

Abstract

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Blue Economy for Business:
Building an East Asian Seas
Sustainable Business Network

Using the Private Sector to Drive Reform in Fisheries – A Case Study of Ben Tre Trawl Fisheries, Vietnam

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Trawl fisheries produce about 50% of the seafood caught in Asia and are an important source of species used for fresh/frozen, surimi and fish meal. However, trawl fisheries have inadequate management and this does not serve the interests of the fish, fishing communities or seafood buyers.

In the province of Ben Tre, Vietnam, a coalition of local fisher groups, government officials, seafood processors, an NGO, seafood traders and a retailer have joined together to create a fisheries improvement project (FIP) aimed at improving management of the trawl fisheries. This FIP differs from many others in that it incorporates a commitment to addressing social issues.

This project has made use of the Responsible Sourcing standard of the International Fishmeal and Fishoil Organisation (IFFO) to prepare a gap analysis which has then been used to prepare a workplan, which is also using the Asia-Pacific Fisheries Commission Tropical Trawl Guidelines as a framework. Stakeholders are now working on various actions identified as part of the initiative.

The project has generated a dialogue with trawl fisheries in a nearby province (Kien Giang), which is a project site for the GEF funded REBYII project and has attracted funding from the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.



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