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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Marine Fisheries Service

## South Vietnamese Fisheries in 1971

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# SOUTH VIETNAMESE FISHERIES IN 1971

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Republic of Viet-Nam.  
Ministry of Land Reform and  
Agriculture and Fisheries Development.

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Directorate General of Agriculture.  
Directorate of Fisheries.

South Vietnamese fisheries in 1971

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I. General Situation in 1971

Climate: During the year, and chiefly during the rainy season, the violent monsoon caused rough seas, typhoons, and floods in coastal provinces of Central Viet-Nam from July through October. This, however, has not seriously affected fishermen's activities.

Security: Good fishing areas have been enlarged; the curfew shortened. Fishermen had less difficulties.

1971 compared to 1970:

The overall fisheries situation in 1971 has shown a good development: professional improvement, increase of production.

Comparison of the fisheries situation in 1970 and 1971

	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
<u>Fishermen</u>	317,442	335,690
Compared to 1970, the number of fishermen in 1971 increased by over 18,000 men or by 6 percent		
	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
<u>Fishing fleet (total number of vessels)</u>	88,215	91,424 units
Motorized	42,603	48,842
Nonmotorized	45,612	42,582

The increase in the total number of fishing boats was negligible (3,200 units), but the number of motorized boats increased sharply (6,200 units, or 14 percent) because of the expanded fisheries credit program.

		<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
<u>Catch (in metric tons)</u>	Total	517,450	587,490
- Marine fish		391,765	435,545
- Fresh-water fish		64,140	71,066
- Shrimp		33,268	45,779
- Crabs, oysters		18,832	19,782
- Cuttle fish		9,445	15,718



Compared to 1970, the total catch in 1971 increased by 70,000 metric tons or nearly 14 percent.

<u>Processing</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
- Fish sauce (in liters)	64 million	70 million
- Dried fish (in metric tons)	27,979	41,608
- Fish preparations, and salted fish (in metric tons)	34,425	36,728
<u>Province-to-province deliveries</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
- Fresh sea and river products	107,407 Tons	160,516 Tons
- Processed sea and river products	46,616 "	41,745 "
- Fish sauce (in liters)	34 million	40 million

Owing to the repair of roads and improvement of security on rivers, the river transportation from province to province has been easier, the quantity of whole fish sent out of the provinces increased by 50,000 tons, and fish sauce deliveries increased by 6 million liters.

<u>Exports</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
- Frozen shrimp (in metric tons)	26	185
- Fish sauce (in liters)	65,000	85,550
- Fresh fish and shrimp (in metric tons)	-	204

Effective September 1971, the export of fish and fresh shrimp has been resumed because of the favorable exchange rate of VN\$410 to US\$1.00. (The export of fresh fish has been suspended since 1968.)

## II. Technical Activities

### A) Marine Fisheries

#### 1) Training of fishermen

During the year, five courses for 264 trainees have been organized to train fishermen in the proper utilization of marine engines at a cost of US\$400,000. Table 1 shows the location and duration of training courses. Only one instructor was available.

Table 1.--Training course on proper use of marine engines given during 1971 by the Vietnamese Fisheries Directorate.

<u>Training headquarters</u>	<u>Training period</u>	<u>Trainees</u>	<u>Certificates</u>	<u>Instructor</u>
		<u>No.</u>	<u>No.</u>	
Quang Tin	June 7 - June 26	54	40	Ho Van Dai
Quang Ngai	July 5 - July 24	60	45	"
Ba Xuyen	Aug. 2 - Aug. 21	50	38	"
Ba Tri (Khahn Hoa)	Sept. 1 - Sept. 17	60	52	"
Phan Thiet	Sept. 27- Oct. 16	50	47	"

## 2) Exploitation and assistance

- Intervention with the Directorate of Commercial Aid and the Directorate of Internal Trade to keep fishermen informed of the period of import of nylon fishing nets, prices, and purchase procedures.
- Liaison with the Nha Trang Oceanographic Institute to determine the reason for the failure of sardine catch in Binh Thuan province. The Institute's research vessels Kyoshin Maru 52 and Huu Nghi operated in that general area.
- Control and certification of artificial fibers which private companies import for the manufacture of fishing nets.
- Shortage of marine engines was flagged in a report to the Ministry.
- Report to Directorate General of Agriculture on the dispute of Da Nang fishermen with fishermen of other areas regarding professional practices.
- Appeal for cooperation of the Vietnam Confederation of Industry and Crafts to support those fishermen in central Vietnam who were victims of typhoons.
- Requests for investigation from the Vung Tau and Kien Hoa Agricultural Services to identify the fishing boat that provoked the accident at Bac Lieu.
- Comment on the export of fresh shrimp from Kien Giang.
- Comment on applications for the import of fishing equipment to the Directorate General of Agriculture.
- Request for assistance from the Federal Republic of Germany for fisheries development. The German Government has agreed to grant the Republic of Vietnam (RVN) a loan of 6.5 million German marks (US\$2.03 million)<sup>1/</sup>.
- Planning of exports for fish products made from snapper, silver batfish, cod, mackerel.
- Guidance given fishermen on how to apply for loans from the Asian Development Bank.
- Files were set up on forbidden fishing areas as follows:

<u>Fishing grounds</u>	<u>Curfew limitations</u>
32%	24 hours prohibition of fishing
38%	night fishing is forbidden
30%	fishing is free

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<sup>1/</sup> The exchange rate of DM 3.197 for US\$1.00 was used.



### 3) Offshore fishing vessels (deep-sea trawlers)

As of December 1971, the RVN had a total of 17 offshore fishing vessels with 90 to 300 tons capacity. This included 14 pair trawlers with 90 to 120 tons capacity, 1 stern trawler of 300 tons capacity, and 2 trawlers of 130 tons capacity each (for shrimp fishing). Seven Vietnamese fishing companies are now engaged in offshore fishing. They own the above-mentioned 17 trawlers. Their total catch is about 2,753 metric tons of fresh fish of all types. The seven companies have achieved the following results:

Table 2.--Offshore fishing operations of Vietnamese fishing companies

Names of companies	Boats	Gross tonnage (each)	Trips	Fish Catch
	No.	Tons	No.	Kg
Viet Nam Thuy San	4	90	38	800,640
Nam Hai Ngu Nghiep	4	120	18	538,360
Minh Chau Thuy San	2	90	14	192,220
Mekong Ngu Nghiep	2	120	21	418,800
Dong Nam A Ngu Nghiep	1	299	15	432,700
Mekong Ngu San	2	130	n.a.	n.a.
Thai Binh Ngu Nghiep	2	90	18	340,280
TOTAL	17	1,999 GRT	130 (est)	2,753,700

The "Mekong Ngu San" company only started operations in late November 1971, and the two additional trawlers bought by the "Nam Hai Ngu Nghiep" company also began operations in November with two trips.

- Designation of two Korean technicians aboard the Trung Duong vessel to train on fish finding and utilization of modern fishing equipment.
- Intervention with the Ministry of Labor to permit offshore fishing companies to use the services of Japanese fishing technicians aboard their trawlers.
- Draft of permit for offshore fishing for two "Nam Hai" company trawlers (Hai Long and Hai Phuong).
- Introduction of fishermen who want to improve their professional skills aboard offshore fishing vessels.

### B) Freshwater Fisheries

#### 1) Activities of the Freshwater Fisheries Service.

- The Freshwater Fisheries Service has followed up and coordinated activities of fish stock farms all over the country and has instructed related fisheries branches to assist in the Program of Pacification and Development.

- Guidance given in fishery encouragement programs. Participation in activities of Improved Agricultural Hamlets. Assistance was given to fish culturists.
- Guidance was given the Cat Lai Leper Village in setting up two fish ponds with an area of 4,000 square meters.
- Encouragement was given to farmers of Bien Hoa Province in using waste trenches near brick kilns as fish ponds at Improved Agricultural Hamlets of Hiep Hoa, Tan Van, and Tam Hiep. The ponds cover a 60-hectare area.
- Coordination with the National Agricultural Center and the Directorate of Agricultural Forestry and Animal Husbandry to train agricultural cadres (agricultural engineers, controllers, and teachers).
- Experimentation on silver carp breeding by artificial fecundation at fish farms of Thu Duc (Tay Ninh Province). Good results were obtained.
- Development of fish breeding at Nha Trang (Phuoc Tuy Province) costing VN\$7.8 million<sup>2/</sup>, appropriated from National Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 1971.
- Culture of silver carp and bonito by means of artificial fecundation costing VN\$7 million provided by the 1971 National Budget (construction of water tower, fish rearing and preserving facilities, fishing-net-drying building).
- Construction of barbed wire fence and gate at the Thu Duc Fish Breeding Center costing VN\$840,000 supplied by the FY/1969 USAID Budget (80 percent completed).
- Concrete water pipe system set up at Thu Duc Fish Breeding Center costing VN\$3 million provided by the FY/1969 USAID Budget. Work was completed in late December 1971.

## 2) Encouragement of fish culture

The purpose of this program is to encourage, train, and develop the digging of ponds for fish breeding.

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<sup>2/</sup> The exchange rate was 118 piasters (VN\$) for US\$1.00 until November 15, 1971, when the Government of Vietnam devalued piasters to 410 piasters for US\$1.00



Table 3.--Fish culture program in various Vietnamese fish farms

Type of work	Da Lat farm	Tay Ninh farm	My Tho farm	Ban Me Thuat-farm	Vung Tau farm	Total
<u>Pond digging</u>						
Number of ponds	247	80	30	145	16	518
Total area (in square meters)	15,447	56,420	18,000	34,200	34,530	158,597
<u>Training courses in fish breeding</u>						
Number of courses	6	-	1	3	-	10
Number of trainees	423	-	34	120	-	577
<u>Distribution</u>						
Pamphlets	500	-	20	121	-	641
Fish stocks	-	4,800	-	31,230	-	36,030

### 3) Experimentation

To increase and improve new fish stocks, the Freshwater Fisheries Service has conducted research and experimentation on new methods of raising silver carp and bonito which gave good results. In addition, during FY 1971, the Directorate of Fisheries has sent two officials to observe fish breeding in Taiwan.

### C) Support of the Program of Pacification and Development

- Cadre recruiting: at the provincial level: 24 technicians  
at the district level : 231 cadres
- Training: 148 courses opened for 7,491 trainees
- Pond digging for fish breeding: 163 ponds with a total area of 17,014 square meters
- Credit: VN\$14.2 million for the building and repair of fishery markets, and building of weather reporting station and lighthouse (see list next page)



Table 4.--List of fisheries projects approved as part of the Pacification and Development Program in 1971

Number	Provinces	Fisheries projects	Cost	Completion of project	Percentage of Completion
			<u>VN\$ mill.</u>		<u>Percent</u>
1	Quang Tri	Weather reporting station at Gia-Dang	1.0	7-14-71	100
2	Quang Nam	Enlargement of bridge near Hoi An fish mkt.	1.5	7-23-71	100
3	Da Nang	Xuan Dan fish market	1.0	4-1-71	100
4	Quang Tin	Binh Tien fish market	1.5	-	30
5	Quang Ngai	Sa Huynh fish market	0.8	6-19-71	40
6	Binh Dinh	Repair of Qui-Nhon fish market	1.0	-	20
7	Binh Thuan	Lighthouse at Thanh Long village	0.6	-	30
8	Phuoc Tuy	Water system set up; floor of Phuoc-Le fish market cemented	2.0	-	20
9	Phuoc Long	Repair and operation of Phuoc-Binh fish farm	0.3	4-1-71	100
10	Vinh Binh	Fish market at Long-Chau-Thoi village	2.0	8-1-71	100
11	Vinh Long	Fish market at Long-Chau Ho village	1.0	6-1-71	100
12	Kien Giang	Ben Nhut fish bridge	1.5	6-19-71	100
		TOTAL	14.2		

D) Industrialization

1) Organization of the Chanh Hung fish market

The Hai Bang Cooperative markets one-third of the available supply of fish; it began operating in 1971. Fish dealers at the Tran Quoc Toan market sell the remaining two-thirds of the supply; they started operating in November 1971.

The supply of fish to the Prefecture was not discontinued. The price of shrimp has risen because of good export potential (rather than due to changes in marketing procedures or low catches). Relations between fish dealers and the Hai Bang Cooperative reportedly have been harmonious during the last 2 months of 1971. Boat owners, previously indebted to fish dealers, have paid back their debts and begun to sell their catches to Hai Bang Cooperative. As a result, the boat owners' profits have increased by at least 20 percent.

Difficulties still remain, but the first step has been taken and is considered a success thanks to the firm support of the Ministry<sup>3/</sup> and the Prefecture. The Economic Service (of the Fisheries Directorate) coordinated the organization of this fish market.

## 2) Exports

Since 1968, the export of polynemidae<sup>4/</sup> has been discontinued due to the low exchange rate and the inadequate premium. However, with the new exchange rate of VN\$410 to US\$1<sup>5/</sup>, the Directorate of Fisheries has encouraged the export of fresh marine fish and fresh shrimp to new markets, including Bangkok (Thailand). This export activity was carried out by the Rach Gia Cooperative. In 1971, the following products have been exported:

	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Value</u>
Marine fish and fresh shrimp	204 metric tons	US\$200,625
Frozen shrimp	185 metric tons	US\$462,490
Fish sauce	85,544 liters	FF 342,176 (US\$67,517) <sup>6/</sup>

Late in 1971, many companies that own large trawlers have applied for permission to export fishery products to Singapore directly. Their request is still under consideration by the Ministry of Land Reform and the Ministry of Finances.

## 3) Mud dredging at river mouths

a) Under the coordination of "Pacific and Architects, Inc." technical projects for the two river mouths of Ben Dinh River (near Vung Tau autonomous city) and Rach Gia canal (in Kien Giang Province) have been completed.

b) Coordinated by the Directorate of River Transportation, the dredging of Tan Xuan canal (in Ninh Thuan Province) has started on April 1, 1971; one-half million cubic meters of mud have been removed to heighten the dike which leads to the Phu Tho ferry landing.

## 4) Fish processing industries

- Experimentation with reduction of waste shrimp heads into meal.
- Control and issue of sanitation certificates for the export of frozen shrimp and fish sauce.
- Promotion of establishment of fish meal and fish sauce plants.

<sup>3/</sup> The Ministry of Land Reform and Agriculture and Fisheries Development.

<sup>4/</sup> Various species of tassel-fishes, better known as threadfins.

<sup>5/</sup> Valid since November 15, 1971.

<sup>6/</sup> French francs 5.068 = US\$1.00.



### E) Agricultural Credit

During 1971, the Agricultural Development Bank has granted loans to fishermen to mechanize their boats; as a result, the catch increased.

- Total loans VN\$777,042,000 (US\$6,585,102)<sup>7/</sup>
- Number of fishermen receiving loans 6,907 persons

Table 5.--Fishery loans in 1970 and 1971

1970	1971	Percentage of increase <u>Percent</u>
VN\$467,609,280 (US\$4,810,248)	VN\$777,042,000 (US\$6,585,102)	34

### III. Management

#### A) Administrative Organization

- 1) Headquarters: The Directorate of Fisheries is directly under the jurisdiction of the Directorate General of Agriculture (Decree #693 BCCDDCN-HCTC. 4/ND of May 9, 1968 of the Ministry). The Directorate General of Agriculture takes care of accounting and personnel; the Directorate of Fisheries is responsible for technical problems only.
- 2) Regional Offices: All Fisheries Services depend on the Agricultural Service (Directorate General of Agriculture) for management matters and on the Directorate of Fisheries for technical matters.

#### B) Personnel

As of December 31, 1971, the number of staff members whose salaries are borne by the National Budget at the Central Office of the Directorate of Fisheries included 67 persons.

<sup>7/</sup> Calculated at US\$1.00 = 118 piasters, the exchange rate which prevailed until November 15, 1971.