

# **STRENGTHENING ROLE OF FISHERMEN IN SUSTAINABLE AND RESPONSIBLE MARINE FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT IN VIETNAM**

**Nguyen Chu Hoi, Cao Le Quyen, Do Song Hao**

## **Summary**

With the socio-economic research application, this paper analyses the typical attributes of Vietnam fishermen communities in terms of development, tradition, capture gears, technical capacity, incomes and living conditions, marine fishing grounds. The research results show that fishermen's communities in Vietnam have a long history of marine fishing and played an important role in and contributed significantly to fisheries sector development in the past 60 years, as well as together with Vietnam's nation in island and marine sovereignty protection. However, they are facing new requirements of restructuring the marine fisheries sector towards more responsible and sustainable fisheries development, as well as the challenges in marine living resource protection such as low living conditions and incomes, over-fishing capacity, and low technical application. The role and position of the fishermen's communities have shown several inadequacies which have influenced their important role and contributions to both sustainable marine economic development and national island and marine sovereignty protection. Based on that, some feasible measures to improve their role and position have been proposed, emphasizing: (i) professional marine fishermen and associated laborers and (ii) their civil presence in Vietnam marine waters and islands to affirm and protect national island and marine rights and benefits of Vietnam in the Bien Dong sea.

**Keywords:** *Fishermen, associated labor, sustainable fisheries, responsible fisheries, civil presence.*