VIETNAM ASSOCIATION OF SEAFOOD EXPORTERS AND PRODUCERS (VASEP)

No: 231/CV-VASEP

Re: Strengthening the fight against IUU fishing and accompanying the Government in lifting the EC's IUU Yellow Card

THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM Independence – Freedom – Happiness

Ho Chi Minh City, 12 December, 2025

To: VASEP Member Seafood Enterprises

The Government, the Prime Minister, and the National Steering Committee for Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU Steering Committee) have identified the removal of the European Commission's (EC) IUU Yellow Card as a top political priority, which directly affects the nation's reputation, national interests, and the future of Viet Nam's seafood exports. The entire political system must take resolute action and firmly combat IUU fishing with a high sense of responsibility, strong determination, great effort, and decisive measures. These directives and this spirit have been consistently conveyed at meetings chaired by the Prime Minister and the IUU Steering Committee over the past three consecutive months, held every Tuesday afternoon.

Continuing the spirit of active partnership with the Government, the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, and local authorities in combating IUU fishing and addressing the EC yellow card, VASEP highly appreciates the efforts, commitments, and compliance of its member seafood enterprises with all relevant legal regulations on combating IUU fishing over the past years. VASEP hereby requests that enterprises continue to maintain and further strengthen efforts to combat IUU fishing in the procurement of raw materials, processing, and export of seafood to the EU and other markets with similar requirements:

- 1. To communicate and fully disseminate all requirements and regulations on combating IUU fishing to factory staff and workers, fishers, and all stakeholders across the company's seafood raw material supply chain;
- 2. To strictly implement inspection and verification of full compliance for each batch of raw materials purchased and each batch of finished products intended for export; to refrain from purchasing, receiving, processing, or exporting any seafood raw materials that have been verified as being associated with IUU fishing violations;
- 3. To regularly update and closely follow directives and instructions of the Prime Minister, the IUU Steering Committee, the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, and relevant local authorities concerning the fight against IUU fishing, the removal of the EC yellow card, the improvement of sustainable fisheries development, and the livelihoods of coastal fishers;
- 4. To proactively cooperate with competent authorities in response to inspection requests, including the provision of dossiers, documents, and evidentiary images, in support of explanations to the European Commission (EC) and the clarification of related information.

The effective, full, and timely compliance actions of enterprises constitute clear evidence of their alignment and close coordination with the Government and the IUU Steering Committee, and will make an important contribution to the removal of the EC's IUU Yellow Card, the safeguarding of the EU market, and the maintenance of the sustainable development of Viet Nam's fisheries sector.

Sincerely.

FOR THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY OF VASEP

Recipients:

- As above;
- Standing Committee of the Association;Executive Committee and Inspection Committee of the Association;
- VASEP Representative Office in Ha Noi;Filed at the VASEP Office.

Nguyen Hoai Nam