

# Fisheries Improvement Project for the Vietnamese Yellowfin Tuna Handline and Longline Fisheries Sector COORDINATION UNIT REPORT 2014-2

# **Briefing Notes on observer training December 2014**

Venue	: Nha Sang tac Nha Trang - Khanh Hoa province, Vietnam
Date	: December 23-27, 2014
Activity	: Training for onboard observers – FIP Tuna (Binh Dinh, Phu Yen, Khanh Hoa)
Trainers	: From Dept. of Capture Fisheries and Resource Protection (DECAFIREP) and WWF-Vietnam
Trainees	: 10 trainees, including 1 officer from Research Institute of Fisheries Management, 1 officer Vietnamese Tuna Association (VinaTuna), 3 officers from Sub DECAFIREP Binh Dinh, Khanh Hoa; and 5 fishermen from Binh Dinh and Phu Yen
Gear type	: Longline and Handline

The observer training was conducted over five (o5) days as a part of Vietnam Yellowfin Tuna FIP. The purposes of this training was to provide trainees necessary knowledge and skills to be observers of fishing activities at sea as observers, and to thus help steadily to mainstream tuna observer program in Vietnam and to meet specific milestones in the FIP Action Plan related to observer program coverage (i.e. 5-10%) and data collection on fishing vessels. Specifically this activity contributes directly to the following FIP Milestones:

#### Milestone 16

Establish an observer scheme to monitor all catches of retained species and document the level of discarding from the handline and longline fisheries

#### Milestone 25

Ensure that all shark species are covered under observer reporting above

#### Milestone 28

Monitor of turtle bycatch and life status in the handline and longline fisheries

It also indirectly contributes to:

#### Milestone 10

Compliance reporting and annual report on the effectiveness of management measures.

#### Milestone 18

Document observer data & port sampling verification, and prepare summary reports of main & vulnerable species (retained) interactions other than bigeye tuna

#### Milestone 29

Implement effective management mitigation measures for turtles which are consistent with national and international (WCPFC) obligations

Note that this initial training and at-sea deployment represents the initial steps of what is envisioned as a multiyear program of steadily expanding and building capacity for at-sea observer program. Similar training sessions are planned for 2015, including sessions directly support by industry FIP Partners.

The following sections provide lecture notes and summary of activities that were carried out during the training, as well as commentary on skills of trainers to facilitate the training, the level of engagement of trainees, and areas for improvement.

# Day 1 - 23 December 2014

The first day gave a chance for participants to get to know each other and trainers provided brief introduction to FIP Tuna (see Lecture 1), observer program (see Lecture 2), and training schedule; general information on bycatch and tuna fishing (see Lecture 3), identification of sea turtles species, sea turtles bycatch issues in longline (see Lecture 4), the efforts of Vietnam as a Cooperation Non-member of WCPFC (see Lecture 5), using photo ID of turtle species for quizzes and tests.

#### **Comments:**

Trainers were not only delivering interesting lecture but also provided a comfortable atmosphere to encourage knowledge and experience sharing in class. Lectures were also illustrated by supporting materials including videos and photos from different sponsored programs and field trips in Vietnam as well as other countries.

# Day 2 - 24 December 2014

The second day continued with watching videos about tuna fishing preservation to help compare current practices in Vietnam with modern techniques applied in some countries. Trainers, then, provided brief information to tuna production (see Lecture 6), preliminary treatment and preservation techniques to improve the qualities of tuna (see Lecture 7). Lectures also included identification of tuna species (see Lecture 8), billfish (see Lecture 9-1, Lecture 9-2), using photos of tuna and billfish species for quizzes and tests.

#### **Comments:**

Lectures are well-grounded with statistical figures. Trainers with real experience and updated provided interesting lectures in identifying different species of fish in tuna longline and handlines. Trainees were enthusiastic to share their experience in differentiate types of fish, and different names of fish called by local fishermen.

#### Day 3, 25 December 2014

The next day focused on preparing for trainees to conduct their observer trips. Trainers gave lectures on regulations of ensuring safety for vessel and members on board (see Lecture 10), including knowledge of hazards (see Lecture 11); fire extinguish (Lecture 11a), stays rules onboard and at sea (see Lecture 12); differentiate species of sharks and rays (see Lecture 13); and guidance on releasing bycatch sea turtles from hooks (delivered Placard to trainees).

#### **Comments:**

Lectures were well organized for trainees to better prepare physically and mentally, and to stay safe on observer trip. Training provided particular attention to major issues of shark species ID and turtle release protocols.

#### Day 4, 26 December 2014

This day worked on other fishes (e.g. Opah, mackerel, barracuda, hairtail, escolar) identification and things to prepare before the trip and how to behave properly on-board, as well as protocols during and after the observer trip. Activities included guidance on writing logbook observer forms and appropriate techniques to release sea turtles from hooks; lectures and practices on how to perform Safety Care Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, First Aids and Bandage, followed by activity to report sea turtle bycatch, including in measurement, status of injury, and how to take picture correctly. Final lecture guided how to write trip report and procedures for debriefing of local staff. There was finally a review of important points of the training, and answer questions that were raised.

#### **Comments:**

Trainees were actively participated in activities. Yet, it would be better if trainers spent more time on guiding trainees to write trip report, particularly fishermen who are not always familiar with writing report.

# Day 5, 27 December 2014

The final day was out for a visit to Hon Ro fishing port and Nha Trang Institute of Oceanology to practise fish and sea turtle identification.

The training ended with provision forms and tools for trainees and answering questions to prepare for observer trip in early January, 2015.

# FINAL THOUGHTS

#### **Good performance:**

- Trainers attentively listened to trainees when they are discussing or sharing experience, even ask for clarification when trainees said something difficult to understand.
- In general, the training purposes was achieved as trainees actively engaged in class, enthusiastically participated in activities, and committed on carrying out observer trip in January, 2015 and ideally into the future.
- Through verbally opinion sharing, many trainees said that they often released sea turtles in previous years, now they are more aware of protecting species of interest, i.e. turtles and sharks.
- The trainers repeated lectures on species of sea turtles and fish in all days, which helps trainees to obtain the lesson easily.

# Things could be improved:

- The trainers should ask one or two questions related to the contents to be presented (before using a particular teaching method).
- The trainer should get feedback, i.e. in written notes, from trainees at the end of the training program.
- Some lectures should be followed by activities at the same time for trainees to better learn.

#### **Next Steps:**

- Debriefing with observers and local sub-DECAFIREP staff; interpretation and assessment of data forms
- Assessment of data form quality against WCPFC requirements
- Replication of training and deployment in other ports/vessels, including Binh Dinh and Phu Yen

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