

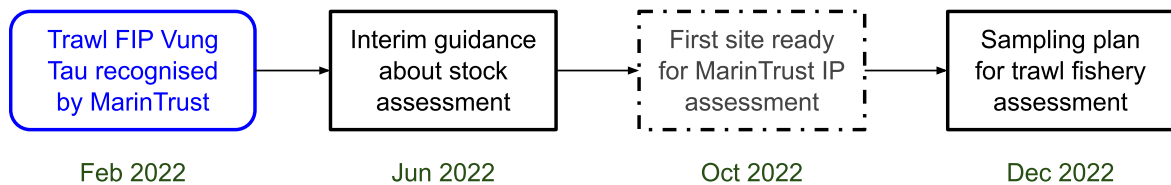
Annual project narrative report:

## VUNG TAU MULTI-SPECIES TRAWL FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN 2022

Milestones and activities carried out in the first year of implementing the Fisheries Action Plan (FAP)

In February 2022, the Vung Tau Multi-Species Trawl Fisheries Improvement Project (FIP Vung Tau) was announced on the MarinTrust website as an accepted FIP under the Multi-species pilot program.<sup>1</sup>

### 1. MILESTONES



### 2. ACTIVITIES BY MILESTONE

**2.1 Interim guidance about stock assessment (March to June 2022, Activity 2.1 by the Workplan version 1):**

- A draft guidance for multi-species stock assessment applicable for trawl fishery in Ba Ria - Vung Tau has been developed by Fish Matter during the period from March to early June.
- Complementary work to this task, a desk study of BRVT trawl fisheries data collection was carried out by the Fisheries Research Institute of Nha Trang University and completed in April.
- The peer review was completed by the end of June with the conclusion of the lead peer-reviewer that the draft might provide theoretical guidance in an ideal world, it was not really practical, and the FIPVT should focus on improving the existing data and information collection and analysis system, especially those elements already established through previous projects. Final decision was to rename the draft as the *'Interim guidance on data needs for assessing and monitoring the fish resources in the multispecies trawl fisheries of Ba Ria-Vung Tau, Vietnam'* ([Attachment 1](#)). After 1 year of data is available, the Guidance will be finalized.

**2.2 First site ready for MarinTrust IP assessment**

- In March 2022, two fishmeal partners (Phuc Loc and Long Son) proceeded with gap assessments against MarinTrust standard version 2 so that they can prepare

<sup>1</sup> A program to work towards MarinTrust certification for marine ingredient production sites as part of the Multispecies pilot project.

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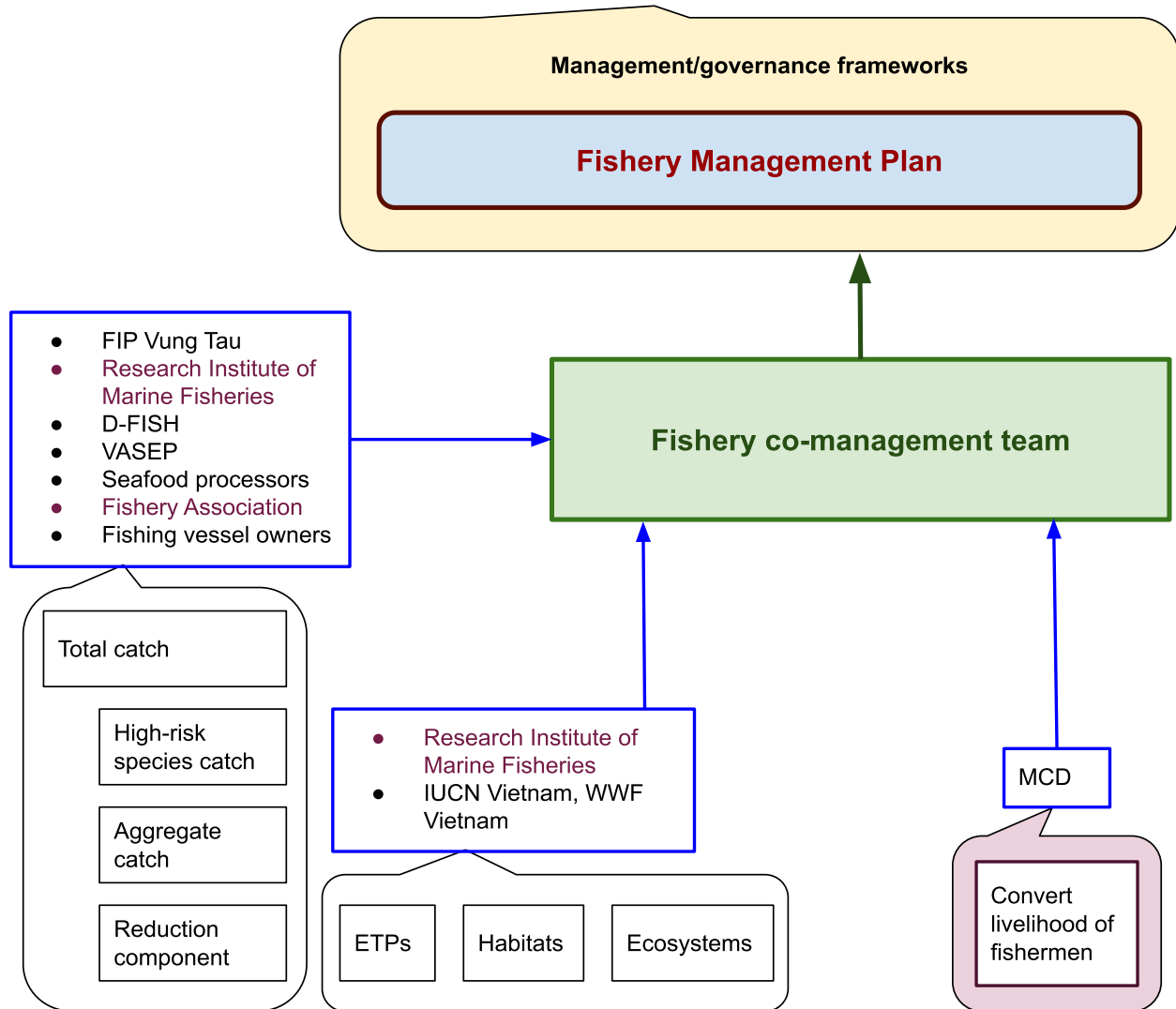
themselves for MarinTrust IP assessment later in 2022. In May 2022, other two fishmeal partners (Tan Tien and Tan Long) had the gap assessment.

- On August 17-18, a training about MarinTrust standard version 2 was conducted in Vung Tau for fishmeal producers. During this training, partners discussed challenges regarding fishing vessel information and landing data, results of gap assessments and progress with actions to fill identified gaps, which companies were ready for the first MarinTrust IP assessment. At the end of the day, partners decided that Phuc Loc would be the first one going for MarinTrust IP assessment in October, Tan Tien in February 2023 and Dong Hai in March 2023. Tan Long will be the last due to challenges with surimi by-products. The translation of MarinTrust Standard for Responsible Supply Version 2.0 was provided to participants.
- There was an issue with SGS Vietnam regarding scheduling the assessment of Phuc Loc, with the interference of the FIP coordinator, the assessment finally could take place on October 24, 2022. The corrective action by Phuc Loc was submitted to SGS Vietnam on November 10, 2022, there were emails and talks between SGS Vietnam, Phuc Loc and the FIP coordinator (from Kim Delta) about the acceptance of the corrective action report and SGS Vietnam informed Phuc Loc that SGS Peru concluded '*Regarding the results after the evaluation and after the remedial period, Phuc Loc factory still has 01 major NC that cannot be closed, so until now, the results are not achieved until the factory closes that major NC (no more than 3 months, up to January 26, 2023)*'. SGS Peru asked for '*An effective plan must be provided by the applicant, this must include: An appropriate time frame to address and resolve the breach; A root cause analysis of why the breach occurred; Identify actions needed to ensure that non-compliance does not occur in the future (include changes to policy and procedures)*'. SGS Vietnam also confirmed that SGS Peru has asked MarinTrust for this case and is still waiting for the MarinTrust final decision. The corrective action report that was submitted to SGS Vietnam is in [Attachment 2](#). The FIP coordinator is still working on this issue.

### **3. ACTIVITIES BY WORK PLAN:**

- FIP Vung Tau had the first partner meeting on July 29, 2022, since the time of the global pandemic. The FIP project manager updated partners with the progress of the first 6-months of 2022. Content of the report is in [Attachment 3](#).
- On this occasion, the partners also met and discussed with the MarinTrust working group including Nicola Clark / Impact Manager, Deirdre Hoare / Fisheries Science Manager (former) and Dr Derek Staples / Senior Fishery Expert. Nicola shared information about MarinTrust's programs in general, and the Fisheries Improvement program in particular. The partners had a Q&A with Nicola Clark and Deidre. Dr. Staples presented suggestions to improve the practicality of the Vung Tau FIP Fisheries Action Plan (FAP).
- On July 30, 2022, the working group of MarinTrust with partner aqua feed company Grobest and GSA Coordinator in Vietnam (Mrs. Nguyen Thi Thanh Binh) visited fishmeal processing factories (Phuc Loc, Tan Tien and Tan Long) and asked some questions about the ingredients and records.

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- On August 1st, Dr. Staples had a meeting with the FIP coordinator in Vung Tau to clarify his suggestions to improve the FAP FIPVT.
  - On August 3, he led a workshop with fisheries experts of the South Research Sub-Institute For Marine Fisheries, the Fisheries Research Institute of Nha Trang University, the Department of Fisheries Management of Can Tho University, and the Aquaculture Faculty of Tra Vinh University. The presentation for this workshop is included in [Attachment 4](#). The content of the workshop was about fisheries data and information collection for fisheries assessment and management. Participants were informed about the main content of the Report on Fisheries Information and Data Sources of Ba Ria - Vung Tau Province and Vietnam by the Fisheries Research Institute of Nha Trang University at the request of FIPVT in April 2022. Accordingly, Vietnam's fisheries information and data are generally held by many scientific research organizations and institutes, and sharing these data with interest parties was still a challenge. An expert from the Southern Seafood Research Sub-Institute said (unofficially) that this sharing is a sensitive issue.
  - Based on the results of working with Dr. Staples and the fisheries experts, the FIPVT coordinator then adjusted the work plan, according to which:
    - a. *FIPVT will focus on improving existing trawl fishery data and information;*
    - b. *Add 'reduction component' to the current plan;*
    - c. *Details how to develop a Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) based on an assessment of the current status and management of fishery resources, including: total aggregation catch, reduction of total catch, ETPs, critical habitats and ecosystem;*
    - d. *Work Plan version 2 is given in [Attachment 5](#).*
  - Under this revised work plan, most of the budget will be used for sampling. The sampling plan has been discussed and agreed with the South Research Sub-Institute For Marine Fisheries ([Attachment 6](#)) and will be reviewed by the FIPVT consultant before signing the implementation contract.
  - Meetings related to the establishment of a BRVT Multi-species Trawl Fishery Co-management (the co-management team) will also be held in 2023, which is expected to include IUCN Vietnam, WWF Vietnam, and MCD Vietnam, Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers, Vietnam Fisheries Association, Directorate of Fisheries, Sub-Department of Fisheries BRVT and representatives of fishing boat owners in BRVT province. The roles of the parties are shown as shown below.



#### 4. OTHER ISSUES:

During the implementation of the fisheries action plan, the project team found that:

- Export surimi producers in BRVT are potential partners of FIPVT, as they also source their raw materials from multi-species trawlers. In 2023, with the financial contribution of Project Certification and Ratings Collaboration, FIPVT will engage more surimi companies in Vung Tau to participate;
- Stakeholder awareness in Vietnam for issues related to responsible fisheries is important for FIP to be able to make a positive impact and change in communities that use seafood resources for their core business. [A short clip](#) was made targeting especially the enabling environment like local authorities.

## 5. PHOTO OF IMPRESSION

FIP partner meeting 29/7/22



Meeting with MarinTrust 29/7/22



Visit fishmeal companies 30/7/22



Visit fishmeal companies 30/7/22



Fisheries data/information collection 3/8/22



Training about MarinTrust standard version 2 17-18/8/22



The first site to have MarinTrust IP assessment



Attachments:

1. Interim guidance June2022
2. Corrective action report of PL
3. FIPVT Derek Staples 03Aug2022
4. FIPVT Progress report 29July 22
5. FIPVT Revised workplan 17Jan2023
6. Trawl fishery data collection plan