

A photograph of two women on a boat, likely in Vietnam. They are wearing traditional conical hats. The woman in the foreground is wearing a green long-sleeved shirt and dark pants, and is looking towards the camera. The woman in the background is wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt and dark pants, and is looking away from the camera. The boat is on a body of water, and the background is slightly blurred.

Addressing Overcapacity in the Small-Scale Marine Fisheries of Vietnam

**Robert Pomeroy
Principal Scientist
WorldFish Center
Penang, Malaysia**






Presentation Overview

 Government policy towards the small-scale fisheries sector has changed significantly since the “doi moi” (*renewal*) policy was launched in 1986

 The purpose of this presentation is:

- (1) to provide an overview of the small-scale fisheries sector in Vietnam
- (2) to discuss policy recommendations to address overcapacity in the small-scale fisheries




SSF in Vietnam

-  The fisheries in Vietnam are not easily classified into small- and commercial/large-scale
-  They are more commonly classified as nearshore and offshore in government documents
-  **Offshore** fishing vessels are those equipped with a core engine of over 90 hp and registered for operating offshore or issued a license for fishing offshore
-  **Nearshore** fishing vessels have an engine capacity of less than 90 hp, that have not registered for operating offshore, or fishing vessels fishing in waters of less than 30-meter depth from the shore in the Tonkin Gulf waters, East and South West waters, and Thailand Bay or in waters of under 50-meter depth from the shore onwards in the Central coastal area
-  Viet Nam's fisheries can be described as largely small-scale.

SSF in Vietnam

- 🐟 Approximately 72% of the total mechanized boats in the country are less than 45 hp, and 84% are less than 90 hp.
- 🐟 The majority of these boats operate in nearshore areas up to 4-5 nm from the coast and in less than 50 m depth.
- 🐟 Approximately 28,000 non-mechanized and 60,000 small mechanized boats powered with diesel engines up to approximately 20 hp. (higher number)
- 🐟 During the period of 1990-2000, the number of small fishing vessels (<45 HP) operating in inshore waters increased by an average of 2300 vessels per year.
- 🐟 Approximately 82% of the total catch in the country is caught at a depth of less than 50m.

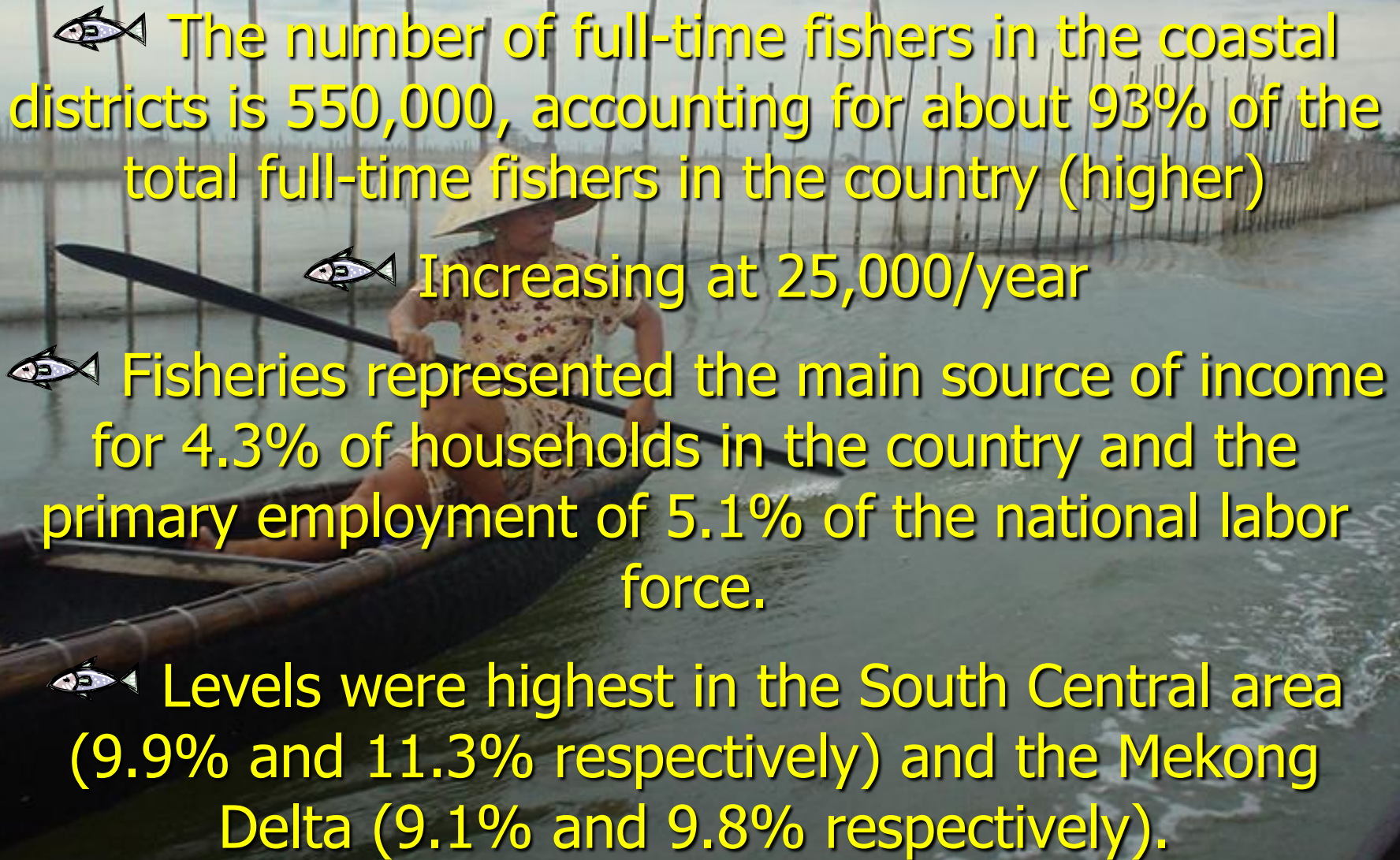
SSF in Vietnam

-  The primary type of small-scale fisheries gears in use are small gillnet (mackerel, shrimp, cuttlefish), small trawl (shrimp), longline, push net, small liftnet with lights (juvenile fish), and traps.
-  Reports indicate that the catch per unit of effort (CPUE) has decreased from 1.11 ton/hp in 1985 to 0.89 ton/hp in 1991, to 0.34 ton/hp in 2005.
-  Results of an assessment of marine fisheries resources in Viet Nam shows that the MSY yield in the area of 50 m depth is about 582,212 tons, whereas the catch in practice has exceeded this level since 1986, up to 2x higher

SSF in Vietnam

- 🐟 This indicates overfishing in waters of less than 50m depth
- 🐟 Fishing pressure is still increasing as new fishers enter the fishery

SSF in Vietnam

- 
- 🐟 The number of full-time fishers in the coastal districts is 550,000, accounting for about 93% of the total full-time fishers in the country (higher)
 - 🐟 Increasing at 25,000/year
 - 🐟 Fisheries represented the main source of income for 4.3% of households in the country and the primary employment of 5.1% of the national labor force.
 - 🐟 Levels were highest in the South Central area (9.9% and 11.3% respectively) and the Mekong Delta (9.1% and 9.8% respectively).

SSF in Vietnam - Issues

- 🐟 Overcapacity and overexploitation
- 🐟 Illegal and destructive fishing (mesh size)
- 🐟 High by-catch and incidental catch
 - 🐟 Pollution; habitat loss
- 🐟 Economic performance is decreasing
 - 🐟 Increasing conflict
- 🐟 In general, the poverty rate in coastal regions is lower than that in Vietnam's mountainous interior
- 🐟 However, in some areas, poverty in coastal communities is increasing as a result of overexploitation of fish stocks and degradation of habitats.






Management Efforts

- 🐟 Mid-1990s, broad recognition of overexploitation of nearshore fisheries. Strategy to limit coastal fishing effort and develop offshore fisheries
- 🐟 1998 construction of new vessels <20hp was banned
- 🐟 Since the mid-1980s, there has been reconsideration of *van chai* traditional systems by a number of Provincial governments to enhance fisheries management
- 🐟 In the mid-1990s, the concept of co-management was introduced (supported by Laws and Decrees)
- 🐟 15 marine protected areas have been proposed within a national MPA network
- 🐟 July 1997 the reports of the Master Plan Project for Fisheries Development to the year 2010 were issued





Management Efforts

- 🐟 Fisheries management activity in nearshore waters seems limited, though the structures to execute management are provided
- 🐟 Management and enforcement regimes for inshore fisheries seem weak, provide for limited involvement of stakeholders, and utilize an “open access” concept resulting in overfishing
- 🐟 Provincial governments did not implement many laws and regulations fearing that they would cause severe disruption and hardship to small scale fishers.
- 🐟 Resources (human, budget) for management are limited

Policy 2003- Present

-  On 26 November 2003, the National Assembly approved Law No. 17/2003/QH 11, the Fisheries Law
-  The provincial People's Committees shall have responsibility to issue rules of fishing grounds in rivers, lakes, lagoons and other natural waters under its jurisdiction in accordance with guidance of Ministry of Fisheries (Article 15).
-  Co-management is provided for under Article 9
-  In October 2004, the Ministry of Fisheries and the World Bank produced a fisheries sector study
-  "almost the only option for improved resource management is co-management"

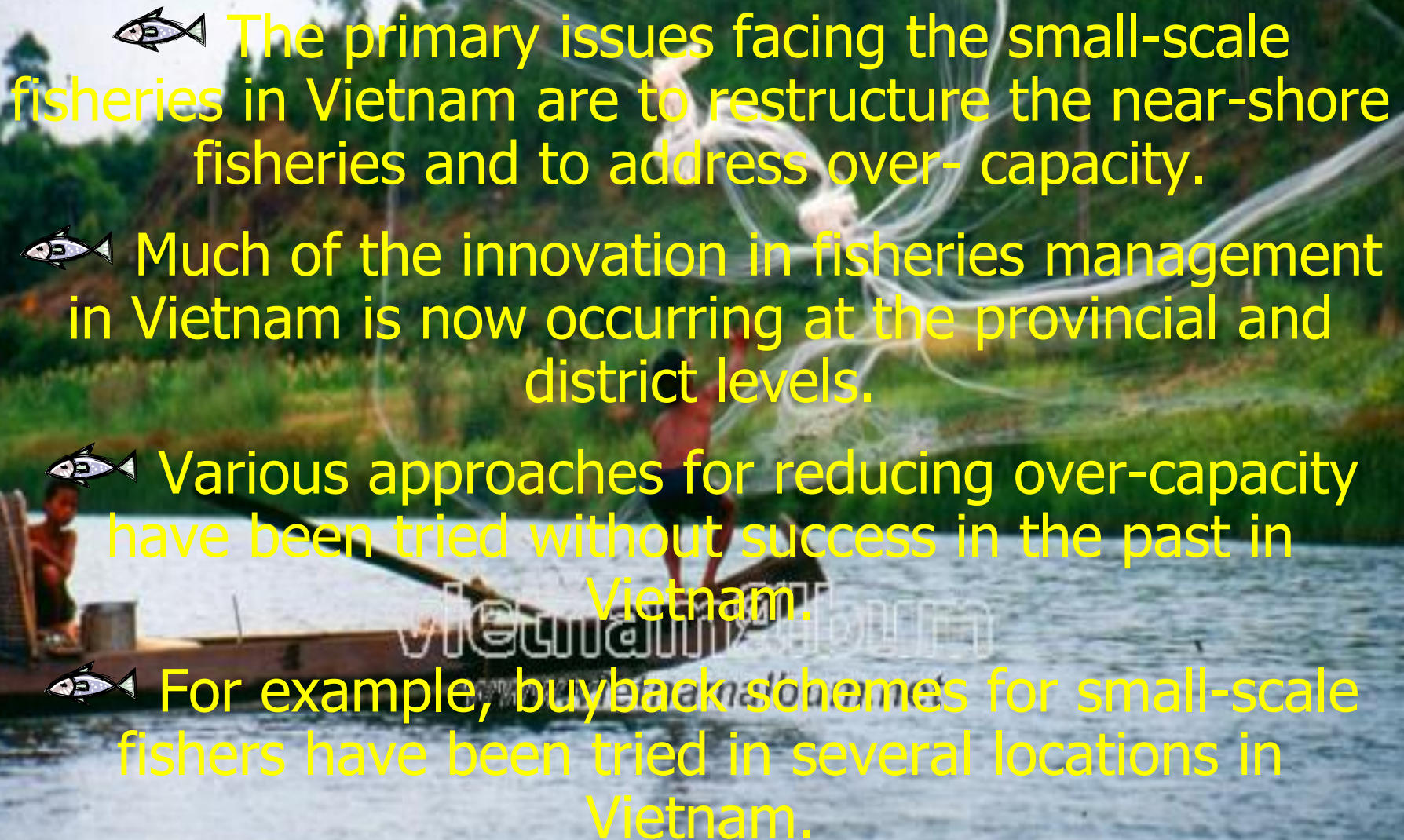
Policy 2003-Present

-  Master Plan for Fisheries Development to 2010 and Orientations toward 2020 (Approved by the Prime Minister in the Decision No 10/2006/QĐ-TTg on 11 January 2006)
-  Calls for reducing the present fleet of about 64,000 vessels with engines under 45hp to 30,000 by the year 2010
-  Strictly control the build up of new fishing boats and the provision of fishing licenses in order to gradually reduce the number of small-scale fishing boats operating in nearshore areas; co-management
-  Decision 10/2006/QĐ-TTg in 2006 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; and to enhance income, create new occupations and improve the living standards of fishing communities.

Addressing Overcapacity

- 🐟 The Law has not been adhered to properly by fishers and has not been enforced comprehensively
 - 🐟 Overcapacity is a common feature
 - 🐟 Increasing levels of conflict
- 🐟 Increasing hardship for many fishing households and communities.
- 🐟 Alternative employment opportunities are limited or non-existent in rural coastal communities
- 🐟 Policies for management of small-scale fisheries have not been linked closely with resolving the socioeconomic problems of fishing communities.

Addressing Overcapacity

- 
- 🐟 The primary issues facing the small-scale fisheries in Vietnam are to restructure the near-shore fisheries and to address over-capacity.
 - 🐟 Much of the innovation in fisheries management in Vietnam is now occurring at the provincial and district levels.
 - 🐟 Various approaches for reducing over-capacity have been tried without success in the past in Vietnam.
 - 🐟 For example, buyback schemes for small-scale fishers have been tried in several locations in Vietnam.

Addressing Overcapacity

Solution may be one based on a coordinated and integrated approach involving a mixed strategy of:




 resource management (access control and property rights)

 resource restoration

 economic and community development (linkages of coastal communities to regional and national economic development) including livelihoods

 new governance arrangements
(co-management)

Addressing Overcapacity

-  This approach finds solutions to the problem of over-capacity in both the fishery sector and non-fishery economic sectors.
-  This approach recognizes that any policies that reduce the number of fishers in small-scale fisheries without creating non-fishery livelihood opportunities will inevitably fail.
-  This approach requires strong inter-ministerial and national and provincial and district government linkages to ensure coordination and cooperation for planning and implementation.

Addressing Overcapacity

 Resource management must be innovative and utilize management measures that focus on fishing rights and access control.

 Target not just the individual fisher but the whole household and its broader economic livelihood strategies.

 This strategy needs to address multiple challenges of coastal communities including employment, income generation, food security, social development, lack of market access, and delivery of community services and infrastructure.

 Community-based co-management

Addressing Overcapacity

- 🐟 Focus on provincial, district and commune level pilot sites (scale up)
- 🐟 Integrated multi-ministry teams developed (fisheries cannot do it alone)
- 🐟 Development of management plans

