for Marinelife Conservation and Community Development (MCD).

2.3 Content

The guidance shall cover:

- A set of key indicators need to be monitors, methodology of data collection and data analysis;
- A set of reference points;
- A framework to conduct assessment of the status of the fishery resources;
- Set criteria for evaluation and reporting of management performance.

3. Evaluation of deliverable(s)

The Guidance shall be successfully evaluated by international peers with qualifications of a profession within the field of tropical marine fishery.

4. Qualifications

The individual consultant or consulting firm shall:

- Have at least 10 years experience in fisheries management and marine conservation;
- Have experience in working with different stakeholders, including the public sector, industry and NGOs more than 5 years
- Involve in establishing Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs) in South East Asia using either the MSC Standard or the IFFO RS Standard as the goal;
- Involve in establishing the fish meal roundtable or working with international organizations in sustainable fisheries, such as Sustainable Fisheries Partnership, UN FAO, UNDP;
- Have practical knowledge of both MSC and Marin Trust standards;
- Capable of working with from six countries in SE Asia.
- Understanding of the fisheries that produce fish meal in South East Asia and the challenges of assessing these against existing standards.

5. Fee & Payment terms

a. Fee

- The fee for Deliverable 1: 2.1.1f - 'The draft guidance for multi-species stock assessment applicable for trawl fisheries in Ba Ria - Vung Tau province' is



USD 11.825 (in words: eleven thousand eight hundred twenty-five US dollars)

- The fee for Deliverable 2: 2.1.4fa - 'The Guidance for multi-species stock assessment applicable for trawl fisheries in Ba Ria - Vung Tau province' is USD 2.210 (in words: two thousand two hundred and ten US dollars).
- Fee includes VAT, if applicable.

b. Payment term

1. 5.913 USD after signing the contract - Advance payment of Deliverable 1: 50% of 11.825.
2. 5.912 USD - after completion of deliverable and reception of invoice of 11.825 USD (Incl VAT).
3. 2.210 USD - after receiving the final version of the guidance and invoice of 2.210 USD (Incl VAT).

c. Financial Rules and Regulations

4. At the end of the assignment the consultant is to submit an invoice with VAT, if applicable.
5. The invoice is to be accompanied by evidence of costs as per the project Rules and Regulations (attachment 1)

6. Contracting procedure

An agreed upon logframe, work plan and CV shall be a part of the contract. The attached Code of Conduct for Kim Delta Partners & Subcontractors has to be signed and sent back with the signed contract.

Contact person is Thanh NGUYEN, phone number: +84 913 771 208, email address: thanh@kimdelta.org

7. Progress meeting

During project time, there will be an online meeting every 2 weeks so that the consultant can update Kim Delta about the progress.

Attachments:

1. Rules and Regulations FIP Vung Tau
2. The project documents of FIP Vung Tau - Implementation
3. Template for Logical Framework
4. Code of Conduct for Kim Delta Partners & Subcontractors

Prepared by: Thanh NGUYEN

Approved by: Steven STARMANS

Date: Jan 27, 2022

