



Food and Agriculture Organisation
Of the United Nations
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Wädenswil, June 28, 2016

Concerns about Food Security in Vietnam

Dear Madams,
Dear Sirs,

We bring to your attention serious concerns about a serious food security threat in Vietnam.

Late last month (May) we received a request for support from a group of NGOs from Vietnam who reported a massive fish die-off along the country's central coastal provinces of Ha Tinh, Quang Tri, Quang Binh and Hue. The estimated weight of the mass-die off has been reported to be about 100 tons. This may be only the tip of the iceberg. Divers have reported that significant layers of dead or dying fish below the sea surface, which are not included in the estimate.

It would appear that some unethical people have been trading the fish from the die-off, as our contact tells us that the fish have been collected to produce the region's famous fish sauce. We are deeply concerned about a serious food safety problem in this practice and have reached out to the World Health Organisation about this. We are told that the Government of Vietnam has not issued a health warning regarding consuming dead fish. It appears they have only communicated their investigation into the reason for the mass die-off, for which there are several theories – among them toxic algae bloom or pollution from the Formosa Steel plant.

We urge the FAO to investigate the reason for the mass fish die-off and if it concludes the disaster is the wastewater from the Formosa Steel plant, to provide support to facilitate a modernization of it to prevent future discharge of contaminated water into the sea.



I refer you to the following four news articles for further information:

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/apr/21/vietnam-investigates-mass-fish-deaths-pollution>
2. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-36181575>
3. <https://news.mongabay.com/2016/05/taiwanese-chemical-spill-thought-cause-mass-fish-die-off-vietnam/>
4. <http://atimes.com/2016/05/vietnams-mass-fish-kill-isnt-simply-an-environmental-disaster/>

I would be pleased to forward the information from the Vietnamese NGOs if you would like this as well.

I thank you for your time and dedication in achieving Food Security for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sigrid Lueber". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Sigrid Lueber
President OceanCare