

Danang invests in marine infrastructure projects

"The Vietnam Investment Review" has reported that several marine infrastructure projects with investment capital estimated at US\$54 million are planned by Danang People's Committee in an effort to tap the abundant coastal resources of Quang Nam-Danang province.

Of the 12 approved projects, eight are to be implemented on the Son Tra peninsula, including a fishing boat shelter, a lighthouse, a fishing port and a fish market in Tho Quang village complete with approach roads planned along the coast in Tlen Sa, Bai Bac and Suoi Da.

According to officials from the provincial department of fisheries, the projects aim to promote fisheries and the seafood processing industry, and attract investment in marine tourism.

Danang city authorities have set a target to produce 60,000 tonnes of seafood a year from now to 2010, with a year-on-year value increase of 6.6 per cent and a total export value of US\$120

million. Officials said investment capital would come from loans under the national program for marine resources development, Japanese ODA, the state budget and other sources.

In related news, Danang city authorities recently had good news for hundreds of fishing boats that may founder in rough seas during coming



storm seasons, reports "The Vietnam investment Review".

Construction work will start in early April on an immense storm shelter for fishing boats of the city and neighbouring areas.

The shelter, built by the Danang City Fisheries Department, will be built in an area of two million square metres in Tho Quang ward, Son Tra district in Danang with an investment capital of US\$4.4 million. It is able to provide good shelter for 800 fishing boats in times of rough seas and 1,500 boats in normal weather, according to project officials.

The city authorities are currently appraising the size of compensation for 120 households whose houses, gardens and shrimp and clam farms are to be cleared to provide land for construction of the long-expected shelter.

Officials said they expected the construction work to be completed before the annual rough sea season commences during September or October.

China's fishing fleet facing massive reduction

More than 250,000 Chinese fishermen are to lose their jobs over the next five years following the discovery that officials were trying to disguise a sharp drop in marine stocks resulting from overfishing.

While it is unknown how much the Chinese catch was inflated by harbour

officials, one study by Canadian scientists estimates that the reported catch was double the maximum fish population in parts of the ocean.

With the waters stretching from the Yellow Sea to the South China Sea now yielding far fewer fish than Beijing had

been led to believe, the Chinese Government has drawn a plan to remove 30,000 boats from the fishing fleet by the end of 2006.

The move marks the end of almost two decades of expansion for the fishing industry.

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