



# UPDATES FROM THE WATER

OCTOBER 2020

## VIETNAM YELLOWFIN TUNA

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**Gear Type:** Handline

**Volume:** 16,500 MT

**FIP Stage:** 5 (Improvements on the Water)

**Progress Rating:** A (Advanced Progress)

**Start Date:** April 2014

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Yellowfin tuna is Vietnam's most valuable marine export making it a critical source of jobs and income with over 1800 vessels and 9000 fishers engaged in the fishery. The Vietnam yellowfin tuna FIP is focused on reducing by-catch, improving stock management, and increasing traceability through engagement with fishers, government officials, and the private sector.

Since February 2020, the FIP progressed on several priority activities, despite the impacts of the pandemic that initially decreased exports from the FIP by up to 50%. In May 2020, FIP stakeholders completed the beta version of Vietnam's first-ever electronic logbook to collect critical information on fishing vessels. The e-logbook has the potential to strengthen catch monitoring, improve vessel coverage and reporting, and further enable the mitigation of negative impacts on other species, including sharks and sea turtles. The Ministry of Agricultural Development (MARD) has confirmed interest in cooperating on e-logbook implementation and we will soon launch a 10-vessel e-logbook pilot program. The FIP stakeholders have also engaged with the Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability (GDST) to develop an Android-based application with several yellowfin tuna processors. The application will generate GDST-ready key data elements using the information from the existing FIP trace code and e-logbooks with the ambition of demonstrating full chain traceability.

Beyond the pilots mentioned above, priority activities expected to occur over the next several months include advocating for the establishment of species-specific quota limits, researching and conducting risk assessments on bait fish, continued investigation of by-catch mitigation strategies for sea turtles and sharks, and incorporating a by-catch strategy into the National Tuna Management Plan.

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**Become a WWF FIP participant today by visiting:**

<https://seafoodsustainability.org/fisheries/fishery-improvement-projects-signup>

Being a WWF FIP Participant provides a pre-competitive space for companies to engage with fisheries in their supply chains and leverage power across multiple companies to drive fishery improvements forward. By signing on to support a FIP, you are joining forces with other leaders in the industry that seek to help conserve marine ecosystems and advance the livelihoods for millions of people who depend on them.

WWF recognizes FIP participants on the industry website, [SeafoodSustainability.org](https://SeafoodSustainability.org). WWF also works with FIP participants to communicate the benefits of FIPs among key buyers, sustainable business leaders, employees, environmental activists, and other key constituencies.

**Together we can protect oceans and the food and livelihoods they can sustainably provide.**

For more information or to partner with WWF, please visit [SeafoodSustainability.org](https://SeafoodSustainability.org) or contact us at [info@seafoodsustainability.org](mailto:info@seafoodsustainability.org)

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