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Vietnam targets EU lifting fishing yellow card in October



VIET NAM

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The government has requested fiercer solutions to prevent fishermen from operating illegally in foreign waters, to overturn the EU yellow card barrier to seafood exports.

Deputy Prime Minister Tran Luu Quang ordered that coastal provinces and cities immediately set up their own fisheries surveillance task forces to coordinate with the Ministry of Defense to prevent fishing vessels from violating the waters outside Vietnam's territory, according to a statement by the Government Office on July 8.

The process of imposing the “yellow card”



October 23, 2017



The European Commission issued a “yellow card” warning to Vietnam and gave nine recommendations for Vietnam to implement towards the removal of the card.

May 2018

An EC delegation came to Vietnam for the first phase of inspection

November 2019

An EC delegation paid the second visit to Vietnam for inspection, reduced to four groups of recommendations including: legal framework; monitoring, inspecting and controlling fishing boat activities and fleet management; certification of output and traceability of aquatic products from capture; and law enforcement.



From 2020 to present

Due to the COVID-19 epidemic, the EC was unable to visit Vietnam for a direct inspection. The Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development regularly updated and reported to the EC on the results of the implementation of four groups of EC recommendations.

The EC and the Directorate of Fisheries are scheduled to have an online meeting on October 27.

Source: special.nhandan.vn

He tasked the Ministry of Public Security with tracking down all brokers who help bring Vietnamese fishing boats and fishermen to operate in disallowed areas.

He ordered agencies and coastal localities to carefully prepare plans and contents for working with the inspection delegation of the **European Commission (EC)**, the executive of the 28-nation EU expected to visit Vietnam in October.

The target is for the EC to remove the illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing yellow card issued to Vietnam's fisheries sector by that time.

The EC applied a yellow card warning on seafood from Vietnam in October 2017 after a number of Vietnamese fishing vessels were caught trespassing in neighboring waters.

The commission subsequently informed member countries about Vietnam's failure to meet requirements for preventing IUU fishing.



Tran Luu Quang
Deputy Prime Minister
Vietnam

Vietnam's fisheries exports have since been subject to intense scrutiny, with all seafood containers inspected in a process that could take three to four weeks and cost 500 euros (\$633) per container. A rejected container can cost an exporter nearly \$12,000, and the risk of rejection is high.

<-- Source: special.nhandan.vn

The EC had initially stated it would remove the yellow card in June 2018 and later said it would consider doing so in January 2020, but nothing has happened to date.

The **Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers (VASEP)** said earlier that if Vietnam still cannot improve its legal and administrative frameworks to fight illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, it could face a "red card," meaning a trade ban on fishery products, VASEP said.

Fisheries is the fifth-largest export category in Vietnam and accounts for 4% of total exports. Its value in recent years came to around \$8.5-9 billion.

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