

Ministry of Agriculture and Environment of Viet Nam

SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN VIETNAM

Bangkok, July 15, 2025

1. Overview of Vietnam's Fisheries Sector

- Viet Nam A Coastal Nation:
 - 3,260 km coastline
 - Diverse marine ecosystem, rich resources (over 11,000 species, reserves >3.85 million tons)
- Achievements (2023-2024):
 - Total fisheries output >9.6 million tons
 - Export value ~10 billion USD
- Key challenges:
 - Marine environment pollution
 - Ecosystem degradation, resource depletion
 - Large fishing fleets (especially small coastal vessels)
 - Uncontrolled marine tourism development

2. Current Status of Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF)

- Small-Scale Fisheries:
 - Fishing activities using small vessels (<15m/20 HP), rudimentary boats
 - Artisanal and family-based fishing activities
 - Mainly operating in nearshore waters (<6 nautical miles)
- Scale:
 - 87,000 fishing vessels nationwide (2023)
 - SSF: 70-80% of total fishing vessels
 - 38,500 ships from 6 to under 12m
- Importance:
 - Livelihood for >600,000 fishers
 - Food supply for coastal communities
 - Women play a key role in processing and trading.

3. Existing Issues and Limitations of SSF

- Severe resource depletion:
 - Fishery reserves decrease by 22% after 20 years
 - Overexploitation of commercial species beyond their regeneration capacity
- Infrastructure and management limitations:
 - Excessive number of small coastal fishing vessels
 - Insufficient and outdated fisheries infrastructure
 - Incomplete and inconsistent fisheries data
 - Difficulties in monitoring small fishing vessels
- Incomplete legal framework:
 - Legal regulations not yet strict
 - Lack of support policies for livelihood transformation

4. SSF Management in Vietnam

- Management Decentralization:
 - Central government (MAE): Offshore fishing management
 - Provincial government: Nearshore and inshore fishing management

• Management measures:

- Catch permit quotas
- Total allowable catch limits (e.g., Tuna)
- Technical regulations: mesh size, closed/seasonal areas, MPAs, prohibited gear

4. SSF Management in Vietnam

- Fleet reduction target (by 2030): Total fishing vessels: 83,600 units
- Livelihood Transformation Roadmap (2023-2030):
 - By 2025:
 - Transform 2,000 nearshore/inshore vessels
 - Transform 1,000 offshore vessels (high-impact fisheries)
 - Training 50,000 fishermen
 - 2026-2030:
 - Transform 4,000 nearshore/inshore vessels
 - Transform 2,000 offshore vessels
 - Training 70,000 fishermen
- Requirement: No new/modified vessel permits for prohibited/restricted fisheries

5. Proposed Solutions

- Enhance regional resource management experience sharing
- Develop policies for catch effort reduction, alternative livelihoods
- Build and integrate a common fisheries management database
- > Improve data operation, analysis capacity
- Establish ASEAN Small-Scale Fisheries Support Fund

Thank you!

