



Minister Trần Hồng Hà  
Bộ Tài nguyên và Môi trường (Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment)  
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Wädenswil, June 29, 2016

### **Concerns about food safety in Vietnam**

Dear Minister Trần Hồng Hà

We wish to bring to your attention our serious concerns about a serious food safety problem relating to a fish-die off in Vietnam's marine environment.

Late last month (May) we received a request for support from a group of Vietnamese NGOs who were concerned about the massive fish die-off in the central coastal provinces of Ha Tinh, Quang Tri, Quang Binh and Hue. Through media reports we have ascertained that weight of the mass-die off has been in excess of 100 tons, and may never be fully calculated when considering that divers have reported significant layers of dead or dying fish below the sea surface, which are not included in the estimate.

We are deeply concerned that some Vietnamese citizens have been trading with the fish from the die-off, we think to produce the region's famous fish sauce.

We are grateful to hear that the Government is investigating the reason for the mass die-off, for which we know there are several theories – among them toxic algae bloom or pollution from the Formosa Steel plant – but we are concerned that some regions may not have heard that that could be serious risks of consuming the dead fish.



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/>

Are you able to share with us the steps that the Government in taking to investigate the mass-die off and also what communication has been circulated to affected communities? I am sure that if we can pass this information along, our NGO colleagues will be most grateful.

I would also like to ask if the Formosa Steel plant is found to be implicated in the mass-die off, what will be the Vietnamese Government's actions?

I thank you for your time and dedication for the health of Vietnamese citizens.

Sincerely,

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

Sigrid Lueber  
President OceanCare