**MEETING MINUTE**

**Topic :** Update meeting on Tuna FIP progress and discussion on next steps

**Time :** 08:00 – 14:00, Tuesday 26/04/2022

**Location :** Meeting room, Floor 6, Luxury Nha Trang hotel, 24 Tran Phu street, Nha Trang city

**Key points:**

1. WWF-Viet Nam updated on progress of Tuna FIP and provided recommendations to further the goal of achieving MSC for Vietnamese tuna fishery.
2. Seafood processor Thinh Hung (Mr. Nguyen Dinh Hau) commented:
   1. Managing governmental agency should allow access to updates/information on implementation progress of policies in fisheries management, on violating vessels, on national supply chain and on the government’s management software.
   2. There should be fishermen representatives in the meetings.
3. Seafood process Mai Tin/Evergreen (Ms. Nguyen Thi Bich Hanh) commented:
   1. There should be incentives for vessels/fishermen who are willing to join sustainable programs.
   2. It is still challenging to attract fisherment to join the sustainable programs, even though the business has already paid higher prices for sustainable products. Mai Tin currently has 2 vessels that pilot methods in sustainable capturing and improving storing quality.
   3. Stressed the need to conserve tuna stocks. If not, there will be direct negative consequences for Vietnamese fishing fleet attempting to maintain presence in the East sea.

* Global market demand for MSC products is increasing. Significant markets like the US and Canada are all requesting FIP and MSC products. Over 90% of customers request FIP products, 30-40% customers request MSC products. MSC-certified tuna products are expected to account for 38% of total global tuna catch. A few tuna fisheries already receive or will soon receive MSC certification, while many tuna fisheries are in the process of or beginning to start FIP.
* Therefore, Vietnamese tuna products face high competition. Businesses in the Vietnamese supply chain desire FIP/MSC products as soon as possible to maintain significant markets with high economical gains (US, EU). Concurrently, businesses are concerned that the value of Vietnamese tuna products will continue to decrease if the fishery cannot maintain an A score raking on FisheryPropgress.org and ultimately cannot achieve MSC, even though Vietnamese tuna products can compete with those from Indonesia and Philippines.

1. VinaTuna (Mr. Tran Van Hao) updated the status of import and export of Vietnamese tuna, and reported fishermen’s challenges when costs continue to rise.
2. Department of Conservation (Mr. Nguyen Van Minh)
   1. Confirmed the need to review: current proposals on bycatch mitigation; NPOA for sharks, rays and sea turtles.
   2. Asked WWF to support reviewing, consolidating and translating CMM policies related to bycatch.
3. Department of Capture Fisheries (Mr. Vu Duyen Hai)
   1. Confirmed can provide information to satisfy the recommendations from Tuna FIP.
      1. Review, update the national management plan for tuna (formally included in WPEA budget) and seek FIP engagement in supporting alignment with MSC
      2. RIMF, VinaTuna and Nha Trang university can collaborate with WPEA to develop Harvest Strategy, referring to Indonesian version. DFISH can review and supplement policies and harvest control rules and tools.
      3. Need to have official reports on bycatch of shark and rays
      4. Provide evidence of compliance with Decree 26 / Fisheries Law eg incident reports; VMS dashboard (internal)
   2. Need to identify roles of all parties when collaborating to address FIP’s recommendations.
   3. Proposed WWF support in implementing the plan to improve tuna fishery.
4. Department of Technology and International cooperation (Ms. Nguyen Thi Phuong Dung)
   1. Discussed with businesses on the role and potential benefits of a Private Public Partnership (PPP) for tuna fishery.
   2. WWF will support drafting PPP activities and take businesses’ feedback.

**Conclusion of DFISH director Mr. Tran Dinh Luan:**

* WWF provides short report on progress of Tuna FIP
* Mr. Vu Duyen Hai is DFISH’s focal point for Tuna FIP
* VinaTuna continues to push Tuna FIP forward
* DFISH is the coordinating unit, guiding Vietnamese tuna fishery management to satisfy requirements in protecting and developing fisheries resources, and maintaining significant markets for Vietnamese fisheries, especially tuna.