

No.: /QĐ-BNNMT

Hanoi, 2026

DECISION

Regarding the approval of Annual Plans for inspection and control of Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) originating from fishing activities that are imported, temporarily imported, re-exported and transited through Vietnam by container vessels

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Pursuant to Decree No. 35/2025/NĐ-CP dated 25 February 2025 of the Government defining the functions, tasks, powers and organizational structure of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment;

Pursuant to Decree No. 41/2026/NĐ-CP dated 25 January 2026 of the Government detailing a number of articles and measures for implementation of the Law on Fisheries;

Pursuant to Decision No. 1516/QĐ-TTg dated 10 August 2026 of the Prime Minister promulgating the Action Plan for implementing measures to address the recommendations made by the European Commission during its fifth inspection on combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;

At the request of the Director General of Department of Fisheries and Surveillance.

DECIDE:

Article 1. Promulgating under this Decision the “Annual Plans for inspection and control of Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) originating from catches that are imported, temporarily imported, re-exported and transited through Vietnam by container vessels”.

Article 2. Based on the plan approved in Article 1, the Department of Fisheries and Surveillance is responsible for submitting to the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment for approval the task plan and detailed estimates to implement this Plan.

Article 3. Assign the Department of Fisheries and Surveillance to organize the implementation of the Plan and report to the Ministry on implementation results according to regulations.

Article 4. This Decision shall take effect 30 days from the date of its signing and promulgation..

Article 5. The Chief of the Ministry Office, the Director General of the Department of Fisheries and Surveillance, the heads of relevant organizations and individuals are responsible for the implementation of this Decision./.

Recipients

- As Article 4;
- Minister (to report);
- General Department of Customs;
- Departments: DFS; NAFIQPM;
- Department of Agriculture and Environment of provinces and cities;
- Electronic information portal of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment;
- Saved: VT, TSKN (KTTS).

ON BEHALF OF MINISTER

DEPUTY MINISTER

Vo Van Hung

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
ENVIRONMENT **Independence – Freedom – Happiness**

**Annual Plans for inspection and control of Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*)
originating from catches that are imported, temporarily imported, re-
exported and transited through Vietnam by container vessels**

*((Issued together with Decision No. /QD-BNNMT dated ... month ... 202 of
the Minister of Agriculture and Environment))*

I. PURPOSE AND REQUIREMENTS

1. Purpose

- Fulfill international cooperation obligations in strengthening management and conservation measures for species under the management competence of regional fisheries management organizations through controlling the legality of Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) is subject to the management of these organizations according to international conventions and agreements that Vietnam participated in and committed to implement¹ that are caught and imported, temporarily imported, re-exported and transited through Vietnam by container vessels and import, temporary import, re-export, border-gate transfer, and transit through Vietnam by container vessels.

- Implement international commitments to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing².

2. Requirements

- Conduct inspection and control methods for bigeye tuna by container vessels according to regulations³ for imported consignments of exploited fish and fisheries products.

- Ensure effective coordination between agencies in performing the task of inspection and control of Bigeye tuna originating from catches that are imported, temporarily imported, re-exported and transited through Vietnam by container vessels.

II. CONTENT

¹ Including: United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea dated December 10, 1982; Convention on the Conservation and Management of Migratory Fish Stocks in the Central and Western Pacific Region WCPFC; Agreement to implement the provisions of the United Nations Fish stocks Agreement.

² FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, International Plan of Action to combat IUU Fishing, FAO Port State Measures Agreement

³ Inspection and control methods: According to Clause 1, Clause 2, Article 70a, Decree No. 37/2024/ND-CP dated April 4, 2024 amending and supplementing Decree No. 26/2019/ND-CP of the Government on detailed regulations Some articles and measures to implement the Fisheries Law.

1. Identify subjects of inspection and control

- Subject: bigeye tuna originating from fishing activities imported into Vietnam by container vessels under the following commodity codes specified in Circular No. 31/2022/TT-BTC dated 8 June 2022 of the Minister of Finance, specifically:

+ Commodity code: 0302.34.00; Description of goods: Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*)

+ Commodity code: 0303.44.00; Description of goods: Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*)

- Responsible agency: Department of Fisheries and Surveillance.

- Coordinating Agencies: Department of Customs; National Authority for Agro-Forestry-Fishery Quality, Processing and Market Development.

- Implementation time: regularly.

2. Receipt of dossiers for consignments arriving at the port

At least 48 hours prior to the arrival of the consignment at the port (except for sample consignments weighing less than 50 kg, which are not intended for commercial purposes and are not placed on the market), organizations and individuals importing fish and fishery products derived from fishing activities into Vietnam by container vessel shall submit a declaration and the relevant dossier to the competent authority of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment for assessment and verification of the origin of the imported fishery raw materials to ensure that they have not been obtained through illegal fishing activities, and for the purposes of inspection.

a) The declaration dossier shall include:

- Information on the consignment according to Form No. 22 Appendix II issued with Decree No. 41/2026/ND-CP dated January 25, 2026.

- A copy of bill of lading with regard to imported aquatic species and products thereof originating from catches.

- Catch Certificate issued by a competent authority of the exporting country or Document confirming or certifying that fisheries and fisheries products originating from fishing activities issued by a competent authority of the exporting country for the consignment.

- If Catch Certificate issued by a competent authority of the exporting country or Document confirming or certifying that fish and fishery products originating from fishing activities issued by a competent authority of the exporting country for the consignment is not available, a copy of the fishing license and Captain's statement of the fishing vessel must be submitted.

The Captain's statement shall contain pieces of information about the fishing vessel of fisheries and fisheries products imported into Vietnam,

including: Vessel name, Vessel registration number (IMO/international call sign/hull markings/registration number of RFMO (if any), the flag state, number of the fishing license, type of fishing gears, fishing time and fishing area; date and place of first landing of vessel which confirms that aquatic species are caught according to applicable regulations and management and conservation measures. The Captain's statement shall bear signature of the captain of the fishing vessel.

b) Implementation organization

- Responsible agency: Department of Fisheries and Surveillance.
- Coordinating Agencies: Department of Customs; National Authority for Agro-Forestry-Fishery Quality, Processing and Market Development.
- Implementation time: regularly.

3. Consolidate declared information; Verify consignment's application; Notify the verification results

a) Consolidate declared information

Consolidate declared information provided by the organization/individual to serve inspection after import and related to IUU Regulation

b) Verify consignment's dossier

- Conduct verification of the declaration dossier for the origin of fishery raw materials for each consignment of bigeye tuna.
- The verification shall include: checking the validity and legality of the information and declaration dossier submitted by the consignment owner in accordance with Clause 1, Article 51 of Decree No. 41/2026/ND-CP dated 25 January 2026; and cross-checking such information against the catch quotas of each country and fishing area, as well as the species authorized to be caught, in accordance with applicable regulations (where such information is available).

c) Notification of the verification results of the consignment dossier

- In cases where the declared information and dossier meet the requirements, the fisheries management authority under the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment shall issue a notification to the consignment owner within a maximum of 48 hours from the time of receipt of a complete and valid declaration dossier, and concurrently send the notification to the Customs authority for coordination in completing the import customs clearance procedures, using Form No. 23.KT in Appendix II to Decree No. 41/2026/ND-CP dated 25 January 2026.

- In cases where there are indications that the imported fish and fishery products were illegally, unreported or unregulated (IUU) harvested or transshipped, based on the information and declaration dossier submitted at the time of importation, the fisheries management authority under the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment shall notify the consignment owner and conduct a

physical inspection of the fish and fishery products in the container to inspect the actual consignment.

d) Implementation organization

- Responsible agency: Department of Fisheries and Surveillance.
- Coordinating Agencies: Department of Customs; National Authority for Agro-Forestry-Fishery Quality, Processing and Market Development.
- Implementation time: regularly.

4. Physical inspection

a) Conduct physical inspection

- In cases where there are indications, based on the information and declaration dossier submitted at the time of importation, that the imported fish and fishery products were illegally, unreported or unregulated (IUU) harvested or transshipped, the fisheries management authority under the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment shall notify the consignment owner and assign an inspector who meets the requirements specified in Clause 10, Article 50 of Decree No. 41/2026/ND-CP dated 25 January 2026 to coordinate with the Customs authority in conducting a physical inspection of the fish and fishery products in the container, inspecting the actual consignment, and completing the Inspection Report using Form No. 24.KT in Appendix II to Decree No. 41/2026/ND-CP dated 25 January 2026.

In case where species composition cannot be determined, the sampling shall be conducted to serve inspection.

b) Handling of inspection results

In cases where the results of the physical inspection reveal that the imported fish and fishery products: was harvested by a vessel included in an illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing list maintained by the flag State of the vessel, the competent coastal State, or a regional fisheries management organization (RFMO); or was harvested, transported, or transshipped by a vessel without a fishing license, or with an invalid or non-effective license, in violation of the regulations of the flag State of the vessel or the competent coastal State; or was harvested, transported, or transshipped by a vessel without a fishing license, or with an invalid or non-effective license, in waters under the jurisdiction of a regional fisheries management organization (RFMO); or there is evidence that the fish and fishery products on board the vessel were harvested in excess of the catch quota for the relevant species established by the coastal State or a regional fisheries management organization (RFMO); or there is evidence that the fish and fishery products on board the vessel were harvested in violation of the regulations of the competent coastal State, or in violation of conservation and management measures applicable in waters under the jurisdiction of a regional fisheries management organization (RFMO); or there is evidence establishing that the vessel engaged in or

supported illegal fishing as provided for in Article 60 of the Law on Fisheries, the competent authority shall notify the cargo owner and concurrently notify the Customs authority to handle the consignment in accordance with the law, using Form No. 23.KT in Appendix II to Decree No. 41/2026/ND-CP dated 25 January 2026.

In cases where the results of the physical inspection meet the requirements, the competent authority shall notify the consignment owner and the Customs authority to proceed with customs clearance procedures for the imported consignment in accordance with the law.

c) Implementation organization

- Responsible agency: Department of Fisheries and Surveillance.
- Coordinating Agencies: Department of Customs; National Authority for Agro-Forestry-Fishery Quality, Processing and Market Development.
- Implementation time: regularly.

III. ORGANIZATION OF IMPLEMENTATION

1. The Department of Fisheries and Surveillance shall take the lead and coordinate with the Department of Customs, the National Authority for Agro-Forestry-Fishery Quality, Processing and Market Development, and relevant agencies and units in implementing this Plan; and shall consolidate and report to the Ministry on the implementation status and results.

2. During the implementation of this Plan, any difficulties or obstacles arising shall be promptly reported to the Ministry (through the Department of Fisheries and Surveillance) for consolidation and submission to the Ministry for consideration and appropriate amendment, adjustment, or supplementation./.
