



**STRATEGIES FOR TRAWL FISHERIES
BYCATCH MANAGEMENT
(REBYC-II CTI; GCP /RAS/269/GFF)**

A NATIONAL WORKSHOP TO TERMINATE THE REBYC-II CTI PROJECT

Phu Quoc, Kien Giang, Viet Nam, 25-27 August 2016

Ha Noi, 2016

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A. Introduction

1. The project “Strategies for trawl fisheries bycatch management” (REBYC-II CTI) was conceived based on the successes of the 2002-2008 FAO/UNEP/GEF global project “Reduction of Environmental Impact from Tropical Shrimp Trawling through the Introduction of Bycatch Reduction Technologies and Change of Management”. The REBYC-II CTI project intends to focus on multispecies bottom trawling, where bycatch issues are amongst the most serious, with potentially significant effects on ecosystems and livelihoods. The Project aims to address these challenges by promoting sustainable fishing practices and improved trawl management. The REBYC-II CTI project was developed under the leadership of FAO (project implementing agency) in close collaboration with its partners: Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) and the governments of the participating countries Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.
2. The situation today in Viet Nam in trawl fisheries is that it catches enormous quantities and a great diversity of fish and shrimp to fulfil market demands, with very little discarding. The trawl sector provides very significant incomes and economic wellbeing for many local communities in entire the country. It provides large numbers of jobs directly in the sector, and an even larger number in related industries such as fish meal factories, processing plants, transport, refrigeration, and supporting services. However, the expansion of trawl fisheries has reached a limit as there are no new, unexploited fishing grounds available. The contribution of trawl fisheries to fish production, occupations and income generation is counterbalanced by concerns about the sustainability of catches and ecosystem impacts. As a consequence, these fisheries require careful management underpinned by sound information and solid enforcement to support a transition to sustainable trawl fisheries management and practices. Recently, Viet Nam’s Government has adopted a new decision on freezing all trawl vessels in the entire country. However, this regulation is based on top-down control perspective with few consultations on stakeholders.
3. After some years of the REBYC-II CTI project implementation, it is important that the lessons learned during implementation of the project are shared and discussed with counterpart organizations and key stakeholders working on trawl fisheries and coastal fisheries management in Viet Nam. In order to facilitate an effective exchange of information and ideas, the Project will organize a Project Closing Workshop to introduce what to be done and what to be expected to carry over in the future on trawl fisheries management at national and local level in Viet Nam.
4. The closing workshop was organized over two days and one day for a study tour. A series of presentations was given by the executive project implementation agencies, Directorate of Fisheries that highlighted the key

lessons learned during implementation of the Project. These highlights also included lessons learned by each project component such as Policy and legal frameworks, Resource Management & Fishing Operations, Information Management & Communication and Awareness & Knowledge. The presentations also summarized the national/provincial level impacts of the Project, the impact on awareness of all stakeholders.

5. Finally, recommendations and future actions was proposed for better trawl fisheries management and consensus agreement by all stakeholders was finalized at the end of the workshop. The workshop provided a chance to discuss on logistic and administrative procedures to close the project at national level.

B. Objectives and participants of the workshop

6. The workshop aims to: (i) To share lessons learned during the implementation of the REBYC-II CTI project, with the stakeholders interested in trawl fisheries in Viet Nam; (ii) To summarize the national/provincial level impacts of the Project on trawl fisheries management; (iii) To recommend and propose future actions by all stakeholders for better trawl fisheries management in Viet Nam and (iv) To discuss what to be prepared such as administrative procedures for closing the project in Viet Nam.
7. Participants are mainly from local authorities who then can provide feedback through their points of view on the project implementation. In addition, participants could recommend better solutions to effectively and sustainably manage trawl fisheries at the local and national level. The agenda of the meeting is indicated in the APPENDIX 2. This report gives the record of the workshop and the major outcomes.

C. Opening session

8. The workshop was attended by representatives of Directorate of Fisheries (D-FISH), Institute for Economic and Fisheries Planning, Research Institute for Marine Fisheries (the branch at Vung Tau province) and representatives of local Sub-Department of Fisheries in provinces namely Kien Giang, Ca Mau, Ben Tre, Ba Ria Vung Tau, Bac Lieu, Nghe An, Thanh Hoa where trawl fisheries are developed in Viet Nam. The list of participants is given in the APPENDIX 1.
9. Mr. Nguyen Van Tam, Director of Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Kien Giang provided a welcome remark. He highlighted importance of trawl fisheries management in Kien Giang province and also thanked D-FISH for supporting a small grant to develop their trawl fisheries management plan which will be approved for future implementation.

10. Mr. Nguyen Phu Quoc, Deputy Director of Department of Capture Fisheries (agency under the D-FISH) opened the meeting and also welcomed the participants. He highlighted the importance of fisheries sector in general and the trawl fisheries in particular in term of contribution to national and provincial economic development and in providing significant livelihood for local communities. However, he emphasized that because of unsustainable development of trawl fisheries sector, there have been large impacts on fisheries (conflicts with other sectors, overfishing, overcapacity), environment and ecosystem where trawling occurred. Therefore, there is a need to develop and implement effective trawl fisheries management measures including development of suitable legal and policy frameworks to effectively manage the trawl fisheries in Viet Nam. Vietnamese Government has issued many legal documents and frameworks to manage trawl fisheries in the past. These are indicated in following legal documents: the Master Plan of Fisheries Sector a vision to 2020 with intention to reduce environmentally unfriendly gears including trawl fisheries (Decision No 1690/QD-TTg dated on 16/9/2010); the fisheries development strategies to reduce trawl vessels (Decision No 1445/QD-TTG dated on 16/8/2013); a program to reorganize fisheries sector with intention to reduce trawlers up to 15% (Decision No 375/QD-TTg dated on 1/3/2013) and a recent one of legal document issued by Minister of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to freeze all trawl fisheries in the entire country (Document No 9443/BNN-TCTS dated on 18 November 2015).
11. For trawl fisheries management at local level, D-FISH as a central fisheries management authority will try the best to support provinces to develop their PTFMP to gradually comply with international and regional requirements in term of sustainable management and development its fisheries.

D. Trawl fisheries overview at national level

12. Mr. Pham Viet Anh, National Technical Officer (NTO) presented an overview of trawl fisheries in Viet Nam. The trawl sector provides very significant incomes and economic wellbeing for many local communities in the entire country. It provides large numbers of jobs directly in the sector, and an even larger number in related business such as fish meal factories, processing plants, transport, refrigeration, and supporting services.
13. Trawl fisheries have been rapidly developing recently in some coastal provinces of Viet Nam including Kien Giang province. Trawl fisheries are one of the traditional fisheries developed long time ago in Viet Nam. The trawlers are occurring in almost all coastal provinces of Viet Nam and contributing significantly on total national fishing vessels and providing important livelihoods for many local communities in the coastal areas.
14. Up to December 2015, the total fishing vessels (including fishing logistic

vessels) were about 107,000 units. Of those, many are coastal vessels. The total trawlers in the entire country is 20,113 units contributing about 18% of total fishing vessels (7,776 units having capacity of less than 90HP operating in the coastal and inshore areas). However, there is no any specific legislation based on ecosystem approaches developed to manage Vietnamese fisheries in general and trawl fisheries management in particular. At the moment, fisheries management in Viet Nam is based on following legal documents: Decree No 33/2010/ND-CP dated on 31/3/2010 by Government to manage fishing vessels entire Vietnamese waters including fishing licensing regulations, zoning, and the Circular No 25/2013/TT-BNNPTNT dated on 10/5/2013 by Minister of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to regulate data provisions by all relevant stakeholders. However, these legislations are not effectively and efficiently implemented or only considered as normal administrative regulations without high compliance level. Recently, Minister of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development issued the legal document No 9443/BNN-TCTS on 18 October 2015 to limit and freeze number of trawlers entire the country. This document announced negative impacts of trawl fisheries and recommended not to build or switch into trawlers from other gears. It meant that number of trawlers must be kept as it is before 18 October 2015 and provincial fisheries management authorities should have their plans to reduce as many as possible of number of trawlers operating in their waters.

E. REBYC-II CTI: achievements, shortcoming and lesson learnt

15. Mr. Pham Viet Anh, on behalf of implementation agencies of D-FISH (Department of Capture Fisheries) and as NTO of the project presented some main information of the project and highlighted the achievements, shortcomings and lesson learnt from the project implementation. His presentation contained as following:
16. At the local level, the project supported local fisheries management agency in a pilot site (Kien Giang province) to develop a provincial trawl fisheries management plan. This is the first management plan developed for trawl fisheries in Viet Nam following ecosystem approach to fisheries management.
17. At the national level, Vietnamese Government paid more attention on trawl fisheries management since the project implemented in Viet Nam. An official document No 9443/BNN-TCTS dated on 18 November 2015 was issued to freeze number of trawlers operating in Vietnamese waters. This is the most successful impact of the project implementation in term of awareness.
18. In addition, by implementing the project in Viet Nam, some outcomes of the project achieved are:
 - a. Enhanced input data and information on trawl fisheries

management;

- b. Improved capacity and awareness on trawl fisheries management from local and central agencies;
- c. Enhanced ecosystem approach to trawl fisheries management. The concept of ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM) was firstly introduced and integrated in legislation of trawl fisheries management plan. EAFM includes participatory management arrangements. In addition, relevant stakeholders were invited to provide their comments and points of view on developing trawl fisheries management plan in Kien Giang province throughout workshops and meetings;
- d. Recognized roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders on trawl fisheries management in particular and fisheries management in general.

19. Throughout his presentation, some lesson learnt were also flagged as following:

- a. Defining all stakeholders on trawl fisheries management is very important on trawl fisheries management;
- b. Defining who will be main/key stakeholders on trawl fisheries management;
- c. Cooperation between management agencies from development of project document up to the project implementation is very important;
- d. Input information is very important;
- e. Starting from small scale to larger scales.

F. Trawl fisheries overview at provincial level

1.1. Kien Giang

20. Kien Giang Provincial People Committee (PPC) has established a Decision No. 23/2015/QĐ-UBND dated on 25/6/2015 to regulate fisheries management and protect marine resources in Kien Giang water. This regulation is a recent legislation on conservation and management measures including trawl fisheries in the province.

21. Importantly, Kien Giang is developing their trawl fisheries management plan, which was submitted to the PPC for a final approval. The development of this plan was financially and technically supported by REBYC-II CTI project. The plan considers ecosystem approach to balance between human well-being and ecosystem well being under a good governance system. In addition,

various stakeholders inside and outside the province also had chance to get involved in the development of the plan. Therefore, the plan may be considered as practical legislation and reflecting current demands of all stakeholders to manage trawl fisheries in the province by all relevant stakeholders.

1.2. Ca Mau

22. Ca Mau province has already propagated some local legal documents. Of those, it is not allowed to newly build small trawlers in the province. A former decision No 21/2007/QĐ-UBND and decision no 15/2012/QĐ-UBND regulated that: it is prohibited to develop vessel with capacity less than 50HP for all fleets and less than 150HP for trawlers (including single and pair trawlers).

1.3. Ben Tre

23. The PPC has issued an instructive no 20/2005/CT-UBND dated on 29/8/2005 about managing small vessels operating in coastal areas which as following: (i) do not allowed to develop small vessel less than 15 meter in length; (ii) trawlers can only operate in the coastal areas up to 31/12/2006, after that if these vessels want to operate in this area, it is necessary to upgrade into higher than 15 meter in length.

24. A decision no 29/2010/QĐ-UBND dated on 21/10/2010 by the PPC regulated that it is not allowed to develop trawlers with engine capacity less than 90HP.

25. Recently, a legal document no. 6695/UBND-KTN dated 21/12/2015 about freezing trawlers from 01/01/2016 which do not allow: (i) issuing any approval to build trawler; (ii) registering trawlers moved from other provinces and (iii) switching other gears into trawlers.

1.4. Ba Ria - Vung Tau

26. In order to manage fisheries operations effectively, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of Ba Ria – Vung Tau (DRAD Ba Ria-Vung Tau) has issued a plan No. 29/KH-SNN-TS dated 08 May 2014 to implement effectively and efficiently a Decision no 2071/QĐ-UBND issued on 11 September 2013 by Provincial People Committee. The plan was then implemented at district and commune level.

27. After that, DRAD Ba Ria-Vung Tau continued to issue a legal document no 479/SNN-TS dated 18 March 2015 to guide conditions and criteria in order to develop fishing fleets in the province from 2015-2016. It specifies that it is not allowed to newly build and buy any trawl fleet.

1.5. Bac Lieu

28. Trawl fisheries have been developed initially in 1954 with small scale and operating individually and using lower fishing technologies. Later, trawl fisheries were improved to fish more efficiently with higher catch-ability.
29. Up to August 2016, there are 1237 units registered as fishing vessels in the province. Of those, trawlers are 260 units accounting for 21% of total fishing vessel. There are 160 single trawlers accounting for 13% of total fishing vessels.
30. In trawl fisheries, proportion of bycatch is very high accounting for 30-40% of total catch. The pair trawlers are mainly operating in offshore areas with trip duration of 25-30 days. Some of large vessels can operate at sea from 50-60 days with 2-3 hauls/day. Average total catch per trip is more or less 50 MT/trip.
31. Following instructions and guidelines from central fisheries management agencies, Bac Lieu province is trying to manage its trawl fleets. Some actions were recommended to manage trawl fisheries at provincial level as following:
32. Reduction of small size trawlers: At the moment, there are 154 trawlers with capacity from 20-50HP. It is decided that it will not be allowed to buy and newly build trawler with this size class.
33. Enhancing fisheries inspection and surveillance activities to control zoning regulations and enforce fishing vessel operating in authorized/licensed areas.
34. Enhancing fisheries inspection activities to enforce mesh size regulations to improve gear selectivity.
35. Improving fishing licensing and vessel registration system to collect current number of vessel information and to reorganize fishing fleet structure.

1.6. Thanh Hoa

36. Number of fishing vessel in Thanh Hoa province is reduced from 7,954 units in 2011 to 6,947 units in 2016. Especially, small vessels were strongly decreased from 6125 to 3919 units recently. Number of large size vessels (higher than 90HP) increased from 882 to 1574 units. Of those, the trawl fleet contributed only 12.4% of total fishing vessels. The most significant fleet of Thanh Hoa province is gillnet accounting for 29.7% in total.
37. Total catch in Thanh Hoa province was 77,491 MT in 2011 and increased 94,168 MT in 2015. Of those, production from capture fisheries was 90,755 MT and from inland fisheries of 3,413 MT.
38. Fishing fleet of the province is not structured appropriately because of many them are largely focusing on small scale fisheries (70% of total fishing

vessels). Coastal resources are strongly reduced. There is lack of advanced post-harvest preservation techniques which mainly uses traditional approaches and thus ending up in low quality products.

39. Lack of enforcement and compliance by fishing communities. Low resources of enforcement team in term of human and financial resources.
40. It is recommended to enhance surveillance activities such as investment on technical equipment and staff. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development should pay attention to switch small-scale fisheries into larger scale fisheries using suitable policies.

G. General discussions

41. For project implementation:

- a. Appreciated support and effective implementation of the REBYC-II CTI project in the pilot sites in Kien Giang province;
- b. The project summarized and integrated international experiences to support and share such experiences to manage trawl fisheries not only in the pilot site but also other provinces where trawl fisheries developed;
- c. It is noted that there was a delay from the beginning of the project implementation at regional level and thus all activities and plans of the project was delayed more than one year accordingly;
- d. Limited funding support;

42. Evaluation of project outcomes

- a. Support to develop trawl fisheries management plan in Kien Giang province is one of the best achievements of the project implementation.
- b. Awareness on trawl fisheries management have been changed from local to central fisheries management agencies and other related stakeholders.
- c. The project in general can partly support to develop legal and policy frameworks.
- d. Activities of the project with other national activities/programs on trawl fisheries management are basically integrated.
- e. It is not only the pilot site that is benefiting but other provinces also are benefiting from training courses/workshops such as training on ecosystem approach to fisheries management.

43. Future recommendations

- a. A similar project should be considered and proposed to support the implementation of trawl fisheries management plan which is developed from current project implementation
- b. New projects/programs should pay more attention of policies on alternative livelihood and legislation enforcement policies.
- c. Trawl fisheries management should be integrated with other fisheries improvement programs as recommended in the MSC procedures and processes.
- d. Outcomes of the current project should be disseminated to other provinces as lesson learnt from the project implementation.

H. Closing session

44. Ms. Nguyen Thi Trang Nhung, Deputy Director of Department of Science & Technology and International Cooperation, National Project Coordinator summarized what have been discussed during the closing workshop. She noted use of the project outcomes for better trawl fisheries management in the future. In addition, application of the project outcomes to other provinces must be considered such as development provincial trawl fisheries management.
45. Mr. Nguyen Phu Quoc, Deputy Director of DECAFISH on behalf of D-FISH thanked all participants and appreciated all participants especially the funding support of GEF executed by FAO. He also emphasized that participation of many relevant agencies and stakeholders will be one of the key factors to successfully implement the trawl fisheries management in Vietnam. The meeting was closed with a round of applause. A field trip to visit a national marine protected area in Phu Quoc Island was to be followed by the day after on 27 August 2016.

I. Appendixes

Appendix 1: List of participants

No	Name of participants	Position	Organization	Sex
1	Nguyễn Phú Quốc	Deputy Director	Department of Capture Fisheries	M
2	Phạm Việt Anh	Official	Department of Capture Fisheries	M
3	Pham Nhat Thanh	Deputy Director	Local Sub-Department of Fisheries Ben Tre	M
4	Chu Quoc Nam	Deputy Director	Local Sub-Department of Fisheries Nghe An	M
5	Le Dong Duong	Director	Local Sub-Department of Fisheries Bac Lieu	M
6	Nguyen Hai Bang	Official	Local Sub-Department of Fisheries Ben Tre	M
7	Huynh Van Khai	Director	Local Sub-Department of Fisheries Ca Mau	M
8	Doan Thanh Hien	Head of Section	Local Sub-Department of Fisheries Ca Mau	M
9	Nguyen Van Vu	Official	Local Sub-Department of Fisheries Ba Ria Vung Tau	M
10	Nguyen Bi	Head of Capture Fisheries Section	Local Sub-Department of Fisheries Ba Ria Vung Tau	M
11	Nguyen Nhu Dao	Deputy Director	Local Sub-Department of Fisheries Khanh Hoa	M
12	Nguyen Xuan Thi	Deputy Director	Research Institute for Marine Fisheries	M
13	Le Quang Tuyen	Director	Local Sub-Department of Fisheries Khanh Hoa	M
14	Nguyen Ba Thong	consultant	SFP	M
15	Le Trung Kien	Deputy Director	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Kien Giang	M
16	Nguyen Linh Ngoc	Head of Section	Marine Protected Area Management Board in Phu Quoc	M
17	Nguyen Thi Hong Nhung	Official	Department of Science and Technology and International Cooperation	F
18	Le Hoang Khai	Director	Local Sub-Department of Fisheries Kien Giang	M
19	Thai Thanh Lap	Official	Local Sub-Department of Fisheries Kien Giang	M
20	Huynh Van Thung	Official	Local Sub-Department of	M

			Fisheries Kien Giang	
21	Nguyen Van Tam	Director	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Kien Giang	M
22	Tran Hai Yen	Official	Directorate of Fisheries	F
23	Nguyen Thi Trang Nhung	Deputy Director	Department of Science and Technology and International Cooperation	F
24	Pham Hai Nam	Researcher	Institute for Fisheries Economic and Planning	M
25	Isara Chanrachkij		SEAFDEC	M
26	Sayan Promjinda		SEAFDEC	M
27	Tran Trung Hieu	Official	Local Sub-Department of Fisheries Ca Mau	M
28	Ha The Phong			M
29	Truong Xuan Nhon			M
30	Nguyen Van Dat			M
	Total			30

Appendix 2: Final agenda

DAY 1 (25 August 2016)		
Times	Contents	Facilitators/Responsible parties
OPENING OF THE MEETING (08.00 - 09.10)		
08.00-08.30	Registration	SUB-DECAFIREP
08.30-08.40	Introduction of participants and selection of chairman	D-FISH
08.50-09.00	Opening speech	D-FISH
09.00-09.10	Opening speech	DARD Kien Giang
09.10-09.40	Overview of trawl fisheries in Viet Nam	D-FISH
09.40-10.10	Achievements and Shortcomings in Reaching the Project Objective	D-FISH
10.10-10.40	Coffee break	All participant
10.40-12.00	Discussion on Achievements and Shortcomings in Reaching the Project Objective	All participant
12.00-14.00	Lunch time	All participant
14.00-14.30	Presentation on following aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summaries of the national/provincial level impacts of the Project on trawl fisheries management • Examining features across all outcomes • Assessing Long-Term Impacts 	D-FISH

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Processes and Factors Affecting Attainment of Project Results Findings and Conclusions on Implementation, and Results 	
14.30-15.00	Discussion on impacts of the project at national and local level on trawl fisheries management	All participant
15.00-15.30	Tea break	All participant
15.30-17.00	Discussion on impacts of the project at national and local level on trawl fisheries management (continued)	All participant
DAY 2 (26 August 2016)		
09.00-10.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations related to project implementation Recommendations concerning a follow-up project Key Lessons Learned 	D-FISH/all participants
10.30-11.00	Coffee break	All participant
11.00-12.00	Summaries of main findings and lesson learnt from the project implementation and recommend further management actions for better management of trawl fisheries in Viet Nam	All participant
12.00-14.00	Lunch time	All participant
14.00-15.00	Discuss on what are procedures to close the project including: Final evaluation, National reporting requirements, dissemination of findings and results of the project	D-FISH
15.00-15.30	Coffee break	All participant
15.30-16.00	Closing meeting	D-FISH
DAY 3 (27 August 2016): Study tour		