



WESTPAC Programme/ Project/Working Group

Marine Toxins and Seafood safety

Dao Viet Ha

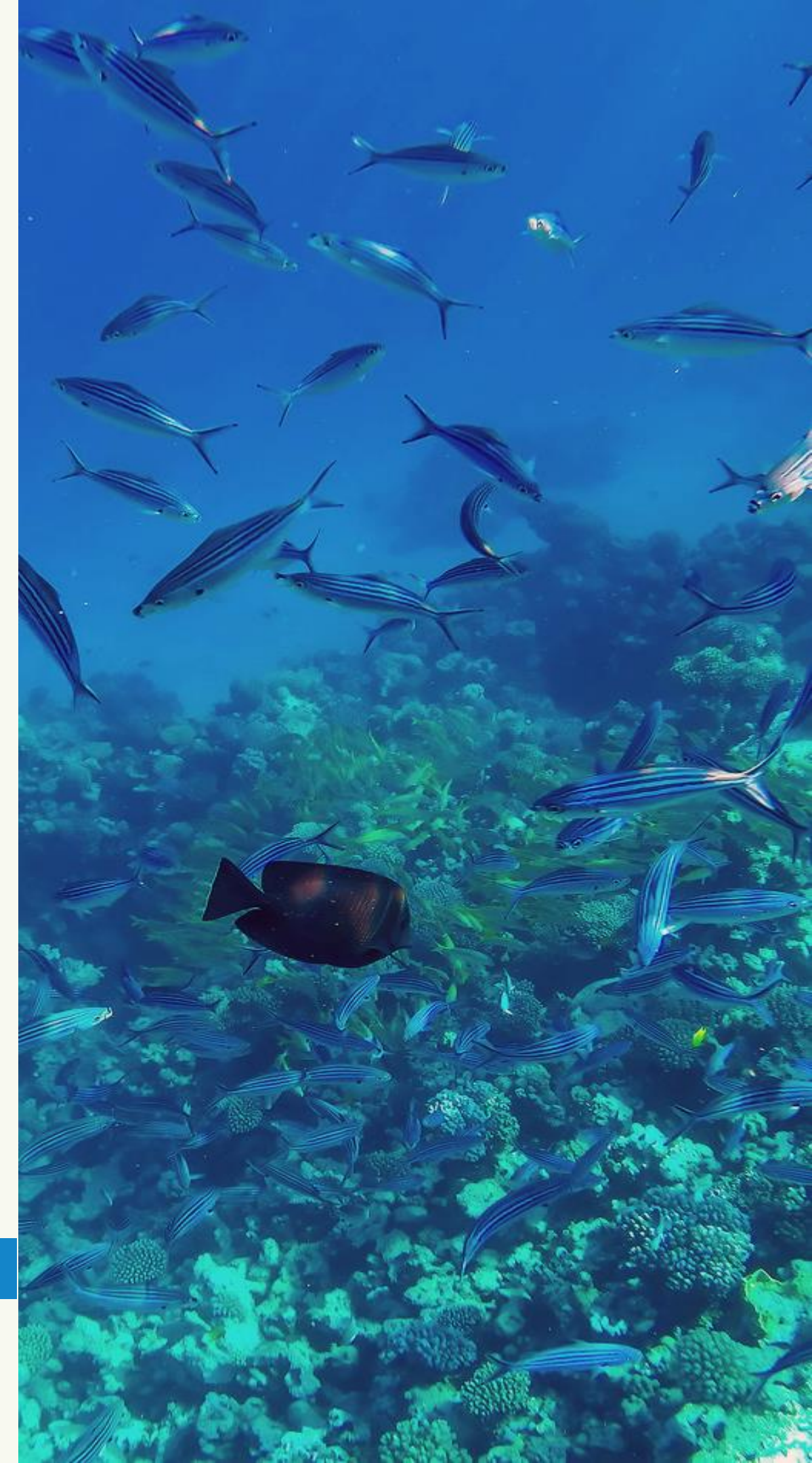
Institute of Oceanography, VAST, Viet Nam



Summary Outline



1. Justification
2. Objectives
3. Major activities, outputs & outcomes (particular those accomplished during 2023-2024)
4. Problems encountered and recommended actions
5. Strategic considerations/thoughts for future development
6. Potential action plans for 2025-2026 and beyond



➤ CHALLENGES

- Expanding of seafood poisonings in the region, incl. unknown/new toxins;
- Almost of all member states have not enough capacity and human resource to identify causative toxins (excepted Japan, HongKong-China and Viet Nam);
- Need of updating on occurrence of marine toxins in the region for strategy to minimize their risk to the public health.

2. Objectives



➤ GENERAL OBJECTIVE

To address need from WESTPAC member states for better understanding on occurrence of marine toxins related to seafood poisoning in the region to serve a strategy on seafood security to minimize the risk of seafood poisoning to the public health.

Objective Assessment of regional status on occurrence of marine toxins related to seafood poisonings

3. Major activities, outputs & outcomes



Latest accomplishment, particular those during 2023 to 2024

Major activities

- Activity 1. Screening on CTX and TTX in common marine animals in VN and others member states (if possible)
- Activity 2. CTX and TTX distribution in marine ecological system
- Activity 3. Identification of causative species and responsible toxin implicated to seafood poisonings (if there is)

Outputs & Outcomes

- Output 1. Specimen collection of potential toxic species (gastropod, crab/horseshoe crab and fish)
- Output 2. Scientific publications, media news, website information on occurrence of marine toxins related to seafood poisoning
- Output 3. Implicated species and toxin (s) causing seafood poisonings

Timeframe

Project start year: 2024

4. Problems encountered & recommended actions



Problems encountered

- Problem 1. Lack of personal resource, who are interested on topic in some member states;
- Problem 2. Not enough attention from local government;
- Problem 3. short-term project with limited budget

Timeframe

Project start year: 2024

Actions

- Action 1. Seeking for active persons from member states (now Korea and HongKong China joined;
- Action 2. Trying to get involvement from stakeholders (depended on member states);
- Action 3. Trying to use budget from states' gov. under umbrella of national scientific project (VN succussed, HK is trying)

5. Strategic considerations/thoughts for future development



- 1: Mapping on occurrence of marine toxins related to seafood poisoning in the region;
- 2: Strengthened regional net work on marine toxins and seafood safety by service and share working environment using RTRC in Viet Nam.

6. Potential action plans for future implementation

for the period of 2025-2026 and beyond



1. Accumulate data on occurrence of marine toxins in the region for mapping;
2. Co-research on “hot pot” area to have better understanding on marine toxins origin and mechanism to accumulate in ecological system

Planned activities



Program	Plan				Funding Required		Remark
	Activities	Objectives	Expected outputs/outcomes	Date and place	IOC	Other sources (i.e. from national or international)	
	1. Co-field survey	To collect potential toxic organisms	Specimen collection	April 2025, Viet Nam	30 K USD	10 K from IO, VN	
	2. Co-analysis on target toxins (CTX, TTX) in specimens	To collect data on toxin occurrence/distribution	Data on toxin and toxicity on specimens	Sep 2025-April 2026	20K USD	20 K USD from IO, VN	



Thank You

Dao Viet Ha



+ 84 3590035



daovietha69@gmail.com



<http://www.vnio.org.vn>

