

Report of the Conference on the National Strategy for Marine Fisheries Management and Development in Viet Nam

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Hanoi, Viet Nam, 26–27 April 2005



Global
Partnerships
for
Responsible
Fisheries



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Conference on the National Strategy for Marine Fisheries
Management and Development in Viet Nam

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Global Partnerships for Responsible Fisheries (FishCode)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
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Foreword

This document contains the report of the final Conference on the National Strategy for Marine Fisheries Management and Development in Viet Nam, which was held in Hanoi on 26–27 April 2005. The Conference was organized by the Ministry of Fisheries of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, with technical and financial support from FAO Fisheries Department and the FishCode Programme, through the FishCode Trust (MTF/GLO/125/MUL). The collaboration between the International Cooperation Department (ICD) of the Ministry, the Research Institute for Marine Fisheries (RIMF), the DANIDA-funded Fisheries Sector Programme Support (FSPS) and the FAO FishCode Programme in the planning, preparation and implementation of the Conference was very harmonious and effective, resulting in a successful outcome.

The excellent support provided to the Conference by Ms Nguyen Trang Nhung of the ICD in arranging for the accommodation for the participants and logistical matters is gratefully acknowledged. Moreover, the preparatory work by Dr Nguyen Long (Vice-Director) of the Research Institute of Marine Fisheries, Dr Vu Van Trieu (Acting-Director of the ICD), Mr Karl- Johan Staer of the Assessment of Living Marine Resources in Viet Nam II (ALMRV II), Mr Lars Jøker (Coordinator) of the DANIDA Fisheries Sector Programme Support (FSPS), Ms Irmen Mantingh (FAO Consultant), Dr Gary Morgan (FAO Consultant), Ms Tania Abdirizzak (FishCode Programme), Ms Anniken Skonhoft, Dr Derek Staples, Mr Rolf Willmann and Dr Raymon van Anrooy (FAO) is also acknowledged with thanks. The Conference participants deserve a special vote of appreciation for their important contributions to the National Strategy drafting process and for their active role in the working groups.

The FishCode Review series publishes results of studies, missions, consultations, workshops, meetings and other project activities undertaken through the Programme, in furtherance of its objective of facilitating implementation of the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) and related international fisheries instruments and plans of action. Individual numbers in the series are distributed to appropriate governments, regional bodies, meeting participants and Programme partners. Further information on Programme background, publications and activities is available at <http://www.fao.org/fi/fishcode.htm>

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ABSTRACT

The Conference on the Strategy for Marine Fisheries Management and Development in Viet Nam, (Hanoi, 26–27 April 2005) was organized by the Ministry of Fisheries of Viet Nam (MOFI) in close collaboration with the Research Institute Marine Fisheries, the DANIDA Fisheries Sector Programme Support (FSPS) and the FAO FishCode Programme.

The Conference was held as a final consultative step in the process of formulating the Strategy for Marine Fisheries Management and Development in Viet Nam. This process started in September 2003 with the Conference on Responsible Fisheries in Viet Nam and included a number of local level consultations as well as a senior expert meeting in Nha Trang in November 2004.

The April 2005 Conference aimed to: (i) circulate the draft Strategy for Marine Fisheries Management and Development elaborated at the Nha Trang Workshop to a wide group of stakeholders; (ii) seek comments on the goals, performance indicators, objectives, and projects contained in the draft Strategy, and deliberate on revisions, as appropriate; and (iii) discuss needed follow-up and implementation modalities for the Strategy. The Conference was attended by 81 stakeholders, representing local and commercial fisheries interests, national and provincial government bodies, bilateral development assistance agencies and international organizations.

Observations and recommendations received from the Conference have provided a basis for MOFI to finalize the Strategy and to submit it for Prime Ministerial approval in early 2006.

Keywords: Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries; coastal fisheries; offshore fisheries; fisheries management; Strategy; Viet Nam; Southeast Asia.

CONTENTS

Abbreviations and acronyms	vii
Background and objectives.....	1
Conference background	1
Conference objectives	1
Opening session	2
Participation and agenda.....	2
Opening addresses	2
Media coverage	4
Plenary presentations – day one	4
Overview of draft strategy development and content.....	4
Strategy principles and vision.....	5
Development goals.....	5
Performance indicators	6
Discussion	6
Working group sessions – day one.....	7
Coastal fisheries management.....	7
Offshore fisheries management	7
Working group plenary reports – day one	8
Plenary presentations – day two	8
National Strategy support projects	8
Fisheries Sector Programme Support (FSPS)	8
FAO activities at regional and national levels	9
Legal issues.....	10
The Strategy and ongoing and planned MOFI activities	11
Working Group Sessions – day two	11
Coastal fisheries management.....	11

Offshore fisheries management	12
Plenary discussion on follow-up after the Conference	13
Closing session	14
Appendix A. List of participants	15
Appendix B. Conference agenda	21
Appendix C. Opening statement by Dr Vu Van Trieu	23
Appendix D. Welcome speech by Mr Rychener, FAO Representative in Viet Nam.....	25
Appendix E. Introductory speech by Mr Lars Jøker, FSPS Coordinator.....	27
Appendix F. Media coverage.....	29
Appendix G. Strategy for Marine Fisheries Management and Development in Viet Nam (final draft)	31

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ALMRV	Assessment of the Living Marine Resources in Viet Nam (FSPS)
APFIC	Asian Pacific Fisheries Commission
CCRF	Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
CPG	Cooperation and Partnership Group (MOFI Viet Nam)
CPUE	catch per unit of effort
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (at provincial level)
DOFI	Department of Fisheries (at provincial level)
DRPE	Department of Aquatic Resources Protection and Exploitation (at provincial level)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FSPS	Fisheries Sector Programme Support
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GSO	General Statistics Office
HP	horsepower
ICD	International Cooperation Department (of MOFI)
IFEP	Institute for Fisheries Economics and Planning
IMA	International Marine Alliance
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IUU	illegal, unreported and unregulated and fishing
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOFI	Ministry of Fisheries of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
MONRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Viet Nam
MPI	Ministry of Planning and Investment
MFST	Marine Fisheries Specialist Teams
NADAREP	National Directorate of Aquatic Resources Exploitation and Protection
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
RAP	FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
RIMF	Research Institute Marine Fisheries
SAPA	Sustainable Aquaculture for Poverty Alleviation
SEAFDEC	South East Asian Fisheries Development Centre
STREAM	Support to Regional Aquatic Resource Management (NACA)
STOFA	Strengthening the Fisheries Administration (component of FSPS)
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
VASEP	Viet Nam Association of Seafood Exporters and Processors
VINAFIS	Viet Nam Association of Fishermen and Aquaculturists
WB	World Bank

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Conference background

1. The Conference on the National Strategy for Marine Fisheries Management and Development in Viet Nam took place in Hanoi on 26–27 April 2005. The Conference was held as a final consultative step in the process of formulating the Strategy for Marine Fisheries Management and Development in Viet Nam. This process started in September 2003 with the Conference on Responsible Fisheries in Viet Nam¹ and included a number of local level consultations as well as a senior expert meeting in Nha Trang in November 2004.

2. It was recognised at the 2003 Conference that the fisheries of Viet Nam have continued to expand rapidly over the past few decades, and signs of overexploitation were evident in several areas, particularly inshore waters. The 2003 Conference noted that there appeared to be some potential for increased production from offshore areas although the development of offshore fisheries will need to be managed carefully to avoid the same mistakes that have been made in the unregulated expansion of the coastal fisheries. It was considered that near shore fisheries also need to focus on rehabilitation of the apparently overexploited resources to ensure longer term sustainability.

3. Following the 2003 Conference a series of local consultations were held by the Research Institute Marine Fisheries (RIMF) and FAO. These consultations prepared the way for a four-day workshop that was convened in Nha Trang over the period 21–25 November 2004. The Nha Trang workshop assembled a group of senior Government fisheries staff and resource persons begin elaborating a draft National Strategy, with assistance from FAO.

4. The Nha Trang draft was subsequently circulated to key sector stakeholders, including managers and senior staff of the Ministry of Fisheries (MOFI), Provincial Fisheries Departments and bilateral and international donor agencies, as the focal document of the 2005 Conference.

5. The draft National Strategy was developed using a “log-frame” applied to the ten year period from 2005 through 2015. It identified the main development goals for coastal and offshore marine fisheries in Viet Nam, with reference to the previous initiatives of the Ministry of Fisheries (MOFI) and other Government agencies, including the Master Plan for Fisheries for 2001–2010 and the draft strategy for offshore fishing developed by MOFI. In addition, sector initiatives of other agencies such as the World Bank were taken into account.

6. The draft National Strategy also addressed Performance Indicators for the development goals, which are designed for measurement on an annual basis to verify progress in achieving the major development goals so that corrective actions may be taken if needed.

7. To achieve each identified development goal within the life span of the draft strategy (i.e. by 2015), a series of milestones or ‘Objectives’ were elaborated. Each Objective identifies a deadline for completion of specific activities or “projects,” which thus form the basic building blocks of the draft Strategy.

Conference objectives

8. The April 2005 Conference aimed to:

¹ The outcomes of this conference were published as the “Report of the National Conference on Responsible Fisheries in Viet Nam.” *FAO/FishCode Review*, No. 9, FAO, Rome, 2004.

- circulate the draft Strategy for Marine Fisheries Management and Development elaborated at the Nha Trang Workshop to a wide group of stakeholders;
- seek comments on the goals, performance indicators, objectives, and projects contained in the the draft Strategy and to deliberate on revisions, as appropriate; and
- discuss needed follow-up and implementation modalities for the Strategy.

OPENING SESSION

Participation and agenda

9. The Conference was attended by 81 participants drawn from local and commercial fisheries interests (fishers, fishing and processing companies), MOFI, the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), the Ministry of Finance (MOF), Provincial Departments of Fisheries (DOFIs), and Provincial Departments of Aquatic Resources Protection and Exploitation (DRPEs), Provincial Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARDs), the Viet Nam Fisheries Association, the Research Institute for Marine Fisheries (RIMF), the Institute for Fisheries Economics and Planning (IFEP), the National Directorate of Aquatic Resources Exploitation and Protection (NADAREP), Nha Trang Oceanographic Institute, Nha Trang Fisheries University, the Research Institute for Aquaculture No 1, all departments under MOFI (including the Legal Department, Science and Technology Department, and international Cooperation Department) and the mass media (newspapers and radio).

10. The following regional and international organizations and institutions were also represented: the Danish-funded Fisheries Sector Programme Support (FSPS) components “Strengthening the Fisheries Administration” (STOFA) and “Assessment of Living Marine Resources in Viet Nam” (ALMRV II); “Support to Regional Aquatic Resources Management” (STREAM) – Sustainable Aquaculture for Poverty Alleviation (SAPA) Implementation Support Unit; the Embassy of Spain; the WorldFish Centre (WFC); the World Bank (WB); the International Marine life Alliance (IMA), the “Integrated management of lagoon activities in Thua Thien Hue Province” (IMOLA-HUE) project; the Fisheries Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); and the office of the FAO Representative in Hanoi, Viet Nam.

11. The list of participants appears as Appendix A, and the Conference Agenda as Appendix B.

Opening addresses

12. The Conference started with an opening ceremony in which Dr Vu van Trieu, Director a.i. of the International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Fisheries, welcomed the participants. Official introductions were made, and the Conference Agenda was confirmed. Dr Trieu invited Mr Derek Staples (FAO) and Mr Lars Jøker (FSPS) to Co-Chair the Conference with him.

13. On behalf of MOFI Dr Trieu referred to the 11 percent growth in production realized by the fisheries sector in 2004 and the difficulties that were anticipated for maintaining steady sectoral growth over the period 2006-2010. Sustaining a marine capture fisheries production of 1.7 million tonnes by restructuring capture fisheries through reducing pressure on coastal areas and accelerating development of offshore fisheries, and by reaching a production of two million tonnes in aquaculture, are the government targets at present.

14. Dr Trieu continued by stating that top priorities for fisheries are the establishment of an effective system for aquatic resource management and a vessel registration system to ensure that fishing is done in harmony with conservation, development and renewal of resources. He then referred to the new Fisheries Law, the process of decentralization and

various state policies. He ended his address by stressing that the National Strategy for Marine Fisheries Management and Development in Viet Nam is extremely significant and would provide a good set of guidelines for the sector for the immediate future.

15. The Opening Statement by Mr Vu Van Trieu appears as Appendix C to this report.

16. The FAO Representative in Viet Nam, Mr Anton Rychener, welcomed participants on behalf of the Organization and mentioned that fish currently provides more than 2.6 billion people around the globe with at least one fifth of their animal protein needs. Millions of households worldwide generate their income directly or indirectly from fisheries. The result is that about half the stocks (52 percent) are fully exploited and one quarter overexploited (16 percent) or depleted (8 percent) due to intensive fishing and inadequate management of the marine resources. With the growth of the aquaculture sector we try to compensate the losses in marine catches, but we will only partly succeed as aquaculture also presently depends on marine fisheries as a protein source.

17. Mr Rychener then referred to the contribution of fisheries to food security, poverty reduction and foreign currency earnings of Viet Nam, which is high compared to many other countries. He stressed that the economic opportunities and the open access to the marine resources attract around 26 000 people to this sector every year. Catches per unit of effort are however decreasing. Earnings from fishing activities are getting lower, and are sometimes not enough to cover fishing cost. Therefore the fishery sector now faces serious constraints to further development.

18. In this context the importance of Viet Nam's commitment to implement the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the various International Plans of Action was emphasised. Once the National Strategy is approved by the Minister of Fisheries, it can have a large and positive impact on the future of Viet Nam's fisheries. For successful implementation, bridges have to be built between Ministries, organisations and people within the fisheries and outside the sector. Encouraging the international community to respond to this strategy and the requirements for its successful implementation; Mr Rychener confirmed that FAO stands ready to continue assisting Viet Nam in the sustainable development of its fisheries sector.

19. Mr Rychener's address appears as Appendix D.

20. The final opening address was made by Mr Lars Jøker, Coordinator of the Fisheries Sector Programme Support (FSPS) of MOFI, which is financed by DANIDA. Mr Jøker emphasized that the Conference was an opportunity for MOFI its commitment to international responsible fisheries principles, and also represented an opportunity to for strengthening regional cooperation with institutions such as SEAFDEC. He noted macro-level linkages between the Strategy, the newly developed Fisheries Law, the three National Programmes for the fisheries sector and finally with the Fisheries Master Plan that is presently being formulated, should be made clear in the Strategy.

21. The FSPS Coordinator said he was concerned about the proposals for supporting the development of the offshore fisheries. The proposal in the draft Strategy for increasing the employment from 300 000 to 500 000 is not well documented, as there is limited evidence to suggest that venturing into offshore fisheries will provide an improved livelihood for these fishers. In this regard it is important to note the responsible fisheries' principle urging that "In absence of adequate data the precautionary principle should be applied to management action".

22. Mr Jøker's address appears as Appendix E to this report.

23. Before initiating the plenary technical presentations Dr Trieu explained that this Conference was not a "stand alone" activity. Instead, it is part of an ongoing process that started in 2003 with the National Conference on Responsible Fisheries in Viet Nam. He referred to the agreement between the Minister of Fisheries, Dr Ta Quang Ngoc and the Assistant Director General for Fisheries of FAO, Mr Ichiro Nomura, on the collaboration

between Viet Nam and FAO towards the development of a Strategy for Responsible Fisheries Management and Development and the preparatory local consultations leading up to the workshop of national marine fisheries specialists which held in Nah Trang in 2004.

Media coverage

24. The Conference received considerable media attention from national level radio (e.g. Voice of Viet Nam), newspapers and magazines. One example article from the national press is shown in Appendix F.

PLENARY PRESENTATIONS – day one

Overview of draft Strategy development and content

25. Dr Nguyen Long, Deputy Director of the Research Institute of Marine Fisheries (RIMF), provided a detailed presentation on the development and content of the draft National Strategy.

26. He explained that the Strategy was prepared to guide responsible management of marine fisheries in Viet Nam and is recognized by MOFI as an essential element to achieve long-term sustainability of fisheries. He then presented some essential information from the overview of the fisheries sector, which is included as background in the Strategy.

27. The number of marine fishing vessels and total fleet engine power are increasing in Viet Nam. Motorized fishing boats amounted to some 83 000 units in 2004, with a total engine power of 4 723 000 hp. About 84 percent of marine fleet units have an engine size of less than 90 hp. Total fleet engine power has increased 12 percent per annum in recent years, and average engine power is now around 55 hp. The total marine catch for 2004 was 1 724 000 tonnes. Catch per unit of effort (CPUE) has decreased from 1.11 tonne/hp in 1985 to 0.36 tonne/hp in 2004. Fishing activities concentrate in coastal areas, and this has led to conditions of excessive exploitation.

28. With regard to infrastructure and services, Dr Long stated that by the end of 2001 around 700 shipyards and vessel repair centres were in operation, mainly dealing with wooden craft. Their building and repair capacities are about 4 000 and 8 000 vessels/year, respectively. In addition, eight large-scale fishing net and bag production factories operate in the country. Some 150 fish quays and wharfs have been constructed or are under construction, with a total length of 9 720m. However, services at these facilities are still weak. The number of specialized fishery product markets is limited and many are not fully operational. There are 405 fish processing plants, 126 freezing warehouses and 120 ice making plants.

29. Referring to RIMF information that the exploitable potential of marine waters up to the 50m depth range is an estimated 582 000 tonnes/year, it was emphasized that from 1991 onwards the catch has exceeded sustainable limits, and that the overall profitability of the fishing fleet is decreasing.

30. Major fisheries management and utilisation problems include the following.

- The number of fishing vessels has increased too much and is out of control.
- Fishing boats are “free” to exploit marine resources and harvest capacity exceeds sustainable limits, indicating an urgent need to decrease the number of small boats active in coastal fisheries;
- More and more people are involved in fisheries annually.

- Fish is generally preserved with ice, but many fisheries products are still subject to quality decline, which translates into losses for local fisherfolk.

31. Small fishing boats are not able to perform well in the wind and wave conditions of offshore areas and their cost effectiveness is low. About 31 percent of boats produced under the offshore fishing vessel construction programme are currently operating as a loss.

32. Dr Long discussed options for community-based fisheries management and empowerment of fisherfolk, and listed some possible solutions for solving fishing management problems. These latter include:

- licensing based strictly on scientific consideration of the quantity of fishing boats that should be allowed in each marine zone;
- determination of the extent to which the quantity and type of small fishing boats needs to be reduced in each marine zone and in each coastal province;
- development of support policies for new specializations and job creation to enable change of profession among fishers in coastal areas; and
- better enforcement of fishing regulations.

Strategy principles and vision

33. The draft Strategy is based on five main principles, which anchor it in terms of:

- The FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries is to ensure profitable fisheries.
- The Fishery Law of Viet Nam, 2003, and other current laws of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.
- MOFI accountability for general policy orientation, resource monitoring and management activities through local communities.
- Best available scientific information on biological and socio-economic aspects of fisheries and respect for the precautionary principle.
- regional and international cooperation.

34. The long term vision for marine fisheries adopted in the Strategy is: “Marine resources and fisheries play an important role in the economic and social development of Viet Nam for current and future generations and are exploited in a sustainable and efficient way”.

35. Local level consultations and review discussion at the Nha Trang workshop confirmed that the Strategy is intended to guide management and development of marine resources over the next decade, to the year 2015, and should reflect and extend the directions laid out in MOFI’s “Fisheries Master Plan” for the sector’s socio-economic development through 2010.

Development goals

36. The major development goals specified in the Strategy include the following.

For coastal fisheries

- Development Goal 1: To make appropriate adjustment of coastal fishing and restore and preserve coastal marine resource and its eco-system.
- Development Goal 2: To improve the livelihoods of fishers dependent on coastal marine resource in order to contribute to food security and poverty alleviation among them.

For offshore fisheries:

- Development Goal 1: To ensure a sustainable and effective offshore fisheries while maintaining both marine eco-system functions and harmonious relationships with coastal fisheries.
- Development Goal 2: To increase income, create new jobs and improve the livelihoods of fishers dependent on offshore fisheries.

Performance indicators

37. It was the idea of the team of specialists meeting at Nha Trang in 2004 that a competent and authorized expert team should be formulated to evaluate, monitor and coordinate implementation of the Strategy. The team further advocated that achievement of major development goals should be assessed on an annual basis through defined performance indicators.

38. Performance indicators for coastal fisheries, Development Goal 1, include measurements related to the state of resources (e.g. CPUE), fishing pressure (e.g. distribution in space and time, total catch), and ecosystem health (e.g. coral reefs) and functioning (e.g. biodiversity index).

39. Indicators for coastal fisheries, Development Goal 2, include economic (e.g. household income) and social (e.g. health, education) measurements.

40. For offshore fisheries, Development Goal 1 indicators relate to the state of resources (e.g. spawning stock biomass), ecosystem functioning (e.g. abundance of top predators), fishing pressure (e.g. total effort by fishing fleet), and profitability (average profits and distribution of profits).

41. Indicators of progress towards offshore fisheries Development Goal 2 involve economic (e.g. percentage of fisherfolk households below poverty line) and social (e.g. health, education) parameters.

42. To achieve the various objectives under each Development Goals, a number of specific projects were identified at the Nha Trang workshop. The content of these projects was briefly summarised and it was noted that they were to be reviewed in separate working group sessions.

Discussion

43. The presentation of the draft National Strategy was followed by extensive plenary discussion, which raised a number of issues and questions.

44. It was pointed out that the biomass figures cited in the background part of the draft Strategy only include the trawlable biomass, and thus do not fully account for large and small pelagics.

45. Another observation was that the problem of large trawlers fishing in coastal areas should be raised in the background section of the Strategy. Overfishing in coastal areas will not necessarily be solved by decreasing the fleet of smaller vessels, since a large proportion of fish is caught by a relatively limited number of larger vessels. Besides this, smaller vessels generally perform with better economic profitability than the larger ones.

46. While Government emphasizes the need to develop the offshore fleet, it is questionable whether this is a good idea. Why do large offshore vessels fish in coastal areas at present? It is probably because they cannot find the expected resources in the offshore areas. Recent ALMRV survey results indicate that offshore resources are much less than has been generally assumed. If resources exist in offshore areas, it is likely that the fisherfolk would have already found them.

47. Current widespread support for the construction of large vessels and the limitation placed on construction of small vessels should be carefully reviewed, lest an economically unsustainable fleet be created. Vessel construction policy needs to be based on clear and comprehensive calculations regarding the number of vessels and their catch.

48. Another issue raised in the plenary discussion was that the focus should switch from production to economic value, since it is difficult to increase the catch in coastal areas. Too much spoilage occurs on-board vessels because not enough care is taken with the catch. Fish handling is poor and cooling facilities, freezers and ice are not always available on-board. More research needs to be done on fishing gear selectivity, as by-catch is still very high and can be considerably reduced with modified practices.

WORKING GROUP SESSIONS – day one

49. The Conference broke into two working groups in the afternoon of Day One, in order to consider objectives and policies for coastal and offshore fisheries management, respectively. Guideline questions were provided to facilitate discussion. Each group was asked to fill in additional remarks on separate work sheets. The written remarks were collected by Dr Long for incorporation in the draft Strategy.

50. Day one Working Groups focused on the following parts of the draft Strategy:

- Vision and Principles;
- Time horizon;
- Major development goals;
- Monitoring through performance Indicators; and
- Content of core projects.

Coastal fisheries management

51. Working Group 1 (WG1) on coastal fisheries management recommended it be verified that the proposed Strategy was in line with Viet Nam's fisheries legal framework. It endorsed a participatory and community-based management approach. While WG1 regarded the Principles as being clear, it stressed that they should directly address the issue of management of shared stocks and the international conventions and agreements to which Viet Nam is party.

52. WG1 congratulated the drafting team on the proposed Vision statement and had no suggestions for improvement. The time horizon proposed was agreed upon as well.

53. On the issue of implementation monitoring it was mentioned that the indicators proposed are very clear and are the same as those used in other SEAFDEC countries. It was noted that most indicators proposed are already collected as part of the enumerator programme. Some WG members foresaw problems with the analysis of the indicator information to be collected. In this respect it was suggested and agreed that an Advisory Group marine fisheries specialists be formed, to be comprised of staff from IFEP, RIMF, NADAREP and other relevant departments and agencies.

54. The major development goals as elaborated by the drafting team at the 2004 Nha Trang workshop were endorsed by WG1.

Offshore fisheries management

55. Some members of Working Group 2 (WG2) commented that they had not been proved with enough advance time to study the draft Strategy in close detail. However, the group noted that the Vision, Principles and Time Horizon of the Strategy had been considered at length during the four-day workshop in Nha Trang in November 2004, and agreed that they all reflected the long term aims of fisheries management in Viet Nam.

56. In discussing the Major Goals of the strategy, WG2 members expressed the belief that there should be explicit mention of co-management and community-based management as the method for implementing the Strategy.

57. There was considerable discussion within the group on the quality of data used as the scientific basis of the Strategy, and members emphasized that good, reliable data are essential – including data on resources. Because of concerns regarding the quality of data, it was suggested that the Strategy needed to be flexible to enable changes as new information becomes available.

58. With regard to monitoring through performance indicators, the group questioned as to how this might be done. It was suggested that the annual reviews should be public, and that an annual report on performance indicators be made available.

WORKING GROUP PLENARY REPORTS – day one

59. Plenary discussion of the two working group reports again stressed that the Strategy should be aligned with the existing legal framework and that it should be regarded as a “living document.” Stakeholders should be prepared to learn and change through the process of implementation. In that respect, “ownership” of the Strategy by MOFI is crucial.

60. It was also observed that poverty alleviation aspects were not discussed much in the working group sessions. While sectoral growth is important, poverty alleviation should remain one of the key targets in the Strategy. It was recognized by the plenary that most participants know more about fisheries management than about poverty alleviation, which may have limited the “pro-poor” conversation.

61. With regard to the monitoring and review of Strategy implementation it was emphasized that annual monitoring is needed and that this should be lead by the Advisory Group. This same group would have the task of suggesting adaptations for the Strategy and its supportive projects when new information makes it appropriate to do so.

62. The importance of the Strategy for sustainable fisheries development and management was reiterated. The Director of the ICD confirmed that the Strategy would form the basis of a future national marine fisheries programme, similar to the national programmes existing for aquaculture and the processing sector.

PLENARY PRESENTATIONS – day two

National Strategy support projects

63. Plenary presentations on day two commenced with an overview of “Development goals for fisheries management and development in Viet Nam” by Mr Dang Van Thi, Senior Scientist of RIMF/ALMRV. His presentation included an overview of the core projects contained in the draft Strategy.

64. A second presentation was made by Mr Nguyen Long, Vice-Director of RIMF, on proposed projects related to coastal fisheries.

65. This was followed by a presentation by Mr Dao Manh Son, Vice-Director of RIMF, on proposed projects for offshore fisheries.²

Fisheries Sector Programme Support (FSPS)

66. Mr Lars Jøker, Coordinator of the Fisheries Sector Programme Support, next outlined the structure and work of the FSPS.

² The proposed projects are set out in the revised Strategy shown as Appendix F.

67. This was followed by a presentation on the activities of the Assessment of the Living Marine Resources in Viet Nam (ALMRV) component of the FSPS given by Mr Karl Johan Staer, ALMRV Advisor. The component has the objective of strengthening the capacity of relevant institutions in Viet Nam to formulate and implement policies that will ensure sustainable utilization of the living marine resources.

68. Mr Staer reported that, based on the data collected during monitoring surveys, sustainability indicators can be identified for important fish stocks such as: catch rates, mean length, biomass, and number of families and species.

69. There was a need to establish a Marine Fisheries Specialist Team (MFST), as there are many important decisions fisheries management and development decisions for Viet Nam to make in coming years. These decisions need to be based on sound, multi-disciplinary assessment and recommendations for the management and development of marine fisheries.

70. The tasks of the MFST should be to provide:

- analysis of data on commercial catch, resources, biological indicators, the fishing fleet and socio-economic data;
- recommendations on sampling programmes necessary for preparing assessments of resources and commercial catches;
- multidisciplinary assessments of the fisheries based on sustainable fishery indicators; and
- ad hoc assessments and recommendations on marine fisheries at the request of MOFI.

71. Such tasks can only be accomplished if experts with different knowledge work together as a team. The MFST should therefore be composed of specialists from NADAREP, RIMF and IFEP. The MFST should have expertise on administration, fish biology, economics, socio-economics and fishing operation issues.

72. Planned outputs for the capture fisheries component of the second phase of the FSPS were outlined as follows.

- The capacity to support policy formulation for capture fisheries improved within NADAREP and DOFI's,
- A multidisciplinary advisory structure developed for freshwater capture fisheries and well-functioning advisory structure for both freshwater and marine capture fisheries. Advice integrated in NADAREP/DOFI decision-making structure, and
- Vietnamese models for adaptive fisheries co-management developed and applied at pilot localities.

FAO activities at regional and national levels

73. Dr Derek Staples of the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP) provided a briefing on the work of the Asian Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC), which plans to organize two important workshops in the latter part of 2005 in the region – one on the issue of low value or “trash” fish and the other on co-management in fisheries. Dr Staples also listed the ongoing FAO fishery sector projects in Viet Nam, including two related to fisheries statistics, the Integrated Management of Lagoon Activities in Thua Thien Hue Province (IMOLA-HUE) and the current FishCode Programme support for elaboration of the National Strategy. He commended the active approach taken by MOFI and he encouraged MOFI to continue to finalize the strategy after the Conference.

74. Dr Staples expressed his concern that while the problems in marine fisheries management are identified and recognized, addressing these problems is not an easy task. In closing he noted that FAO was pleased that Viet Nam would adopt an ecosystem approach towards fishery management. Strengthening of human capacity on fishery management issues, particularly at local levels, would be a challenge for the coming years.

Legal issues

75. Although not initially included in the Conference agenda, participants requested a briefing on the new Fisheries Law. Responding to this request, Dr Dinh Xuan Thao, Director of the Legislation Department, MOFI, made a presentation on the legal regime for fisheries management and conservation in Viet Nam. He focussed on how the Fisheries Law can be a basis for establishing the Strategy on Development and Management of Marine Fisheries in Viet Nam, as well as a tool for implementing the Strategy.

76. Dr Thao started off by giving an outline of the evaluation of Vietnamese fisheries legislation. The first legal document regulating the fisheries sector in Viet Nam came into force when the Chairman of the State Council on 5 May 1989 issued the Ordinance on the Protection and Development of the Aquatic Resources. This ordinance played an important role in the conservation and development of the aquatic resources of Viet Nam. In light of the quick growth of the fisheries sector over the last years, the need for a more comprehensive legal framework arose.

77. With assistance from the Norwegian government, the Fisheries Law Project was established in 1999, aiming at drafting a new Fisheries Law and regulations. The process resulted in the adoption of the Fisheries Law by the National Assembly on 26 November 2003. The Law came into force on 1 July 2004.

78. In addition to being in line with the 1992 Constitution, the Fisheries Law incorporates two main principles:

- It ensures that Vietnamese fisheries legislation is in harmony with international law and that the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries is fully reflected.
- It ensures the sustainable development of the fisheries sector by achieving economic and social development in ways that do not exhaust the fisheries resources.

79. Dr Thao stressed that the Law regulates activities by both Vietnamese and foreign fishers, and that it regulates activities by Vietnamese citizens in foreign waters. Some of the provisions of the Law were particularly relevant for the Strategy, serving both as a basis for its establishment and for its implementation.

80. Articles 4 (Principles in fisheries activities) and 5 (Sustainable fisheries development) in the first chapter of the Law establish good principles for marine fisheries management. In Chapter II, regarding the protection and development of fisheries resources, provides for planning and management of marine protected areas as well as the establishment of the Fund for rehabilitation of fisheries resources. Both provisions are important for the Strategy, and both were implemented through the Decree that was issued on 8 March 2005.

81. Chapter III provides *inter alia* for the allocation of land and marine areas free of charge for setting up aquaculture facilities and for licensing, vessel registration, and fishing reports and logbooks procedures – all crucial for management of fisheries resources.

82. Chapter III of the Law also establishes that the Ministry of Fisheries, in coordination with the provincial People's Committees, shall conduct surveys and assessments of the fisheries resources; proclaim fishing grounds, and identify the annual allowable catch in specific marine areas and fishing grounds. Provisions in the chapter also address the demarcation of sea areas and fishing routes, as well as the delegation of management powers to the provincial People's Committees.

83. Some new issues have been addressed in the Law that are also relevant for the implementation of the Strategy, including provisions regarding fishing vessels and service units for fisheries activities in Chapter V. It was explained that these provisions aim at promoting the development of fishing vessels in accordance with the offshore fishing policy.

84. Reference was made to Chapter IV on aquaculture and the provisions regarding allocation and lease of marine areas, and to Chapter VIII regarding state management of fisheries activities and the duties of relevant agencies.

85. Dr Thao finished his presentation by stating that the Law has been fully reflected in the draft Strategy, and that its successful implementation would mean good implementation of the Law.

The Strategy and ongoing and planned MOFI activities

86. Dr Vu Van Trieu, speaking on behalf of the MOFI leadership, indicated that the total costs of implementing the Strategy would add up to some US\$8 million in the next few years.

87. After the Conference MOFI planned to shepherd the finalization of the Strategy and, once approved, establish an advisory group or board to develop and evaluate project proposals for its implementation. He noted the support of DANIDA, NORAD, FAO and the World Bank in assisting the development of the fishery sector in Viet Nam, and mentioned that other donors, such as the Spanish and Italian Governments and the International Marine Alliance (IMA), have started projects in support of the sustainable fisheries development in the country.

88. Dr Vu Van Trieu concluded his presentation by highlighting the importance of the Cooperation and Partnership Group (CPG) established between the Ministry and fishery sector donors. Projects developed under the framework of the National Strategy will be put forward through the Group for consideration by interested donors.

WORKING GROUP SESSIONS – day two

89. On the afternoon of Day Two, the Plenary again was split into two groups: one on coastal fisheries and one on offshore fisheries management issues.

90. The working groups focussed on issues related to:

- the Development Goals for Coastal or Offshore Fisheries in the draft National Strategy;
- performance indicators for coastal or offshore fisheries;
- the specific objectives under each Goal for coastal or offshore fisheries;
- the content of the projects that have been suggested to support achievement of Strategic Goals and Objectives; and
- any additional projects that should be undertaken to achieve the Goals and/or Objectives of the Strategy for coastal or offshore fisheries.

91. As on the first day of Working Group sessions, a survey sheet/questionnaire was circulated to participants of each group in order to enable collection of additional comments for later collation and incorporation into the Strategy document.

Coastal fisheries management

92. Initial discussions in Working Group 1 (WG1) on coastal fisheries management issues centred on the need for reduction in the number of fishing vessels. It was argued that the figure of a 40 percent reduction in fishing boats should be mentioned together with a figure for horse power reduction. An estimate would be needed on the number of boats by gear type, since it is insufficient and impractical simply to say “reduce fishing effort by

reducing horsepower". It was suggested by some WG1 participants that a model of community-based management should be set up and that the Strategy should clearly indicate those projects in which fishers will be directly involved.

93. Another point raised was that water of less than 6 m depth is now managed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE). The method of co-management will need to be adapted to include fishers, MOFI and MONRE.

94. In relation to Project 1.1.1. "Establish a coastal fisheries management approach for Viet Nam", it was recommended by some that the word "management" should be replaced with "co-management" in order to make the meaning clearer. Other suggestions for rephrasing included changing the title using "integrated management" or "inter-sector management", although these suggestions were not endorsed. In view of the fact that this project aims at setting up a knowledge base for management, it was recommended that the project be implemented over a longer period; preferably the period 2006 to 2010.

94. Project 1.1.2. "Coastal resources assessment" should be implemented over the complete Strategy implementation period (2006-2015) instead of only for 3 years as was mentioned in the draft. In this respect RIMF is considered having qualified staff and necessary equipment to execute such a project. The results of the assessment should be disseminated widely so that they can be used by the management bodies involved and help to increase the awareness among fisherfolk and other interested people.

95. For Project 1.1.3: "Assessing the status of coastal coral reefs, sea- grass and their functions; Planning and recommendations for future conservation", WG1 suggested a change of title to: "Assessing the status of coastal ecology (including coral reefs, sea- grass, etc) and their functions and planning and recommendations for future conservation". By changing the title an important issue like the assessment of aquaculture in mangrove areas can be covered under this project.

96. It was recommended that the responsibilities of MOFI in mangrove area management be verified. As stipulated in the Fishery Law, MOFI only assumes the responsibility in water of 6 m depth and deeper. It was also argued that MOFI should set up an annual sampling program covering the whole coastal zone. The surveys conducted by MONRE, therefore, should be for the purpose of natural resources protection only. Final points related to this proposal were that responsibilities should be clarified and that the project should continue over the whole period of the Strategy.

97. Project 1.1.4, "Develop a system for ensuring resources protection in coastal provinces", was discussed in the context of community-based management. It was suggested that the project be renamed as "Develop a co-management system for ensuring resources protection in coastal provinces", Co-management here means that the fisher, scientists, and managers are all involved.

98. The final project discussed by WG1 was Project 1.2.1, "Survey of coastal fisheries including socio-economic characteristics and other factors". The WG considered that a survey on fishery socio-economic issues is not sufficient. It should be an integrated (inter-sectoral) survey that includes different types of indicators. It was noted that two years may not be enough to achieve the aims proposed for this project. The survey should be conducted annually and be led by MOFI.

Offshore fisheries management

99. Within Working Group 2 (WG2) there was a considerable discussion on the distinction between offshore and coastal fisheries and whether definitions should be based on fishing ground or vessel type. Dr Gary Morgan pointed out that these definitions were already included in the new Fisheries Law. However, it was agreed that the definition should be made clear in the Strategy.

100. Industry representatives in WG2 pointed out the difficulty in developing offshore fisheries because of the lack of skilled manpower, poor levels of remuneration and a declining interest in fishing as a vocation. Industry representatives also pointed out that the seasonality of offshore fishing is a factor. For a significant part of the year catches are low and there is no offshore fishing activity. This was discussed at length and it was agreed that MOFI policy should allow for the movement of offshore fishing vessels between areas to cope with the seasonality issue and that resource surveys should specifically take note of seasonality between areas.

101. There was general agreement in WG2 that an offshore fisheries strategy could not be pursued in isolation, and particularly without reference to coastal fisheries and aquaculture. The Sustainable Aquaculture for Poverty Alleviation (SAPA) strategy was especially important since, increasingly, offshore fisheries are targeting trash fish for aquaculture feed rather than fish for human consumption.

102. In a discussion on the development of management expertise (Project 1.5.1), the group stressed that such development should include managers at the provincial, district and commune level, particularly if the Strategy is to be implemented through community-based management. Involvement of all these levels would be essential for ensuring an overall commitment to the Strategy. However, it was noted that, at present, community-based management was not working because middlepersons were not included and the Provincial Fisheries Directors were too closely involved in the management committees.

103. Industry representatives also recommended that factory managers be included in human resource development activities. Overall, it was agreed that any human resource development should include business training and should link to programmes providing access to capital for business development.

104. The importance of reliable data on resources and socio-economic aspects in supporting the Strategy was stressed in WG2 as well.

105. In discussing additional essential projects, two modifications were recommended. First, the project on at-sea safety for coastal fisheries (Project 2.2.3) should be expanded to include offshore fisheries. Second, fisheries enforcement should be emphasized either by an additional project related to offshore fisheries enforcement or by modifying the coastal fishery Project 1.1.4 to include offshore fisheries.

PLENARY DISCUSSION ON FOLLOW-UP AFTER THE CONFERENCE

106. The two Working Groups presented a summary of their respective session results to the plenary. These were noted without further discussion due to time constraints.

107. Dr Vu Van Trieu outlined the plans for the finalisation of the draft Strategy following the Conference. A first step would be revision of the Strategy in during June 2005, based on the comments and observations obtained at the Conference. The revised Strategy would then be circulated to Departments of MOFI and to DOFI's for agreement and final comments during July–August 2005.

108. The outcome of this exercise is the final draft National Strategy presented as Appendix G of the present report.

109. Dr Trieu noted the timing of further steps to complete the formal adoption of the Strategy as follows:

- September 2005 – Production of final version of Strategy by MOFI/RIMF/NADAREP.
- October 2005 – Approval of Strategy by MOFI .
- November–December 2005 – Circulation of Strategy to other ministries for agreement.

- January–March 2006 – Approval by Prime-Ministers' Office.

110. It was mentioned that the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) and the Ministry of Finance had contacted MOFI on various occasions concerning the issue of increasing investment in the marine fisheries sector, and that this Strategy would enable MOFI to access additional funds to improve marine fisheries development and management.

CLOSING SESSION

111. Mr Lars Jøker (FSPS) thanked the participants of the Conference for their active participation. He looked forward to the circulation of the revised version of the draft Strategy and to seeing how comments received would fit in to that version. Supporting the follow-up plan, he recommended to RIMF and the ICD of MOFI increase the involvement of NADAREP in the Strategy finalization process, as NADAREP would have an important role to play in its implementation. Finally, he stated that the FSPS during its second phase would be very willing to contribute to the implementation of the Strategy.

112. Dr Derek Staples (FAO-RAP) commended participants on the successful outcome of the Conference. He emphasized that the process of preparing the Strategy is almost as important as the paper itself. The exchange of views, debates and negotiations are crucial to the process finalising Strategy. He thanked the interpreters for their services and all others involved in the organization and implementation of the Conference.

113. Dr Vu Van Trieu, on behalf of the MOFI leadership, expressed thanks for the valuable and effective assistance from FAO and DANIDA. He referred to the ongoing process of development of the new Master Plan for Fisheries of Viet Nam (under preparation by IFEP) and said that he expected the Strategy will follow a similar process. He thanked all participants of the Conference and particularly the experts from RIMF for their hard work on so far and for their willingness to work towards finalization of the Strategy in the next few months. In conclusion, he wished all participants good health and looked forward to their further contributions to the finalization of the Strategy and their support for its implementation once approved.

APPENDIX A

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APPENDIX B

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Day 1 – Tuesday 26 April	
9.00–9.30	Opening speeches of: Dr Anton Rychener, FAO Representative in Viet Nam Mr Lars Jøker, FSPS Coordinator Dr Vu Van Trieu (Director a.i. of International Cooperation Department)
9.30–10.00	Summary overview on the development and content of the draft strategy (by Dr Nguyen Long, RIMF)
10.00–10.15	Tea break
10.15–11.25	Presentation and discussion of : <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Principles & Vision Statement• Major Goals of the Strategy,• Measuring progress towards major goals, and• Responsibilities with regards to implementing and monitoring the strategy
11.25–11.30	Introduction of working groups for the afternoon session (by Raymon van Anrooy)
11.30–13.30	Lunch break
13.30–16.00	Working Group session 1 Working Group 1) Objectives and policies to achieve them for coastal fisheries management Working Group 2) Objectives and policies to achieve them for offshore fisheries management
16.00–16.15	Tea break
16.15–17.30	Presentation and discussion of findings by the working groups and agreement on amendments to the draft strategy
17.30	Conference Dinner hosted by MOFI-FAO FishCode

Day 2 – Wednesday 27 April	
8.30–10.00	Presentations on the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core projects (Mr Dang Van Thi, ALMRV) • Coastal Fisheries projects (Dr Dao Manh Son, RIMF) • Offshore fisheries projects (Dr Nguyen Long, RIMF)
10.00–10.15	Tea break
10.15–11.00	Presentations by DANIDA , FAO and other donor agencies on their current activities with regards to fisheries management issues in Viet Nam and their plans for future assistance
11.00–11.20	Presentation on the relationship between the proposed projects in the strategy and on-going and planned activities by the Ministry of Fisheries (by Dr Vu Van Trieu of the ICD)
11.20–11.30	Introduction of working groups for the afternoon session (by Dr Gary Morgan)
11.30–13.30	Lunch break
13.30–15.30	Working Group session 2 Working group 1) Discussion of draft projects on coastal fisheries management and their implementation arrangements at national, provincial and local levels Working Group 2) Discussion of draft projects on offshore fisheries management (including the draft core projects) and their implementation arrangements at national and provincial levels
15.30–15.45	Tea break
15.45–16.30	Presentations by the working groups on amendments to be made to the projects and on arrangements for their implementation these projects at national, provincial and local levels
16.30–16.45	Presentation by ICD on the further process of approval of the strategy (by Dr Vu Van Trieu of the ICD)
16.45–17.00	Closing ceremony

APPENDIX C

OPENING STATEMENT BY DR VU VAN TRIEU

Department of International Cooperation
Ministry of Fisheries

Distinguished Mr Rychener, FAO Resident Representative
Mr Lars Joker - DANIDA FSPS Coordinator

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Ministry of Fisheries, I welcome all of you to the Conference on National Strategy for Marine Fisheries Management and Development in Viet Nam.

In the current context, the management and development of marine fisheries plays a vital role in the sustainable development and conservation of marine aquatic resources and ecosystems in Viet Nam as well as coastal countries in the world.

Last year, 2004, Viet Nam's economy continued soaring up. GDP grew by 7.7% and export turnover 28.9%. The 11.2% increase in production value of fisheries sector made a remarkable contribution to the national economic profits. Regarding the socioeconomic development plan for 2006-2010 period in general and for the year of 2005 in particular, one of the huge tasks for a sustainable fisheries sector clings to the maintaining of steady growth rate and intensified transition of economic structure within its sub-sectors, especially in marine capture, and improvement of fisherfolks' livelihoods.

As a result, in the next five years, we need to sustain the marine catch of 1.7 million tons/year by restructuring the capture fisheries to the direction of accelerating offshore fishing, reducing pressure on the coast, and developing aquaculture in order to obtain the target of 2 million tons of aquaculture products by 2010.

Ladies and gentlemen,

So as to bring into full play the potential of fisheries economy and its marine component, one of the emerging needs is to find out appropriate measures for solving the constraints in sea management, with top priorities placed on establishment of an effective system for aquatic resource management and vessel registration, so that the exploitation activities are ensured to be in harmony with conservation, development and renewal of resources.

On the basis of the Fisheries Law and other State policies on economic management, administrative reform, decentralization of state governance in the Fisheries sector, and integration into the world economy, the satisfaction of requirements to sustainable development of the fisheries sector in the coming years largely depends on the management capacity of the Ministry, the contribution from science-technology, and the dynamics in the fisheries labour force, which can be effectively utilised by good formulation and implementation of development strategies, programs and blue-prints. With such setting, the Conference on National Strategy for Marine Fisheries Management and Development in Viet Nam has an extremely significant value. The strategy, once available, would be a good

set of guidelines for management and development of national marine capture fisheries in the future.

It is my hope that the opinions and outcomes from the workshop will provide us with a firm ground to finalise the Strategy for Marine Fisheries Management and Development, a step before the development of National Program on Seaproduct Exploitation to be submitted to the Prime Minister for approval.

On this opportunity, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the keen support from FAO and DANIDA to the organization of this conference. It is my wish that the conference will end in great success.

Thank you!

APPENDIX D

WELCOME SPEECH BY MR RYCHENER, FAO REPRESENTATIVE IN VIET NAM

Dr Vu Van Trieu,
Distinguished country delegates,
Representatives of international and regional organizations,
Representatives of donor countries and agencies,
Ladies and gentlemen.

It is my pleasure to present these opening comments on behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. In FAO's behalf, I welcome you to the final conference on the ***National Strategy for Marine Fisheries Management and Development in Viet Nam***. I would like to express our gratitude to the Ministry of Fisheries, for organizing this timely conference in Hanoi. I am hoping that the FAO FishCode Programme can contribute to its success.

I would like to start with a question: "Do you still want to feed your children fish by the year 2050?" The answer is probably "yes". But what should we do to achieve this?

In the world the demand for aquatic products is rising day by day, year after year with the increase of the world population and the rise in popularity of the healthy image of seafood. Overall, fish provide more than 2.6 billion people with at least one fifth of their animal protein needs. Millions of households worldwide generate their income directly or indirectly from fisheries. The result is that about half the stocks (52%) are fully exploited and one quarter overexploited (16%) or depleted (8%) due to intensive fishing and inadequate management of the marine resources. With the growth of the aquaculture sector we try to compensate the losses in marine catches but we will only partly succeed as also aquaculture presently depends on marine fisheries as a protein source.

In Viet Nam, fisheries has become one of the most dynamic and fast growing sectors of the Vietnamese economy, triggered by an increasing demand for aquatic products on the domestic and international markets.

Contribution of fisheries to food security, poverty reduction and foreign currency earnings of Viet Nam is high. However, the economical opportunities and the open access to the marine resources attract around 26,000 people to this sector every year. Total fishing efforts are still increasing. Catches per unit of effort are however decreasing. Earnings from fishing activities are getting lower, and are sometimes not enough to cover fishing cost. Therefore the fishery sector faces now serious constraints to further development.

Against this background of profound concerns over the growing threats to the world's fisheries and their ecosystems, the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries was unanimously adopted by FAO members in 1995. The Code contains a broad set of principles and methods for developing and managing capture fisheries and aquaculture. As a voluntary instrument, the Code is widely recognized as the global standard for setting out the aims of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture over the coming decades and as a basis for reviewing and revising national fisheries legislation. Many of the participants here have received copies of the Code in Vietnamese language in the last years. To those who do not know the Code we are happy to provide you with a copy.

The Government of Viet Nam has committed itself at various occasions to the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its related

international plans of action. A national strategy to guide the responsible management of marine fisheries in Viet Nam is recognised as an essential element for achieving long term sustainability of fisheries in Viet Nam. Following the National Conference on Responsible Fisheries in Viet Nam in September 2003, a group of senior Government fisheries officials assembled in Nha Trang in November 2004 to begin drafting of this national strategy with assistance from FAO and DANIDA. Major development goals for coastal and offshore marine fisheries in Viet Nam have been identified. Progress towards achieving these goals will be measured annually using defined performance indicators and projects have been formulated for both the coastal and offshore fisheries.

Most of the participants here have contributed to this strategy which we will discuss the coming two days through drafting or reviewing. But a strategy alone is not enough. This strategy, once approved by the Minister of Fisheries, can have a large and positive impact on the future of Viet Nam's fisheries. Further support from all participants and all stakeholders in the marine fisheries at national, provincial, district, community and individual levels is needed. Only then a successful implementation can be guaranteed. For successful implementation bridges have to be built between Ministries, organisations and people within the fisheries and outside the sector.

I would also like to encourage the international community here today to respond to this strategy and the requirements for a successful implementation; FAO stands ready to continue assisting Viet Nam in the sustainable development of its fisheries sector, including the implementation of the strategy.

I look forward to two days of excellent scientific and technical discussions with a practical focus on the refinement of all measures required for a sustainable management of Viet Nam's marine resources. Once again, thank you for your participation in the meeting and for helping in the effort to manage and develop Viet Nam's fisheries into a sustainable sector which is required to conserve and protect the marine resources for our children in the future.

APPENDIX E

INTRODUCTORY SPEECH BY MR LARS JØKER, FSPS COORDINATOR

Dear distinguished participants

It is my pleasure to welcome you here today to this important event “the final Conference on the National Strategy for marine Fisheries Management and Development in Viet Nam”.

First of all allow me to congratulate the Ministry of Fisheries for having taken this initiative to bring forward and develop a Marine Fisheries Strategy – a very important step forward for a sustainable development of the fisheries sector. In fact this is an opportunity for the Ministry of Fisheries to reconfirm that you want to adhere to international principles. Undoubtedly this is also an opportunity for strengthening the regional cooperation with institutions such as SEAFDEC.

I do know that a lot of effort and work has already provided by many of the participants and the consultants involved in the formulation of this strategy, but I am also aware that there is still some way to go before the strategy can be considered complete for submission to the Ministry of Fisheries for official approval. Therefore this conference constitutes an ideal opportunity to discuss with you and to receive your valuable opinions and further recommendations for improving and finalizing the strategy.

Personally I do see some areas where further discussion and improvement is needed:

- Linkage at the Marco level that is between the newly developed Fisheries Law, the three National Programmes for the fisheries sector and finally with the Fisheries Master Plan that is presently in the making.
- Further consideration could be given to improve the linkage between development goals and the Core Projects
- In relation to both the Inshore and the Offshore projects described in the strategy the following issues should be emphasized:
 - within many of the proposed projects work that is not mentioned in the status description is already on-going and in some cases there is a risk of duplications;
 - it is recommended that all relevant interventions supported by MOFI, DOFI's and donors are included in the status description; and
 - consider if all projects have been identified or if there should be flexibility for including others.
- Finally the proposals for supporting the development of the Offshore gives rise to some concern. The proposal for increasing the employment from 300 000 to 500 000 is not well documented as there is limited evidence that suggest venturing into offshore fisheries will provide an improved livelihood for these fishers. In this relation it is important to note that the precautionary approach suggests that: “In absence of adequate data the precautionary principle should be applied to management action”.

With that in mind I look forward to the two day conference and I would like to take this opportunity to encourage active participation and many fruitful discussions. Again thank you for coming and may your contributions support the Ministry of Fisheries in the final drafting of a solid Marine fisheries strategy.

APPENDIX F

MEDIA COVERAGE

Note: The Conference received considerable media attention from national level radio (e.g. Voice of Viet Nam), newspapers and magazines. One example can be found below.

Viet Nam News (27 April 2005)

Fisheries strategy awaits finalisation

HÀ NỘI — Local representatives and international supporters gathered in Hà Nội yesterday to finalise the national strategy for marine fisheries management and development in Việt Nam.

A two-day conference was held by the Ministry of Fisheries with support from the Food Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and the DANIDA Fisheries Sector Programme Support.

The strategy will guide the management and development of marine fisheries in the country until 2015.

Together with the recently approved fishery law, and the master plan for fishery development, the strategy will form the basis for the main intervention in the marine capture fishery sector, such as the restructuring of the fishing vessel registration system, introduction of a vessel monitoring system, zoning of marine fisheries and preparation of fishery management plans for offshore and coastal fisheries.

Việt Nam's FAO representative Anton Rychener said the strategy, once approved by the Government, will have a positive impact on the future of Việt Nam's fisheries.

He encouraged the international community to join the Ministry of Fisheries, DANIDA and FAO in the positive response to the strategy and the requirements for successful implementation of the strategy.

Marine capture fisheries are very important for coastal livelihoods in Việt Nam. More than 3 million households derive their

income from capture fisheries and related activities.

However, many coastal fisheries resources are threatened by over exploitation. While the maximum sustainable yield for coastal fisheries is estimated at around 600,000 tonnes, the actual catch in coastal areas is much higher.

For more than seven years the catch has been higher than the maximum sustainable yield. Thus the pressure on the fishery resources is too high, which has been recorded by the catch per unit of effort which went down from 0.6 tonne per horsepower in 1994 to less than 0.4 tonne per horsepower in 2004.

The economic profitability of the coastal fishing fleet is decreasing rapidly as each year 2,300 small fishing vessels enter coastal fisheries.

The earnings per fishing trip decline and illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing is a widespread practice. Therefore, urgent action is required in the field of management of coastal fisheries resources.

The 80 participants who attended the two-day conference, including all provincial directors of fisheries, agreed with the participatory approach taken towards the development of this strategy.

They expressed that they were happy that their joint request for this essential national strategy, which was previously decided at a national conference on responsible fisheries management in Hà Nội in 2003, would now get the necessary follow-up. — VNS

APPENDIX G

**STRATEGY FOR MARINE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN
VIET NAM (FINAL DRAFT)**

**STRATEGY FOR MARINE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND
DEVELOPMENT IN VIET NAM***



Ministry of Fisheries

June 2005

**Hanoi
Viet Nam**

*Version translated in July 2005 and circulated to MOFI departments and Provincial Departments of Fisheries for agreement.

Contents

- 1. Preparation of the Strategy**
- 2. Relationship to other planning initiatives and ongoing activities**
- 3. Background: the status of fisheries in Viet Nam**
- 4. Principles**
- 5. A Vision for marine fisheries**
- 6. Orientations**
- 7. Time horizon**
- 8. Monitoring and review**
- 9. Major development goals**
- 10. Core projects**
- 11. Performance indicators and objective**
- 12. Action Plan**
- 13. References**
- 14. Implementation schedule for the Strategy**

1. Preparation of the Strategy

The drafting of a National Strategy to guide the responsible management of marine fisheries in Viet Nam has been recognised as an essential element in achieving long term sustainability of fisheries in the country. Following a National Conference on Responsible Fisheries in Viet Nam in September 2003 (FAO, 2004), a group of senior Government fisheries staff assembled in Nha Trang in November 2004 to begin drafting of this national strategy, with assistance from FAO and DANIDA. The draft Strategy was then widely circulated and discussed at a further “Conference on a National Strategy for Responsible Fisheries Management in Viet Nam”, Hanoi, 26–27 April 2005.

Within the drafting process of the Strategy use was made of the Logical Framework approach, which is well known among staff of the Ministry of Fisheries (MOFI) and has proven very useful in earlier planning exercises. Drafting of the Strategy began with identifying the main Development Goals for coastal and offshore marine fisheries in Viet Nam, taking into account the previous initiatives of MOFI and other Government agencies, including the Master Plan for Fisheries for 2001-2010 and the draft strategy for offshore fishing which have been developed by MOFI and sector initiatives of other agencies such as DANIDA, NORAD and the World Bank. Once these Development Goals had been agreed upon, consideration was given to how progress towards their attainment could be measured. This resulted in the identification of suitable Performance Indicators, which are designed to be measured and reported on annually so that progress can be monitored and appropriate actions taken if the Goals are not being achieved.

To achieve each identified Development Goal within the time horizon of the Strategy – i.e. by the year 2015 – a series of milestones or “Objectives” were elaborated. These provide a statement of when major objectives or specific areas of work need to be completed. Finally, specific activities or “projects” were developed for the attainment of each objective within the allotted time frame.

These projects therefore form the basic building blocks of the Strategy and contribute specifically to achieving its Objectives, which in turn are necessary for realising the overall Development Goals.

2. Relationship to other planning initiatives and ongoing activities

MOFI has already been involved in a number of planning initiatives, including the Master Plan for Fisheries for 2001-2010, the draft strategy for offshore fishing, the strategic plan for Sustainable Aquaculture in Poverty Alleviation (SAPA) and others. In addition, MOFI activities are carried out within the context of annual approved programs, which include a number of aid-funded projects in fisheries statistics, research, development and planning, most importantly those funded by DANIDA and NORAD. The role of the present National Strategy is not to replace these other initiatives or activities but to locate them within a broader strategic context that looks at overall, long term development goals for the marine fisheries sector in Viet Nam. Such an approach not only provides context for these other initiatives but also identifies important gaps in knowledge that must be addressed if Viet Nam is to achieve its identified Development Goals as identified through the preparation of this national marine fisheries strategy.

3. Background: the status of fisheries in Viet Nam

The fisheries sector is one of the most dynamic and fastest growing sectors of the Vietnamese economy. In 1990-2003, total production from capture fisheries and aquaculture has increased

approximately 2.6 times to 2.85 million tonnes and fisheries export value has increased nearly ten times to US\$2.2 billion in 2003. Marine capture fisheries production has nearly tripled from 0.5 million tonnes in 1980 to 1.64 million tonnes in 2003.

The fishery sector contributes close to 4 percent to GDP, a figure that does not yet encompass significant value added in fish processing, distribution and marketing. The sector is next to the oil and garment industry one of the largest generators of foreign exchange earnings in the country. It further supplies about 40 percent of animal protein in Vietnamese food, and has created approximately four million jobs and income to millions of households.

The outstanding performance of the fisheries sector is underpinned by an abundance of aquatic resources. Viet Nam has a coastline of about 3 620 km and its exclusive economic zone extends over more than one million square kilometres. The coast is blessed with many bays and estuaries, such as those of Halong bay, Bai Tu Long bay and Tam Giang, as well as more than 400 000 ha of mangrove forest. These and the great diversity of coastal and marine resources create good opportunities for further development of marine fisheries, including mariculture, and of other coastal industries such as tourism and transport.

There are more than 2030 species of fish, of which 130 are of commercial importance. There are also 1 600 species of crustacean, 2 500 species of shellfish, and a wide variety of seaweeds and seabirds. The marine fishery resources potential has been estimated at over three million tonnes of the trawlable biomass (the biomass of pelagic species has not yet been estimated), with the sustainable yield at 1.4–1.5 million tonnes.

However, the fishery sector faces serious constraints, which have arisen in the course of its rapid development. With more than 84 percent of fishing vessels equipped with engines of less than 90 HP, Vietnamese fisheries are mostly small-scale in nature. Fishing is thus concentrated in coastal waters and this has resulted in heavy pressure on nearshore resources. This pressure has included the common practice of large vessels, designed for offshore fishing operations, operating in inshore coastal areas in competition with the smaller inshore vessels. This illegal practice is an important element that needs to be addressed as part of any development plan for Viet Nam's inshore fishery.

In recent years, the number of fishing vessels and total engine power of the whole country has increased. Between 1993 and 2003, total engine power increased from 1 291 550 HP to 4 100 000 HP – an increase of about 3.17 times. In the same period, total catch grew from 793 324 tonnes to 1 426 220 tonnes – an increase of only 1.8 times. This means the catch per HP almost halved from 0.61 tonnes/year in 1993 to 0.35 tonnes/year in 2003.

The number of fishers has also been growing in recent years. Over the period 1990–2000, numbers almost doubled from 270 587 to 540 000, representing an increase of around 27 000 fishers per year.

The educational level in fishing communities is generally low. Sixty eight percent of residents have not finished primary school; 20 percent have finished primary school and nearly 10 percent have finished secondary school. Less than one percent of fishers have a certificate or diploma from a vocational school or university (VN Statistic 1995).

The majority of fishers are poor. Their capital investment capacity is very limited. They are unable to afford offshore fishing vessels. Obviously, the majority of new entrants to fisheries every year will be concentrated into coastal fishing activities using small fishing vessels. This situation is continuously increasing competition in coastal fishing and causes deterioration in the state of coastal fisheries resources.

With low educational level, fishers cannot afford advanced technology, especially offshore fishing technology. Similarly, a change by small scale fishers to alternative employment in other sectors in order to reduce fishing pressure is difficult.

Coastal resources are getting exhausted, while size of vessels, capacity of engine and fishing pressure still are increasing. During the last decade, total engine power increased on average with 12 percent per year and average engine power of a vessel was 43.9 HP in 2003, as against 34.9 HP in 2001. Comparing to the general development need of fisheries sector, fisheries infrastructure is still poorly developed. At the end of the year 2000, there were 150 fishing ports and harbours with a total berth length of 4 146m, which can serve large fishing vessels. Most are small and medium ports serving fuel, fresh water, ice, repair services and storm shelters for fishing vessels.

Fishing ports almost all lack modern working facilities such as landing equipment, cranes and cool storage warehouses. Places for sorting and grading fish is generally small and the transportation systems in ports are not convenient. There are 702 shipyards for fishing vessels providing total building capacity of 8 000 fishing vessels per year. In addition, there are many small local shipyards building small fishing vessels with traditional technology. There are eight manufacturers producing net materials, packing bags and other fishery materials. Together they produce a total volume of 200 tonnes of fibers for preparation of nets and 7 500 tonnes of fishery material every year.

The number of specialized fish markets is limited. Fish auction or bid markets are being developed in Viet Nam. Middlepersons and wholesalers play an important role in the marketing of fish and fishery products for the domestic and export markets. Low post harvest quality of fish is a problem that must be addressed in view of the increasing food safety and quality demands in both domestic and export markets.

There are 126 frozen-storage warehouses providing total storage capacity of about 20000 tonnes, and 120 ice-making enterprises throughout the country supplying ice for the national fishing fleet.

Viet Nam ratified the UN Law of the Sea Convention (UNCLOS) in 1994 but has not yet ratified the UN Fish Stocks Agreement or the FAO Compliance Agreement. Despite this, Viet Nam is committed to the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its related international plans of action: International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries, the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks, the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity and the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.

3.1 Management issues and opportunities

3.1.1 Inshore fisheries

Several million fishers and their families depend on small-scale fishing activities. The main part of the marine catches is being realized by coastal fleets. According to statistics, there have been 5896 offshore fishing vessels in 2000 with total engine power of about 1 000 000 HP. But in fact, many of those are often active in waters near shore, making the fishing pressure in this zone getting higher.

Due to the overexploitation and exhaustion of the coastal resources, earnings from fishing activities are getting lower, and sometimes are not enough to cover fishing costs. The economic performance of various fleets is decreasing. In this situation, the competition for resources is unavoidable and intensifying – between small-scale fisheries and large-scale

fisheries, between fleets, between fishing vessels, and between local fishing vessels and foreign fishing vessels.

In the period of 1990-2000, the number of small fishing vessels (<45 HP) operating in coastal waters has increased significantly, with this increase averaging 2300 vessels per year during this period.

The mesh sizes of nets used nowadays are often smaller than the mesh sizes allowed by national regulation. Harmful fishing gear such as push nets, stow nets, and fixed nets are still commonly used in many places. Dangerous techniques such as using explosive, electricity and poison for fishing still active underhand in many areas causing considerable damage to aquatic living resources. Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing is a widespread practice.

The maximum sustainable yield of coastal fishery resources, defined as resources in waters of 50 m depth and less, has been estimated in the order of 600 000 tonnes. This figure is significantly lower than the currently estimated coastal catch of 1.1 million tonnes and suggests a heavy fishing pressure. In fact, for the last seven years or more, the coastal catch has been higher than the maximum sustainable yield and has shown a further growth.

Coastal fishery resources are not solely impacted by fishing activities but also by other users of coastal resources, including coastal aquaculture. Areas under aquaculture operations have increased from 491 000 ha in 1990 to 955 000 ha in 2003. Some aquaculture activities such as lobster, shrimp, mud crab and grouper culture can be considered capture-based and as such add to the pressure on coastal fisheries resources. Urban and river runoff and coastal development activities have also increasingly impacted the coastal areas.

In general, coastal waters are very important to fisheries in Viet Nam. They produce 82 percent of the total marine catch and comprise the fishing grounds of small fishing vessels that constitute 84 percent of the total mechanized fishing vessels. Coastal waters also serve as the source of living for poor fishers, whose population constitutes 88 percent of the total capture fisheries labour force. But coastal resources have been overexploited, and there is an imbalance between fishing capacity (in terms of quantity of fishing vessels) and potential coastal stock abundance. Meanwhile, illegal fishing activities continue adversely to affect resource conservation. In order to maintain and develop the fisheries in a sustainable way, it is necessary to have appropriate management policies to reduce fishing pressure on coastal waters, promote offshore fisheries and regulate coastal fishing activities in correspondence with current stock status.

3.1.2 Offshore fisheries

Since about the mid-1990s, the Government of Viet Nam has made strenuous efforts to develop its offshore fisheries. These efforts have aimed at attaining two broad policy objectives: first, to further expand marine fish production for domestic consumption and for export; and secondly to reduce the pressure on coastal fisheries resources, which have shown signs of full exploitation and even severe overfishing in some areas.

MOFI is currently drafting a decree (regulation) that includes provisions regarding the demarcation of marine areas and coastal, inshore and offshore fishing routes, as well as a provision regarding size, type and marking of fishing vessels operating in fishing routes. The draft decree defines coastal, inshore and offshore fishing vessels according to their horsepower, providing that fishing vessels operating in offshore are those with over 90 HP. Furthermore, the draft decree defines “offshore routes” as being marine areas 20 or 12 nautical miles seaward from the shoreline, depending on the geographical area concerned, stretching to the outer limits of the marine areas under national jurisdiction.

Until a decree is adopted, “offshore” fisheries could be defined according to several criteria, including the size (length and width) and HP of fishing vessels as well as the distance from the shore and the depth at which fishing activities take place. Published statistics indicate that vessels with 90 HP and above are considered as offshore fishing vessels. Depending on the geographical area (north, central and southern regions), offshore fishing grounds are considered those with a depth beyond 30 to 50 meters.

In order to reach the target of increasing offshore fishery production, an investment programme has been implemented to modernize the fishing fleet and introduce new offshore fishing vessels. According to 2002 statistics, there were 6 675 offshore fishing vessels with an aggregate engine power of about one million horse power. The effectiveness of this programme was constrained by several factors including the lack of suitable fishing technologies and skilled skippers and crew, high input costs, insufficient information on offshore resources, fishing grounds and seasons, and inadequacy of onshore services. For these reasons and the lower than expected catch rates, a large number of offshore vessels has performed poorly in economic terms and repayment rates on loans have been very low. Moreover, the number of offshore vessels has remained uncontrolled and in several areas offshore vessels have targeted, at least seasonally, inshore fishing grounds – thereby further increasing the pressure on already overfished nearshore resources and causing conflict with often poor coastal fishers.

At present the catch in the offshore area is estimated to be 600 000 tonnes (excluding the catch of foreign IUU fishing vessels), while according to one estimate the maximum sustainable yield in the area is 1 100 000 tonnes. This appears to indicate that there is scope for further development of the offshore fishery. However, at present, many offshore vessels are apparently facing economic difficulties and are preferentially fishing in inshore waters in competition with small-scale fishers. Also, ongoing DANIDA-funded work (ALMRV Project) seems to indicate that the offshore fisheries potential may not be as high as previously thought. Therefore, while the Government of Viet Nam emphasizes the need to develop the offshore fleet, this needs to be done with great caution to avoid the development of an economically unsustainable fleet. It therefore needs to be based on reliable assessments of offshore resources and an understanding of the economic realities of offshore fishing. One option for development appears to be improving the value (rather than the quantity) of the catch from offshore fishing operations by focussing on issues such as post-harvest quality control (including onboard refrigeration) and minimising the catch of uncommercial by-catch species.

The number of fishers participating directly in fishing activities at the end of 2001 was 571 600, of which about 80 000 persons work for the offshore vessels. Almost all of the captains and chief mechanics have not been through regular courses. They are deficient in basic knowledge on good exploitation of the offshore fishing ground.

At present, the offshore fishing fleet consists of trawlers (up to 37% of the total number of offshore vessels), hand and long line vessels (20.5%), gillnet vessels (20.2%), purse seiners (14.3%) and others (7.5%). Most fishing vessels in Viet Nam are constructed in wood with service life of about 10-12 years. The larger vessels (20-24m long) are used mainly in the eastern and western waters of the southern region. Eighty four percent of the total vessels with a capacity of >140 HP can be found in the coastal provinces in the East-South and West-South. Only 11.3 percent of the offshore vessels are equipped with new marine engines; the remaining 88.7 percent are equipped with second-hand engine. Many vessels are equipped with old car engines (41.8%). Most fishing vessels have only ice and salt storage compartments and no modern reefer systems. Therefore, the quality of the post-harvest fishery production is reduced, causing economic losses for fishers. The majority of offshore fishing vessels are equipped with oil and fresh water tanks that are too small for long trips.

In summary, the fisheries of Viet Nam have continued to expand rapidly over the past few decades, and signs of overexploitation are evident in several areas, particularly inshore waters.

- Coastal aquatic resources have been overexploited severely and are in decline.
- Coastal fishing capacity, in terms of quantity of fishing vessels and catch, has increased far beyond the sustainable limit.
- The number of fishing vessels has increased, earnings per vessel have fallen and competition is getting harder while resources become more and more exhausted.
- Most fishers in coastal communities are poor and unable to invest in offshore fishing vessels, and lack the knowledge of modern techniques and management for offshore fisheries.
- IUU fishing is widespread.
- There have not been sufficient studies to define the right dimensions for fleet size in accordance with the current capacity of stocks, and to decide appropriate fisheries management policies.

There appears to be some potential for increased production from offshore areas although the development of offshore fisheries will need to be managed carefully to avoid the same mistakes that have been made in the unregulated expansion of the coastal fisheries. Nearshore fisheries also need to focus on rehabilitation of the apparently overexploited resources to ensure longer term sustainability.

This Strategy has been designed to address these needs.

4. Principles

The principles upon which this Strategy is based are as follows.

- a) Fisheries are managed for long term sustainability of the resources, their ecosystems and the coastal communities that depend on them. Fisheries management is based on the principles of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and seeks to ensure profitable fisheries.
- b) Fisheries management is based on the Fishery Law of Viet Nam, 2003, and is in conformity with other current laws of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.
- c) The Ministry of Fisheries is responsible for overall policy objectives, monitoring the status of resources and implementing management actions through Provincial and local fisheries management agencies and others as appropriate. In undertaking this function, the Ministry of Fisheries will, wherever practicable, adopt a community-based management approach and work closely with, and strengthen the role of, local communities in fisheries management.
- d) Fisheries policy objectives are based, where possible, on biological, economic and social information on the resources, their status and the communities that depend on them and on conclusions of scientific studies or research projects/programs. In the absence of adequate data, the precautionary principle will be applied to management actions.

- e) The policy objectives of managing fish stocks shared with neighbouring countries take into account the relevant regulations and/or international conventions to which Viet Nam is a party, the shared nature of those resources, and co-operation in the management of these resources is sought with the countries concerned.

5. A Vision for marine fisheries

Taking into account the principles of fisheries management in Viet Nam that are inherent in this Strategy and that are being pursued by the Ministry of Fisheries, Viet Nam's Vision for its fisheries sector is:

Marine resources and fisheries play an important role in the economic and social development of Viet Nam of current and future generations and are exploited in a sustainable and efficient way.

6. Orientations

Points of operational orientation for this Strategy include:

- recover fishery resource in the coastal areas by decreasing pressure on nearshore exploitation; plan for a gradual reduction in the number of nearshore small vessels;
- ensure harmony between resource exploitation and resource protection;
- occupational alternatives for redundant nearshore fishers;
- reasonable and suitable development of offshore fisheries in accordance with resource capacity in order to ensure economic efficiency and decrease post-harvest loss;
- strengthened fishery management policy that takes into account occupation structure, licensing, numbers of fishing vessels needed to be deployed in each marine area in accordance with the capacity of the resources, and use of community-based fisheries management approaches, and application of the "New Fisheries Law" according to the spirit and principles of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;
- establish marine reserves, prohibited or restricted fishing areas;
- intensify inspections at sea;
- minimize the use of fishing gear and harmful exploitation methods;
- improved ability for scientific study together with application of foreign technology;
- fishery enhancement programmes;
- increased awareness and skill of fishers in order to implement responsible fishing operations and sustainable fishery development.

7. Time horizon

The Strategy is designed to guide the management and development of fisheries resources for the next 10 years, to 2015. It is based on a long term vision for the fisheries sector and incorporates the directions that form part of the Ministry of Fisheries Master Plan for Socio-Economic Development of the sector to 2010 and other general and sector-specific plans.

8. Monitoring and review

An “Advisory Board” should be established by MOFI to monitor, review and regulate the implementation of the Strategy for the period of 2005–2015. This Board should monitor the progress in achieving the Strategy by collecting data and reporting on the performance indicators (see below) of the major goals for fisheries management and development in Viet Nam. These performance indicators will be reported and reviewed at annual meetings convened by the Advisory Board. The annual review meetings may also adjust specific objectives for achieving the overall goals in light of new, revised or additional information that may be collected.

9. Major development goals

The major identified development goals are designed to guide the overall strategy for the marine fisheries sector in Viet Nam to the year 2015. They are as follows.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENT GOALS OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN VIET NAM

a) Coastal fisheries

- Goal 1: To appropriately regulate fishing in coastal areas, and, at the same time rehabilitate and conserve coastal fisheries resources and their ecosystems.
- Goal 2: To enhance the living standards of fishing communities that depend on coastal fisheries resources, to contribute to poverty alleviation within those communities and to assure food security.

b) Offshore fisheries

- Goal 1: To ensure sustainable and efficient offshore fisheries, while maintaining both marine ecosystem functions and harmonious relationships with coastal fisheries and contributing to the protection of the sovereignty of the territorial waters and the national security of Viet Nam.
- Goal 2: To enhance income, create new occupations and improve the living standards of fishing communities that depend on offshore fisheries.

Measuring progress and performance:

Progress towards achieving these goals will be measured annually, using the defined performance indicators.

10. Core projects

To achieve the development goals, a number of projects were identified as essential to support both coastal and offshore development goals. These core projects also enable progress in the implementation of the Strategy to be measured.

The four core projects (CPs) summarised below.

CP 1.	<i>Restructuring of the vessel registration system</i>
Project aim:	To further develop and implement a national vessel registry system that distinguishes between coastal and offshore vessels as a basis for management of the two areas.
Priority ranking:	Essential.
Main tasks:	Assess the status of fisheries vessels registration and management system in Viet Nam Develop the system; link provincial registration offices to a central database; implement system (backed by necessary regulation), train staff and ensure enforcement.
Time frame:	2006-2007 (2 years).
Prior project(s) required:	None.
Responsible agency:	National Directorate of Aquatic Resources Exploitation and Protection.
Estimated Budget:	VD 1.6 billion system development; VD5.5 billion; implementation of system including staff training; VD790 million per year ongoing maintenance of system and incremental enforcement costs.
Assumption(s):	Commitment to impose penalties for non-compliance.
Ongoing activities:	A national vessel register has already been developed with support of the FSPS and is implemented by NADAREP. The database has been developed and statistics on fleet structures is available in some provinces, such as Soc Trang, Thua Thien etc. There is, however, a need to upgrade the system to more clearly distinguish between offshore and coastal vessels and to further strengthen the monitoring capacity for the system. The entire vessel registration system also needs to be decentralized to the local fishery authorities.

CP 2.	<i>Routine fisheries data collection for decision makers</i>
Project aim:	To enhance and institutionalise the basic fisheries data collection system that has been developed over the past 7 years so that it provides (a) the necessary data for assessment and management action for Viet Nam's fisheries and (b) the data requirements for this strategy to measure progress in achieving the identified goals for both coastal and offshore fisheries.
Priority ranking:	Essential project: fisheries management measures must be based on strong scientific knowledge.
Main tasks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific surveys to determine biomass (demersal, pelagic, shrimp) for coastal and offshore waters. • Biological data collection from commercial groups. • Implement observer program. • Implement log-book program. • Catch and effort data collection from fishing fleets. • Data on economic performance of fishing fleets. • Develop databases. Annual assessment of resources and fisheries.
Time frame:	Implement from 2006 and continuous after that.
Prior project(s) required:	This is a continuation and enhancement of the routine fisheries data collection system initiated by ALMRV, which, under present arrangements, will finish in 2005.
Responsible agency:	1) Research Institute for Marine Fisheries (RIMF): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific surveys, • Biological data collection from commercial group, • Observer program, • Develop database. 2) National Directorate for Aquatic Living Resources Exploitation and Protection (NADAREP): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catch and effort data collection, • Log-book, • Develop database. 3) Institute for Fisheries Economic and Planning (IFEP): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic data, • Develop database. 4) Departments of Fisheries in coastal provinces. 5) General Statistics Office (GSO).
Estimated Budget:	VD 12 billion for 2006 and VD 10 billion annually from 2007.
Assumption(s):	Assumes sufficient research vessel capacity is available for surveys and human resources development and upgrading of equipment in NADAREP.
Ongoing activities:	Collection and enhancement of the statistics collection system has been conducted by the project ALMRV since 1996, and implemented by RIMF and NADAREP. The system now needs to be further developed and institutionalized by strengthening the human resources and supplementing the budget for the local enumerator system.

CP 3.	<i>Zoning of marine fisheries and preparation of fisheries management plans for offshore and coastal fisheries</i>
Project aim:	To develop details of offshore and coastal fisheries management planning, including zonation and fishing gear and vessel restrictions.
Priority ranking:	Essential.
Main tasks:	1) In close collaboration between MOFI and DOFs and fishery associations design a zoning system in each province/region through consultative workshops. 2) Identify regulation on permitted types of fishing methods, number of vessels and vessel size categories in each zone. 3) Disseminate regulation to all concerned, and to the public at large. 4) Complete the registration and licensing system. 5) Marking of vessels in accordance with zoning system.
Time frame:	2005 – 2008
Prior project(s) required:	Vessel registry (Core Project 1).
Responsible agency:	NADAREP; Department of Legislation; DOFs; fisheries associations.
Estimated Budget:	VD 500 million per year
Assumption(s):	Agreement can be reached by all concerned on zoning scheme
Ongoing activities:	This work has been started by the marine fisheries specialist team as a part of a new management structure in MOFI.

CP 4.	<i>Strengthening fisheries enforcement capability including undertaking a feasibility study on the introduction of a vessel monitoring system (VMS) for offshore fisheries</i>
Project aim:	To strengthen the capacity of MoFI and provincial fisheries Departments to enforce the regulations contained within the new Fisheries Law of 2003. As part of this upgrading of enforcement capability, to undertake a feasibility study on the effectiveness and costs of introducing VMS technology for monitoring, control and surveillance of offshore fishing vessels in Viet Nam.
Priority ranking:	Essential.
Main tasks:	Provide additional manpower and training to provincial fisheries Departments for enforcement of the regulations of the new Fisheries Law, including training in enforcement methods and fishermen education within a co-management approach. As part of this upgrading of enforcement capability, make an assessment of the practicality and costs of introducing Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) technology to offshore fisheries of Viet Nam.
Time frame:	Begin 2006 with training being ongoing.
Prior project(s) required:	None.
Responsible agency:	NADAREP; DOFs; fisheries associations.
Estimated Budget:	VD 900 million.
Assumption(s):	None.
Ongoing activities:	The new Fishery Law of Viet Nam, which entered into force in 2004, was developed with the assistance of NORAD. The process of implementing the Law, through the drafting and adoption of regulations, is currently taking place, and will continue throughout phase two of the NORAD project (2005-09).

11. Performance indicators and objective

11.1 Performance indicators

To measure progress towards each of the development goals for coastal and offshore fisheries, the following performance indicators will be monitored and reported on annually.

11.1.1 Coastal fisheries

Development Goal 1: To appropriately regulate fishing in coastal areas, and, at the same time rehabilitate and conserve coastal fisheries resources and their ecosystems.

In order to assess whether this development goal is being achieved, the following will be monitored.

- a) State of resources.
 - Measures of biomass of coastal fisheries resources
 - Catch Per Unit Effort from coastal fisheries

- b) Fishing pressure.
 - Total fishing effort.
 - Spatial and temporal distribution of fishing effort.
 - Total catch from coastal fisheries.
- c) Indicators of ecosystem health, based on international guidelines and standards for extent and quality.
 - Mangroves.
 - Coral reefs.
 - Seagrass.
 - Lagoons.
- d) Ecosystem functioning
 - Nutrient measures.
 - Biodiversity indicators.
 - Abundance of top predators.
 - Abundance of vulnerable species.

Development Goal 2: To enhance the living standards of fishing communities that depend on coastal fisheries resources, to contribute to poverty alleviation within those communities and to assure food security.

In order to assess whether this development goal is being achieved, the following will be monitored.

- a) Economic Indicators
 - Income and income distribution of households which depend solely on fishing.
 - Income and income distribution of households which derive part of income from non-fishing activities.
 - Percentage of fishery-dependent population living below poverty line.
- b) Social Indicators
 - Education indicators.
 - Health indicators.
 - Gender indicators.

11.1.2 Offshore Fisheries

Development Goal 1: To ensure sustainable and efficient offshore fisheries, while maintaining both marine ecosystem functions and harmonious relationships with coastal fisheries and contributing to the protection of the sovereignty of the territorial waters and the national security of Viet Nam.

In order to assess whether this development goal is being achieved, the following will be monitored.

- a) State of resources
 - Biomass by species/stocks, size composition/age, spawning stock biomass.
 - Catch Per Unit Effort for offshore fisheries.
 - Catch composition.
 - Diversity.
 - Monitoring the capture of bycatch vulnerable species (shark, seabird).
- b) Ecosystem functioning
 - Mean trophic level.
 - Abundance of top predators.
 - Biodiversity index.
 - Distribution of resources.

- c) Fishing pressure
 - Total fishing effort by fishing fleet, including horsepower.
 - Distribution of fishing effort over time and space.
 - Monitoring the number of offshore vessels operating inshore through logbook system.
 - The extent of compliance with fisheries laws and legislative directives.
- d) Profitability of offshore fishing fleet
 - The average and the distribution of profits from fishing activities.

Development Goal 2: To enhance income, create new occupations and improve the living standards of fishing communities that depend on offshore fisheries.

In order to assess whether this Development Goal is being achieved, the following will be monitored.

- a) Economic indicators
 - Income and income distribution of households deriving income from offshore fishing.
 - Percentage of fisherfolk living below poverty line for households involved in offshore fishing.
 - Percentage of unemployment.
- b) Social indicators (gender specific)
 - Education.
 - Health.
 - The number of fishers directly and indirectly employed in offshore fishing.
 - The number of fishers trained in offshore fishing techniques.

11.2 Objectives

For both inshore and offshore fisheries, a number of key objectives that contribute to achieving the overall development goals will be pursued. These objectives are as follows.

Inshore fisheries	Objectives
<i>Development Goal 1. To appropriately regulate fishing in coastal areas, and, at the same time rehabilitate and conserve coastal fisheries resources and their ecosystems</i>	<p>Objective 1.1: By 2010, complete the development of a comprehensive coastal fisheries management system. This system will include policy formulation (including monitoring, control and surveillance), developing supporting legislation and implementing the management system.</p> <p>Objective 1.2: By 2015, reduce the number of coastal fishing vessels and total horsepower to that needed to take the corresponding total allowable catch of the coastal resources and to adjust the occupation structure of fishing communities accordingly</p> <p>Objective 1.3: By 2015, to have 15 Marine Protected Areas in Viet Nam, one additional resource protection/limited area and to develop several artificial reefs.</p> <p>Objective 1.4: To enhance fisheries management capacity at all levels within the Government and within fisheries communities so as to minimize negative impacts on marine resources and ecosystems.</p>
<i>Development Goal 2. To enhance the living standards of fishing communities that</i>	Objective 2.1: By 2015, transfer the appropriate number of coastal fishing participants (in accordance

<p><i>depend on coastal fisheries resources, to contribute to poverty alleviation within those communities and to assure food security.</i></p>	<p>with achieving sustainable exploitation of coastal fisheries resources) to other occupations, including implementing supporting programs of technical re-training, occupational counselling and credit schemes.</p> <p>Objective 2.2: By 2010, to reduce the total coastal fisheries catch to 700 000 tonnes/year, by reducing the number of fishing vessels and fishers and implementing resources protection laws and policies.</p>
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Offshore Fisheries	Objectives
<p>Development Goal 1. To ensure sustainable and efficient offshore fisheries, while maintaining both marine ecosystem functions and harmonious relationships with coastal fisheries and contributing to the protection of the sovereignty of the territorial water and the national security of Viet Nam.</p>	<p>Objective 1.1: To continually update information on offshore fisheries resources and their fisheries.</p> <p>Objective 1.2: By 2007, to complete a restructuring of the offshore fleet by fishing method that best matches the fleet structure to the type and status of identified offshore fisheries resources and to continue to improve this structure as additional information on the resources is collected.</p> <p>Objective 1.3: To undertake activities that result in a continuous modernisation of the offshore fishing fleet.</p> <p>Objective 1.4: To achieve the following sustainable production targets for total offshore fishing catch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ By 2010: 700 000 tonnes/year ➤ By 2015: 900 000 tonnes/year <p>and to achieve the following export targets for offshore fisheries production:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ By 2010: \$US430 million /year ➤ By 2015: \$US550 million/year <p>Objective 1.5: To continually improve fisheries management capability and capacity within both Government and industry.</p>
<p>Development Goal 2. To enhance income, create new occupations and improve the living standards of fisheries communities that depend on offshore fisheries</p>	<p>Objective 2.1: By 2007, to complete a restructure of the offshore fleet by fishing method that best matches the fleet structure to the type and status of identified offshore fisheries resources and to continue to improve this structure as additional information on the resources is collected. (This Objective is shared with Development Goal 1).</p> <p>Objective 2.2: To increase direct and indirect employment in the offshore fisheries sector to 300 000 by 2010 and to 500 000 by 2015.</p>

12. Action Plan

To achieve the various objectives under each Development Goal, a number of specific projects have been identified for coastal or inshore (IS) and offshore (OS) fisheries. These projects are summarized below.

12.1 Inshore Fisheries

Objective 1.1: To achieve completion by 2010 of the development of a comprehensive coastal fisheries management system, which will involve policy formulation (including monitoring, control and surveillance), supporting legislation and management implementation, the following projects will be undertaken:

Project IS 1.1.1	<i>Establish a coastal fisheries management approach for Viet Nam (also needed to achieve Objective 4 of this goal)</i>
Project aim:	To prepare a management plan for the coastal fisheries of Viet Nam which takes into account the current status of the coastal fishery and its resources, the overall goals of coastal fisheries management and the practical limitations of managing coastal fisheries in Viet Nam.
Priority ranking:	Essential to achieve Goal.
Main tasks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To assess the status of coastal fisheries management in Viet Nam• To determine the practical and theoretical bases for long term management. This will involve an integrated management approach and delegating powers of management in the coastal waters (12 or 20 nautical miles and less off the seacoast, as appropriate, in accordance with the new draft Decree – see page 7) to the local government in order to reduce the competition in fishing in this zone. The new Fisheries Law includes provisions for delegating management powers to provincial People's Committees, including the power to set entry rules and limit capacity in fishing grounds but the details of implementation of these provincial powers to ensure national and regional consistency need to be developed.• To establish a management approach for coastal fisheries, based on a community management model.• To establish a pilot scale project of the management model in each sea area of Viet Nam to assist in reaching agreement on the approach and implementation of the management plan.
Time frame:	2006-2010 (5 years).
Prior project(s) required:	None.
Responsible agency:	Research Institute of Fisheries Economy and Planning, NADAREP, RIMF.
Estimated Budget:	1 billion VND
Assumption(s):	Nil.

Project IS 1.1.2	Coastal resources assessment
Project aim:	To provide an updated annual assessment of the biomass of major fisheries resources in the coastal areas of Viet Nam so that management systems can be based on the most current knowledge of the state of the resources.
Priority ranking:	Essential to achieve objective.
Main tasks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarize all the existing data. • Survey and assess resources (such as shrimp and fishes and others). • Strengthening of local enumerator system. • Complete coastal resources mapping. • Publish the data for the use of managers and others.
Time frame:	2006-2015 (10 years).
Prior project(s) required:	None.
Responsible agency:	Hai Phong Research Institute of Marine Fisheries.
Estimated Budget:	5 billion VND per year.
Assumption(s):	Approval and budget for implementation is provided as soon as possible.

Project IS 1.1.3	Assessing the status of coastal ecology (including coral reefs, sea-grass, etc) and their functions and planning and recommendations for future conservation
Project aim:	To assess the status of coastal marine ecosystems with particular emphasis on coral reefs and seagrass areas and, based on these assessments, to make plans and recommendations to ensure their long term protection.
Priority ranking:	Essential.
Main tasks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey and assessing the status of coral reefs and sea-grass. • Making an ecosystem map. • Recommending future direction for ecosystem conservation.
Time frame:	2006-2008 (3 years).
Prior project(s) required:	None.
Responsible agency:	RIMF, coastal Provinces. MoFI is responsible under the new Fisheries Law for reefs etc in waters 6m deep or greater. Therefore, the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Fisheries and Ministry of Natural resources and Environment need to co-operate and implement a joint-management model for the coastal zone to achieve the aims of this project.
Estimated Budget:	10 billion VND.
Assumption(s):	Source of finance needs to be identified.

Objective 1.2: To achieve by 2015 a reduction in the number of coastal fishing vessels and total horsepower to that needed to take the corresponding total allowable catch of the coastal resources and to adjust the occupation structure of fishing communities accordingly, the following projects will be undertaken:

Project IS 1.2.1	<i>Survey of coastal fisheries including socio-economic characteristics and other factors</i>
Project aim:	To provide the baseline information on the present socio-economic condition of coastal fishermen and their communities as a basis for restructuring of the coastal fishery.
Priority ranking:	Essential to achieve Objective.
Main tasks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An integrated survey on current socio-economic status of coastal fisheries. • Evaluating the socio- economic and technical indicators for coastal fisheries. • Recommendations.
Time frame:	2006-2007 (2 years).
Prior project(s) required:	Data that has been collected as part of the ALMRV project will be of use in this project.
Responsible agency:	Hai Phong Research Institute of Marine Fisheries. Research Institute of Fisheries Economy and Planning.
Estimated Budget:	2 billion VND.
Assumption(s):	Nil.

Project IS 1.2.2	<i>Building new cooperative approaches appropriate to the coastal fishery (including fishing gear types, engine power of vessels, occupations and coastal areas' characteristics</i>
Project aim:	To determine the most appropriate way to implement a major restructuring of the coastal fishery in co-operation with fishers and communities.
Priority ranking:	Essential to achieve Objective.
Main tasks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing the status of coastal fisheries management approaches in Viet Nam, in particular the approaches of integrated coastal zone management and fishery-specific management. • Determining the most practical approach (and theoretical basis) for managing coastal fisheries in Viet Nam (including assessment of community based and co-management approaches). • Implement the management approach that is considered most practical.
Time frame:	2006-2010 (5 years).
Prior project(s) required:	None.
Responsible agency:	Research Institute of Fisheries Economy and Planning.
Estimated Budget:	5 billion VND.
Assumption(s):	A working group for the implementation of co-management has been establish in MOFI and it is assumed that this group would provide major input into this project and perhaps may co-ordinate the work.

Project IS 1.2.3	<i>Developing methodologies and approaches for transferring coastal fisheries (manpower and vessels) to other sectors</i>
Project aim:	To develop the most appropriate methodologies for undertaking major re-structuring of the coastal fishing fleet, taking into account the socio-economic context of coastal fishing communities in Viet Nam.
Priority ranking:	Essential to achieve objective.
Main tasks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using a co-management approach, to determine the number and skills of coastal fishermen that may be made redundant during the re-structure of the coastal fishery, in accordance bringing the fishery under sustainable management (see project IS 1.1.1) • In close co-operation between MOFI, provincial fisheries departments and communities, to examine the feasibility of re-allocating redundant fishermen to alternative locations, activities or sectors • Provide specific skills training and technology transfer for redundant fishermen moving to other locations, activities or sectors. Such training may include aquaculture, fish processing, tourist services, fishery trading etc. • Implementation and monitoring of the restructure plan, including re-training.
Time frame:	2006-2008 (3 years).
Prior project(s) required:	Yes, projects 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 are prerequisites.
Responsible agency:	National Directorate of Aquatic Resources Exploitation and Protection (NADAREP); IFEP; DOFI; Fisheries Associations.
Estimated Budget:	3 billion VND.
Assumption(s):	Nil.

Objective 1.3: To achieve by 2015 the establishment of 15 Marine Protected Areas in Viet Nam, one additional resource protection/limited area, and to develop several artificial reefs, the following projects will be undertaken.

Project IS 1.3.1	Establishing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)
Project aim:	To continue the on-going project of MPA creation in Viet Nam that is being funded by DANIDA. This project should continue to be undertaken in close cooperation between MOFI and provincial Fisheries Departments to create, monitor and protect MPAs.
Project IS 1.3.2	Constructing artificial reefs
Project aim:	To initiate a program of construction and monitoring of artificial reefs for fisheries purposes.
Priority ranking:	Essential for achieving part of objective.
Main tasks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey and determine locations where there is a need for constructing artificial reefs. • Study on suitable types of reefs. • Designing and constructing artificial reefs. • Monitoring and Evaluating.
Time frame:	2006-2010 (5 years).
Prior project(s) required:	None.
Responsible agency:	National Directorate of Aquatic Resources Exploitation and Protection (NADAREP).
Estimated Budget:	10 billion VND.
Assumption(s):	Subsequent monitoring shows that artificial reefs are effective for the species and locations in Viet Nam. MOFI and research institutions should provide enough finance and expertise.

Project IS 1.3.3	Establishing a resources protection/ limited exploitation area
Project aim:	To develop a limited exploitation area as a pilot to an alternative approach to fisheries management in Viet Nam.
Priority ranking:	Essential for achieving part of objective.
Main tasks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey of socio-economic and natural status of the resources protection/limited exploitation area. • Developing conservation and limitation solutions, including an awareness program to make fishermen aware of the need for resources protection. The conservation solutions should be implemented through a community management approach. • Implementation.
Time frame:	2006-2008 (3 years).
Prior project(s) required:	None.
Responsible agency:	Fisheries Departments of Ca Mau and Kien Giang Province with scientists as well as RIMF and NADAREP providing support.
Estimated Budget:	10 billion VND.
Assumption(s):	Nil.

Objective 1.4: To achieve the objective of enhancing fisheries management capacity at all levels within the Government and within fisheries communities so as to minimize negative impacts on marine resources and ecosystems, Project IS 1.1.1 on **establishing a coastal fisheries management approach for Viet Nam** will be undertaken and will contribute to both this Objective and to Objective 1.

In addition, the following project will be undertaken:

Project IS 1.4.1	Establishing a fisheries extension programme
Project aim:	To develop a fisheries extension program to improve the flow of technical, management and other information between the Government and the coastal fisheries communities and fishers.
Priority ranking:	Essential for achieving part of objective.
Main tasks:	<p>Build further on the FAO/MOFI/FSPS project to develop an extension strategy for the National Fisheries Extension Centre. Prepare an extension plan for both fisheries & aquaculture; this plan should be implemented by involving not only government agencies but also private sector businesses. The main tasks should therefore conform to the draft extension plan and be an ongoing program of extension and training activities. Such activities should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determining the priority areas for fisheries extension activities. • Strengthening the way in which fisheries extension activities are delivered. • Implementation and replication to other areas.
Time frame:	2006-2012 (7 years).
Prior project(s) required:	None.
Responsible agency:	National Fisheries Extension Centre.
Estimated Budget:	4 billion VND.
Assumption(s):	Nil.

Objective 2.1: To achieve by 2015 the transfer of the appropriate number of coastal fishing participants (in accordance with achieving sustainable exploitation of coastal fisheries resources) to other occupations, including implementing supporting programs of technical re-training, occupational counselling and credit schemes, the following projects will be undertaken.

Project IS 2.2.1	Building fisheries vocation training centres
Project aim:	To construct vocational training centres for re-skilling displaced fishers.
Priority ranking:	Desirable for achieving part of objective.
Main tasks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are already 3 vocational training schools in Viet Nam and the activities within this project will be co-ordinated with, and take into account these already existing schools and strengthen them where appropriate for fisheries training activities. • An in-depth analysis of the current vocational school system. • The restructuring of the vocational school system in order to make the schools more “demand responsive” and to ensure that they educate and re-educate fishers and aquaculturists to meet the demands of a dynamic sector. <p>Other tasks to be undertaken include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey of human resources needs for fisheries. • Determining locations, technical equipments and facilities for centres, including the need for a training vessel.
Time frame:	2006-2008 (3 years).
Prior project(s) required:	None.
Responsible agency:	Organizational Department of Ministry of Fisheries, Vocational training schools, Fisheries University, VINAFAIS.
Estimated Budget:	30 billion VND.
Assumption(s):	Nil.

Project IS 2.2.2	Occupation consultation, education and training for fishers
Project aim:	To develop the programs and training facilities for implementation in the proposed fisheries vocation training centres.
Priority ranking:	Essential if Project 2.1 proceeds.
Main tasks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimation of the need of transferring fishers to other sectors. • Developing contents of occupation consultation, education and training programs (including at-sea training) as well as training facilities. • Implementation.
Time frame:	2006-2014 (9 years).
Prior project(s) required:	Approval and funding for Project 2.1 needed.
Responsible agency:	National Fisheries Extension Centre, VINFIS.
Estimated Budget:	10 billion VND.
Assumption(s):	Nil.

Project IS 2.2.3	Establishing an on-board safety system for fishing vessels
Project aim:	To develop the mechanisms for implementing on-board safety programs for fishers in both coastal and offshore waters.
Priority ranking:	Essential.
Main tasks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing criteria for an on-board safety system for fishers and vessels where regulations of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) do not apply. • Review existing national legislation and international agreements related to safety at sea and, if needed, develop new guidelines and regulations for on-board safety. • Create awareness of the importance of safety on board coastal fishing vessels. • Implementation and monitoring.
Time frame:	2006-2008 (3 years).
Prior project(s) required:	None.
Responsible agency:	National Directorate of Aquatic Resources Exploitation and Protection, VINFIS, IMO.
Estimated Budget:	2 billion VND.
Assumption(s):	Nil.

Objective 2.2: To achieve by 2010 a reduction in the total coastal fisheries catch to 700 000 tonnes/year, by reducing the number of fishing vessels and fishers and implementing resources protection laws and policies, will be achieved if the projects proposed for the other objectives of the two major Goals for coastal fisheries are successfully implemented. No additional projects are therefore proposed to contribute to this objective.

Offshore Fisheries

Objective 1.1: To achieve the objective of continually updated information on offshore fisheries, the following projects will be undertaken in addition to the core projects of data and statistics collection.

Project OS 1.1.1	Assessment of the economic performance of offshore fisheries
Project aim:	To measure the economic performance of offshore vessels by fishing type and other socio-economic performance indicator(s) of the offshore fleet.
Priority ranking:	Essential background data for restructuring.
Main tasks:	Field sample survey; analysis of logbook data, forecasting of economic performance after restructuring of offshore fleet.
Time frame:	Start in 2005 and subsequently undertake surveys every 2 to 3 years.
Prior project(s) required:	None but done in collaboration with core statistics project.
Responsible agency:	IFEP, RIMF and Economics Department of Hanoi University ; DoFi ; Fisheries protection Divisions, MPI, Ministry of Finance.
Estimated Budget:	VD 700 million in 2005 plus VD 500 million in each subsequent survey year.
Assumption(s):	Good cooperation with fishing industry and confidentiality of data provided by private firms/vessel owners.

Objective 1.2: To achieve by 2007 a complete restructuring of the offshore fleet by fishing method that best matches the type and status of identified offshore fisheries resources and to continue to improve this structure as additional information on the resources is collected, the following projects will be undertaken.

Project OS 1.2.1	Restructuring plan for offshore fisheries
Project aim:	To develop a restructure plan for offshore fisheries based on the matching of the fleet structure to the offshore resources available.
Priority ranking:	Essential to achieve objective.
Main tasks:	1) Under the coordination of MOFI and in collaboration with Provinces, determine optimal number and types of offshore vessels for each area and estimate/forecast the profitability of offshore fleets by type and area before and after restructuring. 2) Prepare provincial infrastructure development plans in support of offshore fleet. 3) Develop appropriate provincial offshore fishery policy (e.g. with regard to taxation; re-training of fishers and skippers, etc.).
Time frame:	2005 to 2007.
Prior project(s) required:	In parallel with offshore resources assessment.
Responsible agency:	NADAREP, IFEP, RIMF, DOFs.
Estimated Budget:	VD 500 million per year.
Assumption(s):	Good cooperation between MOFI and DOFs and with fishing industry and association.

Objective 1.3: To achieve the objective of undertaking activities that result in a continuous modernisation of the offshore fishing fleet, the following projects will be carried out.

Project OS 1.3.1	Improve fishing technology and fishing gear for offshore fisheries
Project aim:	To develop improved fishing methods for use in offshore fisheries of Viet Nam. To establish program for tuna fishing.

Priority ranking:	Important.
Main tasks:	Research to develop improved designs of fishing vessels and gear and importation and utilisation of new fishing technology and know-how. Estimate/forecast profitability of improved technology. This program will include a plan for reallocation of local fishermen who are returning to Viet Nam after working with foreign fishing companies.
Time frame:	2006 to 2008.
Prior project(s) required:	In parallel with restructuring plan (Project OS 1.3.2).
Responsible agency:	RIMF; Bien Dong Company, (ESFICO) and private sector.
Estimated Budget:	VD 2 billion per year.
Assumption(s):	Good cooperation between RIMF and private fishing industry and also it is important and necessary to have the cooperation of financing/banking/insurance bodies.

Project OS 1.3.2	Human resources development for offshore fishing
Project aim:	To develop human resources and provide training for offshore fishing.
Priority ranking:	Essential.
Main tasks:	Two-level training: 1) Training of trainers in three provincial training centres in north, centre and southern region. 2) Training of 2400 skippers and other selected crew of offshore vessels per year (a total of 7200). Courses that are provided by Universities should become part of the Universities curriculum. Emphasis should be placed on training of effective managers of offshore fishing activities.
Time frame:	2006 to 2008.
Prior project(s) required:	After completion or in parallel with technology development of Project 1.3.1 above.
Responsible agency:	National and provincial extension centres, Universities and VINAFFIS.
Estimated Budget:	VD 1 billion per year.
Assumption(s):	Good cooperation between National Extension Centre, Provincial Extension Centres and private industry.

Objective 1.4: To achieve the objective of reaching the following sustainable production targets for total offshore fishing catch:

- By 2010: 700 000 tonnes/year
- By 2015: 900 000 tonnes/year

and to achieve the following export targets for offshore fisheries production:

- By 2010: \$US430 million/year
- By 2015: \$US550 million/year,

Production targets will be monitored through the Core Project 1.2. In addition, the following projects will be carried out.

Project OS 1.4.1	Improve post-harvest quality
Project aim:	To improve the quality of post-harvest fish so that the value of the fish is enhanced, wastage reduced and export quality targets are achieved.

Priority ranking:	Important. This project is also applicable to coastal fisheries.
Main tasks:	Building on the activities undertaken by Phase II of FSPS, the project will also include: Training of skippers in post-harvest technologies and methods; technology transfer; seafood market promotion including organization of seafood fairs.
Time frame:	2006 to 2008.
Prior project(s) required:	None.
Responsible agency:	Vietnamese Association for Seafood Export and Processing (VASEP), RIMF, VINAFIS.
Estimated Budget:	VD 300 million per year.
Assumption(s):	Good cooperation between VASEP and private fishing industry.

Objective 1.5: To achieve the objective of continually improving fisheries management capability and capacity within both Government and industry, the following project will be carried out.

Project OS 1.5.1	<i>Improve fisheries management capability</i>
Project aim:	To improve the capability of Ministry and other Government officials to manage complex offshore fisheries to achieve sustainable fisheries.
Priority ranking:	Essential.
Main tasks:	Building on the work already started as part of Phase II of FSPS, the following tasks will be carried out: Training of staff of MOFI and DOFs and representatives of fisheries association in the principles, methods and practices of fisheries management and awareness creation on all aspects of responsible fisheries. The training will be extended through a train the trainer approach to fishing community members such as middlemen, traders and small scale processors. Consideration will also be given to establishing a system and providing training in the logistics of offshore fishing vessel support, perhaps through a regional fisheries centre.
Time frame:	2005 to 2007.
Prior project(s) required:	None.
Responsible agency:	Departments of MOFI and international agencies such as SEAFDEC and FAO.
Estimated Budget:	VD 400 million per year.
Assumption(s):	None.

Objective 2.1: Projects OS 1.2.1 and OS 1.2.2 will also provide the actions needed to achieve this Objective.

Objective 2.2: No specific projects are planned to achieve the objective of increasing direct and indirect employment in the offshore fisheries sector to 300 000 by 2010 and to 500 000 by 2015. Implementing other projects related to offshore fisheries restructuring (Projects OS 1.3.1 and 1.3.2) will, if successful, help to achieve this Objective. Measurement of progress towards the targets specified in this Objective will be provided by the implementation of CP 2.

13. References

- FAO/FishCode. 2004. Report of the National Conference on Responsible Fisheries in Viet Nam (Hanoi, Viet Nam, 29-30 September 2003). *FAO FishCode Review*, No. 9. Rome, FAO. 94pp.
- MOFI. 2003. Master plan for development of fisheries socio-economy to 2010 in Viet Nam . Ha Noi, Research Institute of Fisheries Economy and Planning.
- MOFI. 2002. Draft strategy for offshore fishing to 2010. Ha Noi, Ministry of Fisheries.

14. Implementation schedule for the Strategy

[illegible]

[illegible]

FAO FishCode Reviews

1 Pintz, W.S. Tuna and bottom fishery licence management: Tonga. *FAO/FishCode Review*. No. 1. Rome, FAO. 2003. 35p.

Fish are now the largest single export from the Kingdom of Tonga. However, expansion of the industry faces severe infrastructure constraints, and granting substantial numbers of new longline licences without resolving the constraints could seriously affect all Tongan commercial fisheries.

2 Gillett, R. Aspects of fisheries management in the Maldives. *FAO/FishCode Review*. No. 2. Rome, FAO. 2003. 61p. (*Restricted distribution*)

The inshore marine resources of the Maldives, an atoll environment, are being increasingly exploited for baitfishing, food for local residents, consumption by tourists, exports and non-extractive uses such as dive tourism. This situation must be reconciled with the limited nature of the resources.

3 Die, D.L.; Alió, J.; Ferreira, L.; Marcano, L.; Soomai, S. Assessment of demersal stocks shared by Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela. *FAO/FishCode Review*. No. 3. Rome, FAO. 2004. 32pp.

The FAO/WECAFC Workshop on assessment of demersal stocks shared by Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela (2002) initiated an assessment of the shrimp stocks shared by the two countries. The main conclusion of the assessment is that some shrimp stocks are being severely overfished and are suffering as a result.

4 Gillett, R. The marine fisheries of Cambodia. *FAO/FishCode Review*. No. 4. Rome, FAO. 2004. 57p.

Excess fishing effort and associated declines in abundance of target species are the most serious problems facing Cambodia's marine fisheries: resource sustainability will require restrictions on resource access.

5EN FAO/FishCode. Seminar on responsible fisheries management in large rivers and reservoirs of Latin America. *FAO/FishCode Review*. No. 5. Rome, FAO. 2004. 72p. [En]

This report of the Seminar on Responsible Fisheries Management in Large Rivers and Reservoirs in Latin America (2003), attended by experts from member countries of the Commission, observers from other regional bodies and representatives from local fishing communities in El Salvador, presents the principles of responsible fishery management in Latin America as well as a selection of national reports.

5SP FAO/FishCode. Seminario sobre ordenación pesquera responsable en grandes ríos y embalses de América Latina. *FAO/FishCode Revista*. No. 5. Roma, FAO. 2004. 78 p. [Sp]

El Seminario sobre Ordenación Pesquera Responsable en Grandes Ríos y Embalses de América Latina (2003) se efectuó en San Salvador en asociación con la novena reunión de la Comisión de Pesca Continental para América Latina (COPESCAL). Participaron expertos de países miembros de la Comisión; observadores de otros organismos regionales y representantes de comunidades pesqueras locales de El Salvador. Se presentaron dos documentos sobre los principios de la ordenación pesquera responsable en grandes ríos y embalses en América Latina y una selección de informes nacionales.

6 Swan, J. National Plans to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing: models for coastal and small island developing states. *FAO/FishCode Review*. No. 6. Rome, FAO. 2003. 76p.

These case studies for use in FAO regional and subregional workshops were prepared in accordance with the FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing. The "Republic of Galactia" and the "Alpha Islands" are fictitious, but the fisheries profiles presented draw on typical existing circumstances.

7 Kuemlangan, B. Creating legal space for community-based fisheries and customary marine tenure in the Pacific: issues and opportunities. *FAO/FishCode Review*. No. 7. Rome, FAO. 2004. 65p.

The laws of Pacific Island countries generally support traditional fisheries management with only modest efforts to encourage the use of customary marine tenure-based community fisheries management. Government commitment for the role of customary marine tenure in community-based fisheries management, with support from interested stakeholders, will complement efforts for promoting sustainable utilization of fisheries resources and improved livelihoods in the Pacific region.

8 FAO/FishCode. Report of the Workshop on Development of a Management Plan for Tomini Bay Fisheries, Indonesia. *FAO/FishCode Review*. No. 8. Rome, FAO. 2004. 31p.

Tomini Bay fishery resources are still considered to be underexploited, but annual catches have increased dramatically over the past ten years. In the absence of a fisheries management body, The FAO/Government of Indonesia Workshop on the Development of a Management Plan for Tomini Bay Fisheries (2003) provided a starting point for addressing responsible fisheries issues and laying the groundwork for a fisheries management plan.

9 **FAO/FishCode. Report of the National Conference on Responsible Fisheries in Viet Nam, Hanoi, Viet Nam, 29–30 September 2003. *FAO/FishCode Review*. No. 9. Rome, FAO. 2004. 94p.**

This national conference was organized in the context of increasing problems faced by Vietnamese fishers in maintaining and improving their livelihoods through coastal and offshore fisheries; some coastal fish resources in particular are being heavily over-exploited.

10 **Stanley, J. Institutional review of the National Fishing Corporation and the Fisheries Department of Tuvalu. *FAO/FishCode Review*. No. 10. Rome, FAO. 2004. 47p. (*Restricted distribution*)**

The economic growth and development of Tuvalu depend on its marine resources and especially its relatively rich tuna resources. Although the primary concern of the government is the sustainable economic development and management of tuna, there is also potential for the development of other marine products, particularly deep bottom fish.

11 **García Mesinas, A. Lineamientos para un Código de Ética de Pesca y Acuicultura para El Salvador. *FAO/FishCode Revista*. No. 11. Roma, FAO. 2004. 59p. [Sp] (*Restricted distribution*)**

Este documento presenta los resultados de un proyecto llevado a cabo a través del Programa FishCode de la FAO a petición del Gobierno de El Salvador para desarrollar los lineamientos a nivel nacional del Código de Ética de la Pesca y Acuicultura. El trabajo se realizó coordinado a través de la Oficina Regional de América Latina (RLC) y la Representación de FAO de El Salvador.

12 **FAO/FishCode. Report of the National Workshop on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its practical application to coastal aquaculture development in Viet Nam. *FAO/FishCode Review*. No. 12. Rome, FAO. 2004. 47p.**

The National Workshop on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its Practical Application to Coastal Aquaculture Development in Viet Nam took place in Hué from 3 to 4 October 2003. The Workshop aimed to build awareness among national and provincial stakeholders about the need to develop and implement an Aquaculture Code of Conduct for Viet Nam. Coastal aquaculture in Viet Nam, particularly shrimp culture, has developed rapidly in recent years. Although shrimp farming has brought many benefits to coastal communities, it is associated with high social and environmental risks.

13 **FAO/FishCode. Report of the National Seminar on the reduction and management of commercial fishing capacity in Thailand. *FAO/FishCode Review*. No. 13. Rome, FAO. 2005. 59p.**

The marine capture fisheries sector is more capital intensive than is appropriate for Thailand's resource endowment, and there is an urgent need for fishing capacity reduction for improved fisheries management and protection and conservation of fish habitats and other threatened coastal resources. Failure to achieve this will have serious consequences for the most vulnerable people in coastal communities, fish consumers and society at large.

14 **FAO/FishCode. Reports of the regional vessel monitoring systems workshops: Southwest Indian Ocean, Central America, the Caribbean and Southeast Asia *FAO/FishCode Review*. No. 14. Rome, FAO. 2005. 91p.**

Four regional workshops on vessel monitoring systems (VMS), respectively covering the South West Indian Ocean, Central America, the Caribbean and Southeast Asia, were organized and implemented in succession from September 2003 to October 2004. The workshops were intended to promote the use of VMS as an additional instrument for the management of fisheries, both at a national level and in cooperation with regional fisheries bodies. They comprise one aspect of FAO's larger set of activities to implement the International Plan of Action (IPOA) to Prevent Deter or Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing. The document includes a CD-ROM.

15 **FAO/FishCode. Fishery policy in the Marshall Islands. *FAO/FishCode Review*. No. 15. Rome, FAO. 2005. 33p.**

Fisheries play a key role in the economy of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and in the lives of its people. Substantial tuna resources are exploited from the country's vast exclusive economic zone, largely by foreign fishing vessels operating under licence. Coastal fisheries are important for subsistence purposes, and also generate income for atoll communities. RMI's well-recognized remote and pristine outer atoll lagoons are considered suitable for targeted commercial mariculture development. The Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority is investing heavily in formulating its outer island work programmes, involving both coastal fisheries and mariculture research and development. A cautious and transparent approach is needed, with attention to partnerships between communities and private business concerns and the use of incentives involving seed funding, technical assistance, transport facilitation, and other support activities.

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The Conference on the Strategy for Marine Fisheries Management and Development in Viet Nam (Hanoi, 26–27 April 2005) was organized by the Ministry of Fisheries of Viet Nam (MOFI) in close collaboration with the Research Institute of Marine Fisheries, the DANIDA Fisheries Sector Programme Support (FSPS) and the FAO FishCode Programme. It represented the culmination of a process that started in 2003 with the Conference on Responsible Fisheries in Viet Nam and that included a number of local level consultations as well as a senior expert meeting in 2004. The 2005 Strategy Conference was attended by a wide range of sectoral stakeholders, representing local and commercial fisheries interests, national and provincial government bodies, bilateral development assistance agencies and international organizations. Observations and recommendations received from the Conference have provided a basis for MOFI to finalize the Strategy for official Government approval.



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