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Fishery Products

Annual Report

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Report Highlights: Vietnam's fishery sector continues to grow, with production increasing 11.5 percent in 2007. Farm raised fishery products surpassed wild caught products for the first time in 2007 and accounted for 50.3 percent of production. Fishery production for 2008 is expected to increase 11 percent over 2007. Vietnam's fishery exports continue to grow and more imported products are now needed to satisfy demand. There is also growing concern that processing plants are not being fully utilized due to insufficient fishery supplies. Imported fishery products increased sharply in 2007 to help supplement supplies for the domestic and export market. Exports earnings for 2007 reached \$3.76 billion in value and fishery exports for 2008 are projected to reach \$4.25 billion.

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SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

Vietnam produced a record 4.15 million metric tons of fishery products in 2007, an increase of 11.5 percent over 2006. Total fish production accounted for the largest share of output at 73.6 percent, while shrimp represented 12 percent of total output. Aquaculture has been growing rapidly and has now surpassed production levels of wild caught fish, with a growth rate of 23 percent in 2007. Total aquaculture output was 2.09 million metric tons.

Vietnam is reportedly now the world's third largest fishery producer and the sixth largest exporter of seafood products, with exports for 2007 valued at \$3.76 billion. Even with these impressive levels of output, there is concern that current output falls short of both processing capacity and export targets. Export projections for 2008 are set at \$4.25 billion. With ever increasing export targets, Vietnam now finds itself having to rely more and more on imports of fishery products to supplement production, and some processing plants are reportedly lying idle or operating at well below optimum capacity.

STATISTICAL TABLES

Table 1: Total Edible Fishery Products, Export Trade Matrix

Export Trade Matrix			
Country	Vietnam		
Commodity	Total Edible Fishery Products		
Time Period	Jan-Dec.	Units:	MT
Exports for:	2006		2007
U.S.	98883	U.S.	99769
Others		Others	
EU	219967	EU	279793
Japan	123889	Japan	119194
Korea	84903	Korea	91824
ASEAN	60335	ASEAN	66866
Russia	58705	Russia	57197
China	48470	China	45806
Taiwan	30623	Taiwan	31216
Australia	24303	Australia	23994
Total for Others	651195		715890
Others not Listed	61432		109288
Grand Total	811510		924947

Source: VASEP

Table 2: Shrimp, Export Trade Matrix

Export Trade Matrix			
Country	Vietnam		
Commodity	Frozen Shrimps		
Time Period	Jan-Dec.	Units:	MT
Exports for:	2006		2007
U.S.	35414	U.S.	40425
Others		Others	
Japan	66164	Japan	56366
EU	21265	EU	21663
Australia	8584	South Korea	10388
Taiwan	5818	Taiwan	7702
Canada	5279	Australia	6270
South Korea	5131	Canada	5672
China	4275	China	4584
ASEAN	2414	ASEAN	3748
Switzerland	1452	Switzerland	2118
Total for Others	120382		118511
Others not Listed	2650		2333
Grand Total	158446		161269

Source: VASEP

Table 3: Catfish Export Trade Matrix

Export Trade Matrix			
Country	Vietnam		
Commodity	Catfish		
Time Period	Jan-Dec.	Units:	MT
Exports for:	2006		2007
U.S.	24281	U.S.	21196
Others		Others	
EU	123212	EU	172871
Russia	42779	Russia	48728
ASEAN	28515	ASEAN	33741
China	17678	Ukraine	22992
Australia	10149	China	18214
Mexico	9829	Mexico	14324
		Australia	12210
Total for Others	232162		323080
Others not Listed	30159		42593
Grand Total	286602		386869

Source: VASEP

Table 4: Total Fishery Products Import Trade Matrix

Import Trade Matrix			
Country	Vietnam		
Commodity	Total Edible Fishery Products		
Time Period	Jan-Dec	Units:	Million US\$
Imports for:	2006		2007
U.S.	7.182	U.S.	3.439
Others		Others	
India	10.862	Japan	45.815
China	10.679	Taiwan	24.714
Singapore	10.676	Thailand	22.451
Thailand	8.749	Indonesia	20.580
Canada	8.138	China	13.048
Malaysia	6.717	India	7.070
Norway	6.097	Norway	7.001
Denmark	5.691	Hong Kong	5.719
Chile	3.860	South Korea	5.708
Spain	2.041	Denmark	5.288
Total for Others	73.511		157.394
Others not Listed	15.124		52.584
Grand Total	95.817		213.417

Source: Global trade Atlas, General Customs office of Vietnam

Table 5: Vietnam's Shrimp Exports by Destination

Country	2005		2006		2007		2008 (Jan – April)	
	Volume (MT)	Value (\$ million)	Volume (MT)	Value (\$ million)	Volume (MT)	Value (\$ million)	Volume (MT)	Value (\$ million)
Japan	66,899	549.853	66,164	581.195	56,366	492.201	13,019	108.365
United States	41,443	434.211	35,414	422.921	40,425	481.693	6,965	83.639
EU	17,722	125.144	21,265	154.302	21,663	158.727	7,580	56.496
Of which: Germany	3,381	25.326	4,362	34.418	5,142	40.421	2,430	19.096
Belgium	3,503	26.026	3,307	25.297	3,235	23.227		
UK	3,065	24.095	2,826	23.420			1,062	8.965
Australia	7,313	56.181	8,584	76.743	6,270	60.367	1,528	14.647
Canada	4,898	47.621	5,279	55.621	5,672	65.430	1,747	19.147
South Korea	3,265	20.924	5,131	37.558	10,388	81.710	2,540	17.325
China	3,966	28.988	4,275	34.496	4,584	36.790	1,177	10.420
of which: Hong Kong	2,562	19.170	2,880	23.541	2,998	24.848	741	6.148
Taiwan	7,195	52.734	5,818	39.392	7,702	54.146	2,463	16.616
ASEAN	3,161	27.676	2,414	22.058	3,748	35.709	1,013	8.428
Of which: Malaysia	966	11.049	1,014	11.303	1,802	20.855	442	4.325
Switzerland	1,452	14.067	1,452	15.178	2,118	22.844	582	5.828
Others	1,929	14.438	2,650	21.123	2,333	19.342	1,292	9.242
Total	159,243	1,372	158,446	1,461	161,267	1,509	39,907	350.153

Source: Vietnam Association of Seafood exporters and producers (VASEP)

Table 6: Vietnam's Catfish Exports by Destination

Country	2005		2006		2007		2008 (Jan – April)	
	Volume (MT)	Value (\$ million)	Volume (MT)	Value (\$ million)	Volume (MT)	Value (\$ million)	Volume (MT)	Value (\$ million)
EU	55,178	139.378	123,212	343.427	172,871	469.541	61,009	156.171
<i>of which:</i> Spain	12,390	33.394	25,090	72.732	36,133	101.016	14,645	37.568
Poland	5,671	13.097	27,328	66.624	38,578	88.399		
Holland	4,466	11.490	22,108	65.250	29,966	87.438	11,073	28.401
Russia	3,049	5.589	42,779	83.229	48,728	90.186	28,450	48.187
ASEAN	22,019	40.591	28,515	62.835	33,741	77.612	11,205	25.413
<i>of which:</i> Singapore	9,759	15.967	11,525	22.067	12,157	28.006	4,028	9.169
Malaysia	5,329	8.552	9,570	19.294	8,787	15.609	2,201	3.715
Thailand	4,883	12.024	5,879	18.120	8,106	23.716	3,201	8.618
Ukraine			8,475	14.495	22,992	39.324	10,893	19.31
United States	14,760	35.255	24,281	72.872	21,196	67.606	6,320	19.806
China	16,353	32.389	17,678	37.377	18,214	38.803	5,535	10.480
<i>of which:</i> Hong Kong	14,561	28.559	16,599	34.956	17,150	36.578	5,367	10.163
Australia	9,657	26.178	10,149	30.995	12,210	38.562	3,385	10.298
Mexico	6,557	16.818	9,829	28.339	14,324	40.019	5,452	14.344
Others	13,130	31.950	21,684	63.303	42,593	117.383	25,675	63.65
Total	140,703	328.148	286,602	736.872	386,870	979.036	157,924	367.660

Source: Vietnam Association of Seafood exporters and producers (VASEP)

Table 7: Vietnam's Tuna Exports by Destination

Country	2005		2006		2007		2008 (Jan – April)	
	Volume (MT)	Value (\$ million)	Volume (MT)	Value (\$ million)	Volume (MT)	Value (\$ million)	Volume (MT)	Value (\$ million)
United States	11,570	33.313	17,343	48.437	17,117	48.716	3,387	12.312
EU	7,846	20.691	14,045	33.085	17,418	51.636	5,142	19.669
<i>of which:</i> Germany	2,266	4.180	4,633	8.619	4,775	10.037		
Italy							1,746	6.910
Holland	1,262	7.510	2,009	7.908	1,778	8.067	547	3.221
Spain	1,085	1.817	2,002	4.200	2,344	7.578	703	2.800
Japan	3,918	13.302	3,789	12.677	5,486	17.511	1,885	7.891
Israel	1,243	3.445	890	2.801			345	1.500
Mexico							652	2.741
Taiwan	1,648	2.703	2,093	3.706	2,017	3.557	596	1.308
China	629	1.313	894	2.620	1,167	3.339	402	1.521
<i>of which:</i> Hong Kong	555	0.959	715	1.267	998	2.052	267	0.722
ASEAN	645	1.026	657	1.602	1,520	2.995	270	0.708
Canada	321	0.910	606	1.528	738	2.095	198	0.756
Others	1,942	4.381	4,505	10.677	7,379	21.09	1,903	5.945
Total	29,761	81.084	44,822	117.133	52,842	150.939	14,780	54.352

Source: Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers (VASEP)

PRODUCTION

Vietnam produced a total of 4.15 million metric tons (mmt) of fishery products in 2007, an increase of 11.5 percent over the previous year. Of this amount, 2.06 mmt or 49.7 percent was wild-caught and 2.09 mmt or 50.3 percent was farm-raised. Typically, marine landings have accounted for the larger share of production, but in 2007, aquaculture, which has

been increasing at a much faster rate, finally surpassed the wild catch total output; farmed aquatic products had a production increase of 23.1 percent over the previous year. Fish still had the largest share of production in either farming method, accounting for 74.3 percent of marine landings and 71.7 percent of aquaculture in 2007. The bulk of shrimp production was done through aquaculture, which produced 77.6 percent of Vietnam's shrimp in 2007.

Fishery production for 2008 is expected to reach 4.6 million metric tons, with 2.6 mmt being aquaculture and 2.0 million metric tons of wild catch.

Table 8: Vietnam's Total Fishery Production

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 (Jan-May)
Total production (Thousand Metric Tons)	2,859.6	3,142.5	3,465.9	3,720.5	4,149	1,639
<i>Fish</i>	1,980.80	2,229.5	2,469.0	2,689.8	3,053.6	
<i>Shrimp</i>	340.8	388.9	435.1	463.2	498.2	
<i>Others</i>	538	524.1	561.8	567.5	597.2	
Caught aquatic products (TMT)	1,856.5	1,940	1,987.9	2,026.6	2,063.80	913
<i>Fish</i>	1,376.4	1,467.9	1,497.9	1,532.7	1,558.80	
<i>Shrimp</i>	102.9	107.1	107.9	108.7	111.6	
<i>Others</i>	377.2	365.0	382.1	385.2	393.4	
Farmed aquatic products (TMT)	1,003.1	1,202.5	1,478	1,693.9	2,085.2	726
<i>Fish</i>	604.4	761.6	971.2	1,157.1	1,494.8	
<i>Shrimp</i>	237.9	281.8	327.2	354.5	386.6	
<i>Others</i>	160.8	159.1	179.6	182.3	203.8	

Source: General Statistics Office (GSO), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)

Wild Catch

Total fishery capture was 2.06 mmt, an increase of 3 percent over 2006. Coastal areas have been over-fished and fishermen must now go further offshore to get a good harvest. However, given current high fuel prices, which are about 30 percent higher than prices in 2006, several boats in Vietnam's 86,000 fleet have not found it cost effective to go out to sea. Though operating costs have increased significantly, the selling price of the catch has remained constant. Vietnam's Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers (VASEP) reports that over the last ten years total power units have increased 3.27 times. However, total exploitation volume has only increased 1.96 times. This suggests that the average catch per power unit has diminished or is ineffective.

Vietnam's total potential fishery source capacity is estimated at 3.1-4.2 million tons. Annual allowable catch is set at 1.7 million tons, which includes 850,000 tons of demersal fish, 700,000 tons of small pelagic fish and 120,000 tons of oceanographic pelagic fish.

Aquaculture

Production output from aquaculture in 2007 was 2.09 mmt, 16 percent more than anticipated and a 23 percent increase over 2006. Of the 1.07 million hectares devoted to aquaculture in 2007, there was an increase in acreage of some 15,600 hectares. There was also a significant increase in cultivation of pangasius fish.

There is more heightened awareness within the government of the environmental degradation and disease issues resulting from aquaculture. Thought is being given to appropriate regulations and improved and safer aquaculture practices to combat the problem. An improved management system that incorporates an appropriate workload of

fishery health control workers who will work in tandem with farmers and processing centers to improve production and processing food safety standards is seen as a necessity.

Freshwater culture

The Mekong River Delta with 1.77 million hectares of freshwater area is the ideal place for Vietnam's freshwater fish cultivation. Each year, about 1.4 million hectares of this area is flooded from 1-4 meters deep over a two to six month period. Fish farming in freshwater areas saw a marked increase in production in 2007, with much of this increase driven by a greater demand for fish, particularly Pangasius, as an alternative to meat, which had sharp increases in prices. Higher fuel and feed costs as well as the effects of diseases such as Avian Influenza and blue ear disease all contribute to higher broiler and pork prices.

Pangasius, one of the key fish species, is raised intensively in ponds and cages. This fish is in high demand both for the export and local markets. In 2007, a record one million metric ton of Pangasius was produced and the export earnings from this specie was reportedly about \$1 billion; expectations are that this figure could be as high as \$1.2 billion for 2008. It should be noted, however, that during the first two quarters of 2008, farmers increased their production area, against the advice of local authorities, and when faced with lower prices held out, hoping for higher selling prices. This led to an abundance of Pangasius as well as oversized fish. In early June 2008, the government intervened to save fish farmers with financial support to processing companies to buyout the fish from farmers. Thus far, government banks have released more than VND1,000 billion (*about \$60 million*) to help buy fish for the export market from Mekong River Delta provinces such as An Giang, Dong Thap, Vinh Long, Can Tho, Tien Giang and Ben Tre.

Brackish-water culture

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, (MARD) on January 25, 2008, promulgated Directive No. 228/CT-BNN on the development of white vanamae prawn culture. Reportedly white vanamaes have a shorter production time, lower costs and better environment adaptation than black tiger prawns. With advanced technology, white vanamae prawns can reach or surpass the size of black tiger prawns. In accordance with the Directive, Vietnam's southern provinces may raise white vanamae prawns intensively in areas that meet Industry Standard No. 28 TCN 191:2004. This standard is concerned with improving the environment and food safety monitoring. Production trial results have shown common yields for white vanamae of 15-17 metric tons per hectare, with yields sometimes reaching as high as 20 metric tons per hectare. The average yield for black tiger prawns is about 3-4 metric tons per hectare, with the highest yields being around 8-10 metric tons per hectare.

Aquatic feed

Vietnam produced about 1.5 million metric tons (mmt) of fishery feed in 2007 according to trade sources. Total demand for fishery feed was, however, 2.8 to 3.0 mmt, with shrimp feed requiring about 0.43-0.45 mmt of this amount.

Shrimp are generally fed commercially-produced pellets, which are produced locally by such well-known feed manufacturers as Cargill, Uni-President, CP, ANT, Tomboy and Grobest. Trade sources reported that there was also about 15,000 metric tons of shrimp feed imported in 2007, mainly from Thailand and Taiwan. Unlike shrimp feed, a sizeable portion of fish feed is farmers' own home-made production. Of the 2.37-2.55 mmt of fish feed required by the industry, about 1.37-1.45 mmt or 56.9 - 57.8 percent was produced locally by farmers. The key commercial fish feed producers in Vietnam are Cargill, CP and

Proconco; there are also some small fish feed mills in provinces of the Mekong River Delta and elsewhere.

Fishery Processing

Vietnam reportedly has as many as 900 companies or enterprises involved in processing aquatic products, particularly for the export trade. Of this amount some 417 are approved to export their products to the European Union, South Korea, China, Russia, Canada and Switzerland. Vietnam's processing capacity increased significantly in 2007. There were some asymmetrical development issues, however, and an increased amount of aquatic products had to be imported from Japan, Taiwan, Thailand and elsewhere to supplement inputs for the export market. Fishery imports increased 122.7 percent in 2007. Reportedly many seafood processing plants run at less than half their capacity, and several plants in southern and central provinces have had to stop operations for up to nine months a year. It is estimated that at maximum efficiency, Vietnam's fish processing plants could process 4.5 to 5.1 million tons of aquatic products. Given local fishery production still falls below this amount, imports of fishery products from neighboring countries are seen as a way to fully maximize the capacity of processing plants and boost exports. Capacity shortfalls were further exacerbated in June 2008 when about 300 thousand metric tons of Pangasius fish slated for the export market were held up while fish farmers held out for higher prices. (details above under *Freshwater Culture*)

TRADE

Exports

Vietnam's fishery product exports have increased considerably since 2000 to become a major income earner and one of Vietnam's major export commodities. Aquatic exports earned over \$3.76 billion in 2007, an increase of 12.4 percent over 2006 and almost three times more than the \$1 billion in 2000. Catfish and shrimp are by far the largest share of aquatic exports, accounting for 26% and 40%, respectively of total export earnings in 2007. Currently Vietnam exports fishery products to over 75 countries and territories on five continents. Japan and the United States are the two largest single export destinations, while European Union nations, as a group, had the largest share of exports by volume and value in 2007. Exports are projected to reach \$4.25 billion in 2008. Exports of Basa and Pangasius are expected to earn \$1.2 billion in 2008.

Table 9: Vietnam's Fishery Exports by Products

	2005		2006		2007		2008 (Jan-April)	
	Volume (MT)	Value (\$000)	Volume (MT)	Value (\$000)	Volume (MT)	Value (\$000)	Volume (MT)	Value (\$000)
Frozen Shrimp	159,243	1,371,380	158,447	1,460,586	161,267	1,508,959	39,907	350,153
Chilled/Frozen Fish	274,602	687,720	444,709	1,145,086	557,267	1,466,759	210,406	541,554
<i>In which:</i> Cat fish	140,703	328,082	286,600	736,872	386,870	979,036	157,924	367,660
Tuna	29,767	81,173	44,822	117,133	52,842	150,939	14,780	54,352
Frozen Cephalopods	61,956	182,198	69,763	222,190	82,199	282,356	22,060	81,632
Dried Aqua products	35,910	130,300	35,479	142,195	35,366	146,947	8,637	38,987
Others	95,210	367,200	103,112	378,234	88,848	357,645	29,271	117,401
Total	626,921	2,738,798	811,510	3,348,291	924,947	3,762,665	310,281	1,129,727

Source: VASEP

Tra, basa catfish exports

In 2007, Vietnam's exports of Tra and basa catfish earned an estimated \$979 million, an increase of 33 percent over 2006. Local producers have reported significant gains in markets such as the E.U., Ukraine and the ASEAN economies, despite stringent food safety and hygiene requirements. The E.U. remains Vietnam's largest market for catfish exports, accounting for 44.7 percent of exports. The Ukraine is the sixth largest market for Vietnam's catfish exports and it holds great promise for the future. Catfish exports to the Ukraine earned \$39 million in 2007, a 145 percent increase over the previous year. Tra and basa catfish exports for 2008 are expected to reach the \$1 billion mark even with a decrease in the export price from \$2.45 to \$2.41 per kg.

Table 10: Vietnam's Fishery Exports by Destination

Country	2005		2006		2007		2008 (Jan-April)	
	Volume (MT)	Value (\$000)	Volume (MT)	Value (\$000)	Volume (MT)	Value (\$000)	Volume (MT)	Value (\$000)
Japan	127,721	813,334	123,889	842,614	119,194	745,951	37,408	205,377
EU	130,699	436,635	219,967	723,505	279,793	908,040	94,528	304,836
USA	91,643	633,912	98,883	664,340	99,769	720,524	22,537	153,359
Korea	75,469	162,283	84,903	210,319	91,824	273,469	26,715	80,819
ASEAN	48,268	123,233	60,335	150,961	66,866	178,190	21,859	58,423
China	47,519	134,416	48,470	145,573	45,806	152,710	11,476	38,684
Australia	21,757	96,781	24,303	126,493	23,994	120,968	6,529	31,933
Russia	13,130	33,624	58,705	126,393	57,197	119,066	30,144	54,876
Taiwan	34,643	121,678	30,623	99,289	31,216	108,361	8,624	30,186
Others	36,072	182,900	61,432	258,804	109,288	435,385	50,462	171,234
Total	626,921	2,738,798	811,510	3,348,291	924,947	3,762,665	310,281	1,129,727

Source: VASEP

Table 11: Vietnam's Fishery Product Exports to the United States (Unit: \$000)

Product	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 (Jan.-April)
Shrimp	595,012	386,288	443,185	429,780	460,409	119,043
Tuna	31,498	39,242	42,353	44,605	62,280	32,353
Lobster	139	140	0	603	612	351
Ground fish, Fillet/steak	347	0	5	0	6	0
Other edible fish & seafood	103,690	140,187	143,150	176,791	168,758	55,196
Total Fishery Products	730,686	565,858	628,692	651,779	692,066	206,943

Source: BICO, U.S Bureau of the census trade data

Imports

Though Vietnam is a major seafood exporter, it does import a small and growing quantity of fishery products. In 2007, Vietnam's fishery product imports totaled an estimated \$213 million, a 122.7 percent increase over 2006. This significant growth in fishery imports is likely to continue as Vietnam strives to increase its export earnings and improve the efficiency of its processing facilities. The Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Processors (VASEP) would like to see the export industry grow to annual earnings of \$6-8 billion and is concerned that domestic aquatic production will not be sufficient, particularly after results from its recent survey suggest that inshore fish stocks and littoral seafood resources are fast becoming exhausted and offshore fishing capacity is highly inefficient. VASEP would like the government to reduce import tariffs for unprocessed fishery products to at most 0.5 percent, if not zero percent, as is the case for China, Thailand and Malaysia. Import tariffs have been reduced

around 5 percent since 2007 ([VM7043](#)) and currently range from 25 to 28 percent for the most common fishery product imports.

Table 12: Vietnam's Fishery Product Imports from the United States

(\$000)

Product	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 (Jan–April)
Salmon, whole or eviscerated	102	1,091	721	2,500	351	344
Salmon, canned	0	47	12	33	0	0
Crab & crabmeat	117	928	1,138	53	2,443	1,385
Roe & urchin (fish eggs)	0	463	0	460	503	95
Other edible fish & seafood	1,108	1,968	1,294	2,888	4,910	2,084
TOTAL	1,326	4,497	3,164	5,934	8,208	3,908

Source: BICO, U.S Bureau of the census trade data

POLICY

Ministry of Fishery merged into the Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development

In August 2007, the Ministry of Fishery merged into the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD). On January 3, 2008, Decree No. 01/2008/ND-CP was issued outlining the new functions, tasks, powers and organizational structure of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. MARD is the government agency responsible for the management of agriculture, plant protection, animal health, food quality, forestry, salt-making, fisheries, irrigation and rural development. The former National Fisheries Quality Assurance and Veterinary Directorate (NAFIQAVED) under the Ministry of Fishery is now merged into a new department – Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fishery Quality Assurance (DAFFQA) under MARD.

New laws call for more efficient fishery processing and safer production practices

On November 1, 2007 Deputy Prime Minister Hoang Trung Hai approved circular 1626/TTg-NN which recommends steps to be taken over the next few years to improve Vietnam's fish processing industry. The circular calls for import tariff rates for fishery products to be lowered. Imported fishery products are becoming more and more necessary to help Vietnam meet its export targets and also maximize its processing capacity. Reference was also made to better enforcement of guidelines No.37/2005/CT-TTg and No. 06/2007/CT/TTg which cover the use of antibiotics and chemical substances in the production process. These guidelines list standards for food safety and hygiene in the fish farming industry.

United States and Vietnam to further cooperation on food safety of aquatic products

The United States and Vietnam signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in June 2008 to further cooperation on food/feed safety and public health. Under this agreement both parties agree to, among other things, share information relevant to emerging product safety issues, food-borne illnesses and food contamination of imported or exported goods. Updated information on drugs approved by HHS/FDA for use in aquaculture will also be provided, as will information relevant to training opportunities related to food, animal feed and medical products, including post-market surveillance updates for products already in use. It is hoped that this cooperation will promote public health and help to ensure that products exported from either country are safe and meet applicable national and international standards.