**Eleventh Vietnam/WCPFC Annual Tuna Fisheries Catch Estimates Workshop**

**VTFACE-11**

19-20 April 2022, Nha Trang, Khanh Hoa, Vietnam

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

The annual workshop to assess tuna catches in Vietnam (VTFACE-11) agreed to make the following recommendations:

1. The workshop recommended that all stakeholders, mainly D-FISH and Fisheries Sub-Departments, with the support of WCPFC if relevant, continue to develop/implement the Data Collection Strategy. The main components of the new strategy are:
   1. D-FISH/MARD has developed a legal framework to collect data (see VTFACE-10 recommendation) and now needs to implement guidance (data form, fishing gears, sample, method to estimate catches, etc.) to collect data on Vietnamese tuna fisheries (output on unloadings, biological sample at port, on-board observer, logbook). The WCPFC-ITM project was suggested to provide a budget to hire a domestic consultant to develop a technical guideline for designing a fisheries data collection plan at the provincial level according to Circular No. 01/2022/TT-BNNPTNT to maintain the fisheries data collection program in Vietnam after this project ended.
   2. Review the recent observer data collected and implement annual observer program from the Vietnam tuna fishery to obtain indications of the discards of key shark species to adjust the provisional annual catch estimates in future workshops.
   3. Ensure that future VTFACE meetings include the review of neritic species catch estimates taken in the tuna fishery. It was suggested that since SEAFDEC are responsible for compiling estimates of the neritic species (which are also required under the NPOA), then SEAFDEC and RIMF (the Vietnam agency dealing with SEAFDEC) should be invited to future VTFACE meetings to present the neritic species estimates.
   4. D-FISH / WCPFC is requested to continue organizing seminars and training to improve sampling capacity for staff performing sampling at the port.
2. Based on the responses from provinces in the VTFACE-11 survey on the future of data collection and the use of TUFMAN 2 after the WPEA project finishes, the main points are :
   1. Training in the use of TUFMAN 2 was identified as the most important activity in the short term with WCPFC/SPC’s support. Training will be conducted in May 2022 and SPC support is required (either in-person or virtual). Additional training courses may be required in 2022;
   2. Provinces highlighted the need for funding support for (i) data collection and (ii) data processing in TUFMAN 2, and that a policy should be formulated to cover these needs;
   3. Provinces will continue to collect data using the relevant data collection forms. D-FISH/MARD will continue to work with provinces to support the collection and resolve any issues;
   4. WCPFC/SPC will continue to provide remote support for the TUFMAN 2 system in the future and beyond the termination of the current WPEA project.
3. Suggest the DFISH to consider a study to remove difficulties in regulations on the timetable of the observer trips on fishing vessels, funding for implementation and early planning to ensure practical fishing operations.
4. It is suggested that WCPFC / SPC will continue to support Vietnam in data management on TUFMAN 2 software and ensure that the new TUFMAN 2 Reports system has new reports that meet the requirements of D-FISH and local government.
5. The workshop recommends that the DFISH coordinate with relevant agencies to continue checking the current tuna import data gaps and report any issues that prevent them from preparing a summary of tuna imports. The workshop also encouraged Sub-DFISH to continue to collect information about the local tuna supply chain and to present this information at the annual VTFACE workshops.
6. The workshop recognized and appreciated that D-FISH / MARD is considering tuna management by quotas. In this process, SPC (with support from WPEA-ITM project) was requested to support Vietnam in developing a tuna harvest strategy with reference to data collected since 2010.