

FIP DRAFT WORK PLAN - VIETNAM SWORDFISH HANDLINE FISHERY – March 30, 2018

Fishery Name: Vietnam Swordfish Handline Fishery		Start Date: TBD
Fishery Location: Vietnam	Fishing Method: Handline	End Date: TBD
Project Leaders: Sea Delight CeDePesca		Improvements Recommended by: MRAG Consulting Stephen Reiss Fisher - Sea Delight Ernesto Godelman
<p>Overview of the Work Plan: Sea Delight commissioned a pre-assessment, based on Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) standards for sustainable fisheries, of the Vietnam Swordfish Handline Fishery in November 2017. The final report of the pre-assessment indicated the fishery would not achieve the MSC Standard set for Principle 2, Ecosystem Impacts and Principle 3, Governance and Management System.</p> <p>The Pre-Assessment indicated the fishery would pass for Principle 1, Target Stocks, because the WCPFC maintains that the swordfish stocks are currently not overfished and have not experienced overfishing throughout the stock assessment period of 1951 to 2012. However, the fact that there is no detailed written management plan would make it difficult to pass a full assessment. This lack of a written plan contributes directly to the predictive scores in P3 3.2.1, 3.2.2 and 3.2.4 of < 60.</p> <p>Therefore, the Work Plan will focus on activities targeting Vietnam creating a written Swordfish Management plan, either with better guidance from WCPFC than that provided in CMM 2009 -3 or unilaterally.</p> <p>The 4 predictive scores of <60 in Principle 2, Ecosystem Impacts, relate to issues with possible shark finning and insufficient data on the fisheries impacts on secondary and endangered, threatened and protected (ETP) species. The activities for P2 will focus on improving all forms of catch identification and data recording. This work will include an innovative effort to involve fishers with efforts to collect detailed data onboard to support data being collected by professional observers. Once better data is available secondary and ETP species can be assessed using the Risk Based Framework and management plans developed as needed. Much of this work will also be in cooperation with and contribute to the ongoing work in the Vietnam National Hook and Line Tuna FIP, the “parent fishery” of the swordfish handline fishery.</p> <p>The 5 predictive scores of <60 in Principle 3, Governance and Management System, are due to the lack of a written management plan, discussed above, Vietnam’s requirement to become a full cooperating member of WCPFC and concerns about anti-IUU enforcement. The activities in the Work Plan will aim to encourage WCPFC and Vietnam government to resolve issues blocking WCPFC full membership and improve anti-IUU awareness and enforcement as well as the work to develop a written management plan mentioned above.</p> <p>Note on the Vietnam Hook and Line Tuna FIP: The handline swordfish fishery is a secondary catch component of the Vietnam Handline fishery. As such, much of the work in this work plan will be in cooperation with work in the Tuna FIP and much of the work in the Tuna FIP Action Plan will contribute to the improvement of the swordfish handline fishery. Sea Delight is a partner in the VN Tuna FIP.</p> <p>Traceability: A version of the traceability system currently being used in the VN Tuna FIP will be implemented in the Swordfish FIP as well.</p>		

Standard Requirement	Work Plan Activity	Resources Required	Action Lead	Action Partners	Stakeholders	Timescale/milestones
<p>1.2.1 SG 80 The harvest strategy is responsive to the state of the stock and the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving stock management objectives reflected in PI</p> <p>Other Relevant Standard Requirements: 1.2.2 2.5.2 3.2.1 3.2.2 3.2.4</p>	<p>Activity 1.2.1: The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) is encouraged to replace Conservation Management Measure (CMM) 2009-3 with a new CMM for swordfish for all areas of the Western Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO), instead of that below 20° S only. The new CMM should include management advise for all areas of the WCPO and recommend specific Target and Limit Reference Points (TRPs and LRPs), for all swordfish stocks.</p>					<p>Milestone 1. A formal written request from the FIP members is sent to WCPFC requesting confirmation on current management measures for all swordfish stocks in the WCPFC Area of Responsibility and urging the development of management measures with specific TRPs and LRPs, in a new CMM, for all stocks/sub-areas. The request makes specific reference to Paragraph 7 of CMM 2009-3 "Recognising the need for both Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATCC) and WCPFC to adopt conservation and management measures to provide for the sustainable management of swordfish stocks across the Pacific Ocean."</p> <p>The letter also advises the commission of the need for management measures, that include Harvest Control Rules and that take into account the inherent uncertainty of stock assessments, for important commercial species stocks within the Commission's area of responsibility, even if they are not currently in an overfished or near overfished status. The letter states further that as more and more fisheries seek recognition as sustainably and properly-managed entities, management guidance from WCPFC becomes more important, especially for highly migratory pelagic species.</p> <p>Milestone 2. Representatives of the Vietnam Handline Swordfish FIP attend annual meetings of the WCPFC to follow-up on the letter in Milestone 1.</p> <p>Milestone 3. A new CMM on Conservation and Management for Swordfish is issued by WCPFC that includes management measures with specific Target and Limit Reference Points.</p>

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<p>1.2.2 SG 80</p> <p>Well defined HCRs are in place that ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as the PRI is approached, are expected to keep the stock fluctuating around a target level consistent with (or above) MSY, or for key LTL species a level consistent with ecosystem needs</p> <p>The HCRs are likely to be robust to the main uncertainties.</p> <p>Other Relevant Standard Requirements: 2.5.2 3.1.2 3.2.1 3.2.2 3.2.4</p>	<p>Activity 1.2.2 a: Vietnam (D-Fish) is encouraged to develop and issue a National Swordfish Management Plan (NSMP).</p>					<p>Milestone 4: Vietnam develops the NSMP, including specific objectives, the precautionary and ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management. The NSMP identifies organizations involved in the management of the fishery and explicitly defines their roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>Milestone 5: A workshop on establishing Target Reference Points (TRPs), Limit Reference Points (LRPs) and Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) is held with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development – Directorate of Fisheries (D-Fish) and FIP stakeholders.</p> <p>Milestone 6: D-Fish establishes a framework to set harvest control rules</p> <p>Milestone 7: Vietnam continues to hold workshops to review its system of management tools for all fisheries.</p> <p>Milestone 8: Workshops are held with fishers’ groups in the parent fishery (Tuna longline) to impart awareness of the Swordfish NPOA.</p>

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<p>2.1.2 SG 80 It is highly likely that shark finning is not taking place.</p> <p>Other Relevant Standard Requirements: 2.2.2</p>	<p>Activity 2.3.1: Vietnam D-Fish is encouraged to ban shark finning at sea, either through the Shark NPOA or the newly Revised National Fishery Law (as of Feb. 23. 2018 there is no ban in either document)</p>					<p>Milestone 9. FIP members attend or arrange D-Fish meetings, Tuna FIP and Sword FIP meetings where this action is requested.</p> <p>Milestone 10. FIP members and stakeholders send official letters to D-Fish requesting the finning ban and explaining the importance of this Activity to the worldwide market for swordfish.</p>
<p>2.3.2 SG 80 There is a strategy in place for managing the UoA's impact on ETP species, including measures to minimize mortality, which is designed to be highly likely to achieve national and international requirements for the protection of ETP species.</p>	<p>Activity 2.3.2: Vietnam D-Fish is encouraged to enact the National Plan of Action (NPOA) for Shark. The NPOA also includes a partial shark management strategy consistent with CMM 2010-07 for oceanic and silky sharks and a full strategy to prevent the retention of oceanic whitetip shark (CMM 2010-07) and scalloped hammerhead shark (CITES App 2).</p>					<p>Milestone 11. Vietnam to implement CMMs 2010-07 and CMM 2011-03/Cites App2, including all data collection requirements as part of the Draft National Plan of Action on Shark. To complete this milestone FIP members attend or arrange D-Fish meetings, Tuna FIP and Sword FIP meetings and send official letters to D-Fish</p>

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<p>2.3.2 SG 80 There is a strategy in place for managing the UoA's impact on ETP species, including measures to minimize mortality, which is designed to be highly likely to achieve national and international requirements for the protection of ETP species.</p> <p>2.3.3 SG 80 Some quantitative information is adequate to assess the UoA related mortality and impact and to determine whether the UoA may be a threat to protection and recovery of the ETP species.</p> <p>Other Relevant Standard Requirements: 2.1.3 2.2.1 2.2.3 2.3.2 2.3.3, 2.5.3</p>	<p>Activity 2.3.3: Continue and expand the ongoing fisher awareness program on onboard logbooks, port sampling programs and related management tools</p>					<p>Milestone 25. Organize regular fisher organization meetings in each province to use as platforms for awareness presentations and practical training on correct and accurate completion of WCPFC logbooks for fishers and local Fisheries Authorities.</p> <p>Milestone 26. Secure a final Vietnamese language version of the current format WCPFC logbook for handline tuna vessels for distribution to fishers.</p> <p>Milestone 27. Conduct awareness and training programs on the new mandatory Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) and Vietnam Catch Declaration forms and how they help manage the fishery.</p>

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<p>3.1.1 SG 80 There is an effective national legal system and organized and effective cooperation with other parties, where necessary, to deliver management outcomes consistent with MSC Principles 1 and 2.</p>	<p>Activity 3.1: Vietnam D-Fish encouraged to become a Commission Cooperating Member of the WCPFC</p>					<p>Milestone 28. Vietnam and WCPFC agree on tuna management parameters (LRPs and TRPs) that are blocking full membership.</p> <p>Milestone 29. The new Vietnam Fisheries Law is issued, and this complies with WCPFC requirements and supports outcomes consistent with MSC principles.</p>
<p>3.1.3 SG 80 Clear long-term objectives that guide decision-making, consistent with MSC fisheries standard and the precautionary approach, are explicit within management policy.</p> <p>3.2.1 SG 80 Short and long term objectives, which are consistent with achieving the outcomes expressed by MSC's Principles 1 and 2, are explicit within the fishery-specific management system</p>	<p>Activity 3.2: Swordfish Management Plan objectives are applied</p>					<p>Milestone 30. The finalised Management Plan complies with MSC principles</p> <p>Milestone 31. The plan has clear fishery-specific objectives at the national level and adopts objectives either from a new CMM for swordfish from WCPFC or objectives based on CMM 2009-3</p> <p>Milestone 32. The plan has a clear consultation process that includes monitoring and performance guidelines and is regularly subject to internal and external review, at least annually.</p>

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3.2.3 SG 80 A monitoring, control and surveillance system has been implemented in the fishery and has demonstrated an ability to enforce relevant management measures, strategies and/or rules.	Activity 3.2.2: Fishers are familiarized with the new anti-IUU provisions of the National Fisheries Law					<p>Milestone 33. Through cooperation local Marine Police, Navy and Sub-DECAFIREP offices a plan to train and equip volunteer fishers/vessel operators to record observations of IUU activities is developed and tested.</p> <p>Milestone 34. Several volunteers in each province are equipped with cameras with telephoto lenses and At-Sea Observation Report forms. Photos of suspected vessels engaged in IUU activities and reports of these observations are shared with local authorities</p>
3.2.3 SG 80 Some evidence exists to demonstrate fishers comply with the management system under assessment, including, when required, providing information of importance to the effective management of the fishery.	Activity 3.2.3 Fishers provide support for anti-IUU enforcement					<p>Milestone 35. Copies of the relevant section of the revised law are made available to fishers through fishers group meetings, government offices and local government meetings.</p> <p>Milestone 36. A presentation on the anti-IUU law, together with an explanation about the compliance requirements of the MSC standard is made and distributed to fishers and fishery stakeholders through fishers group meetings, government offices and local government meetings.</p>

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