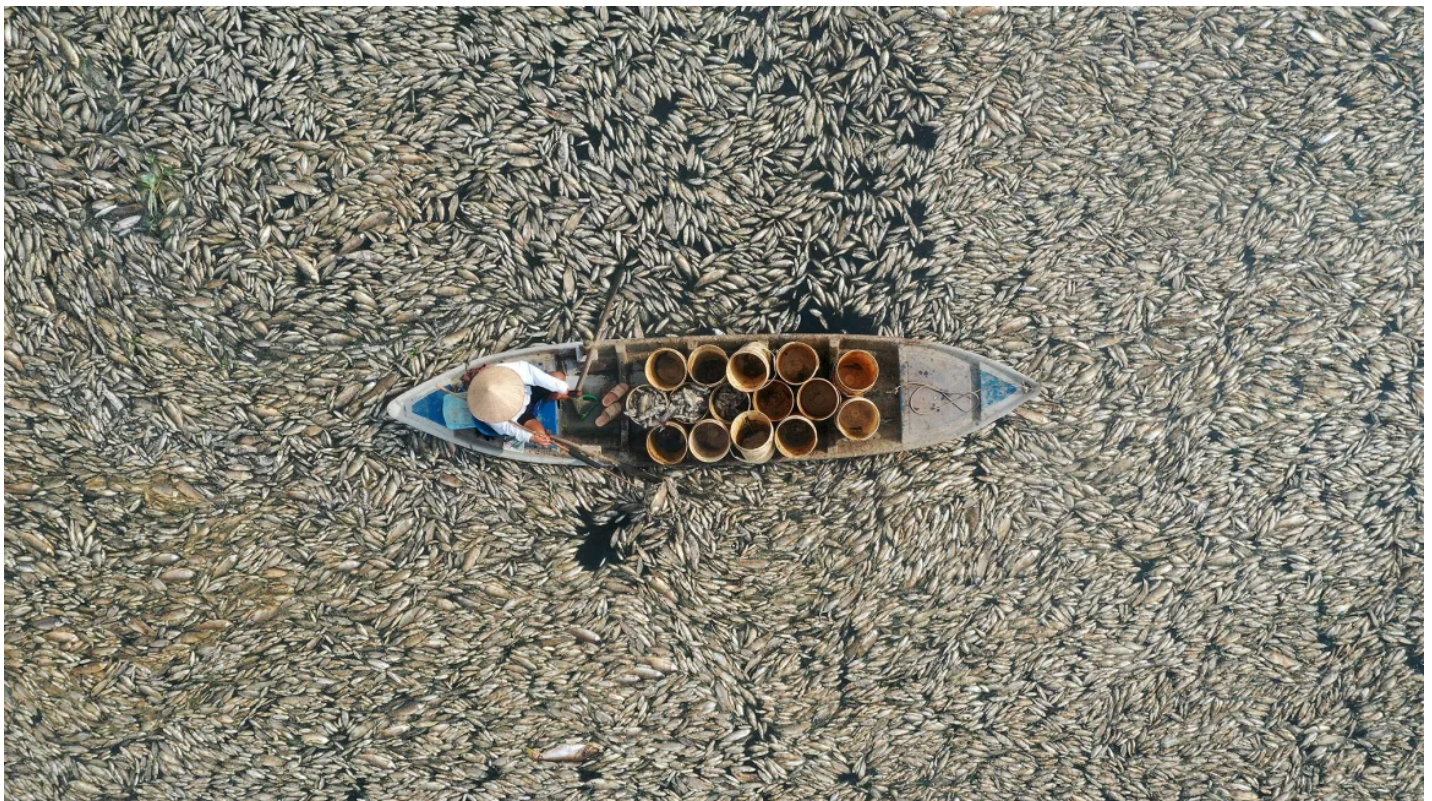


Hundreds of thousands of fish die off in Vietnam as heatwave roasts Southeast Asia

By Amarachi Orie, CNN

🕒 2 minute read · Updated 11:00 PM EDT, Thu May 2, 2024



The numerous dead fish in a reservoir in southern Vietnam could amount to 200 tons, according to local media. AFP/Getty Images

Community members and local media are blaming the drought, heatwave and problems with the reservoir's management as contributing factors.



A cluster of dried, perished fish from Song May reservoir. AFP/Getty Images

Recent photos show fish layered on top of one another, muddied, dry and disintegrated.

The water in the lake was reportedly too low for the animals to survive as there has been no

The water in the lake was reportedly too low for the animals to survive as there has been no rainfall for weeks, according to AFP.

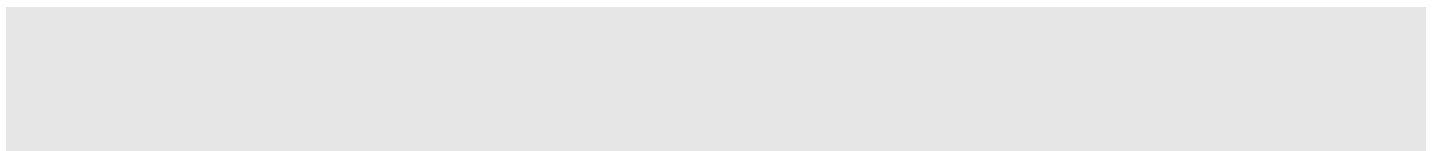
Nghia, a resident from the province's Trang Bom district, told AFP that the fish "died for lack of water," adding: "Our life has been turned upside down over the past 10 days because of the smell."

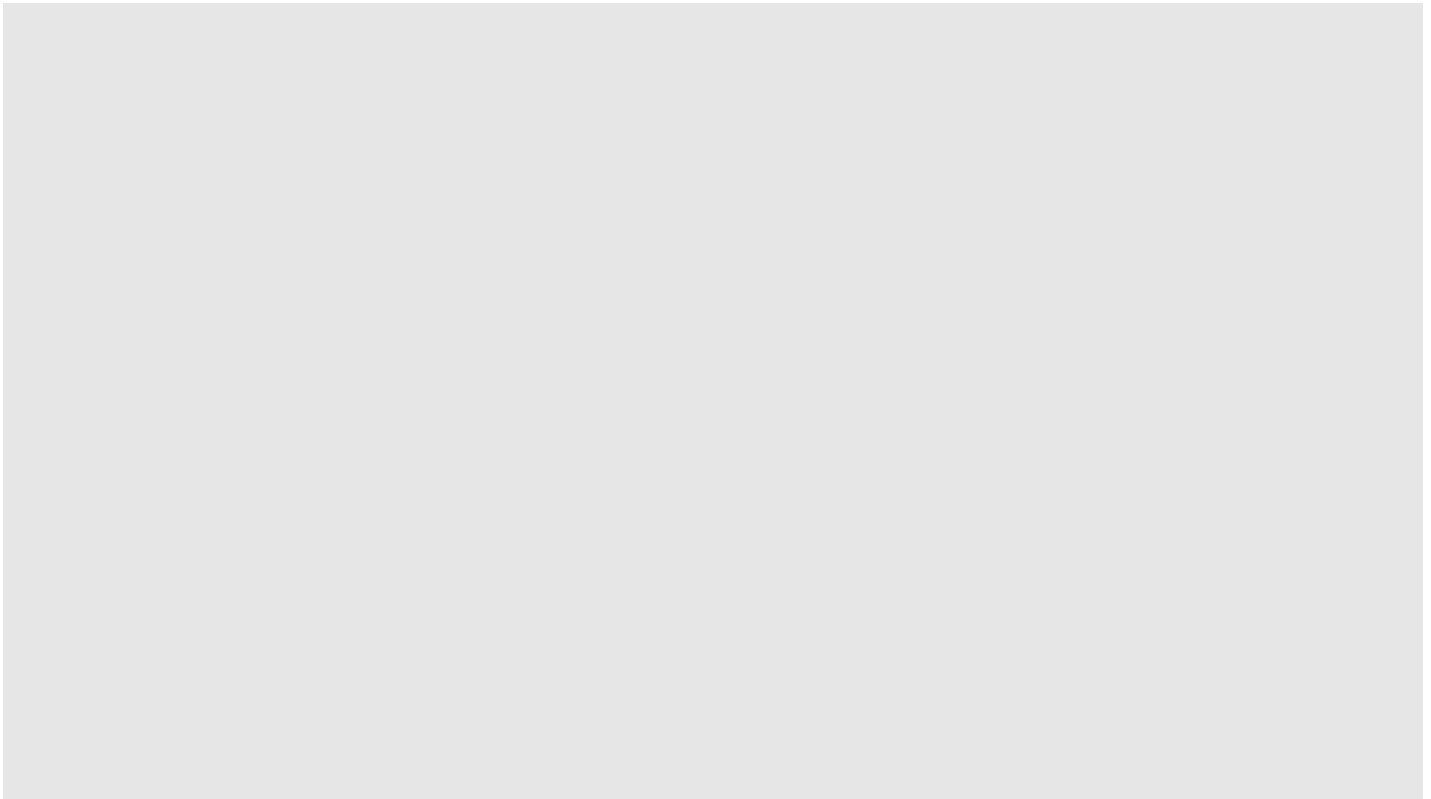


A fisherman in a boat with buckets holds up a fishing net to collect dead fish. AFP/Getty Images

Even with numerous buckets and nets, removing all the fish appears to be almost an insurmountable task.

Local media has suggested that as many as 200 tons' worth perished after a failed attempt to renovate the reservoir, according to AFP.

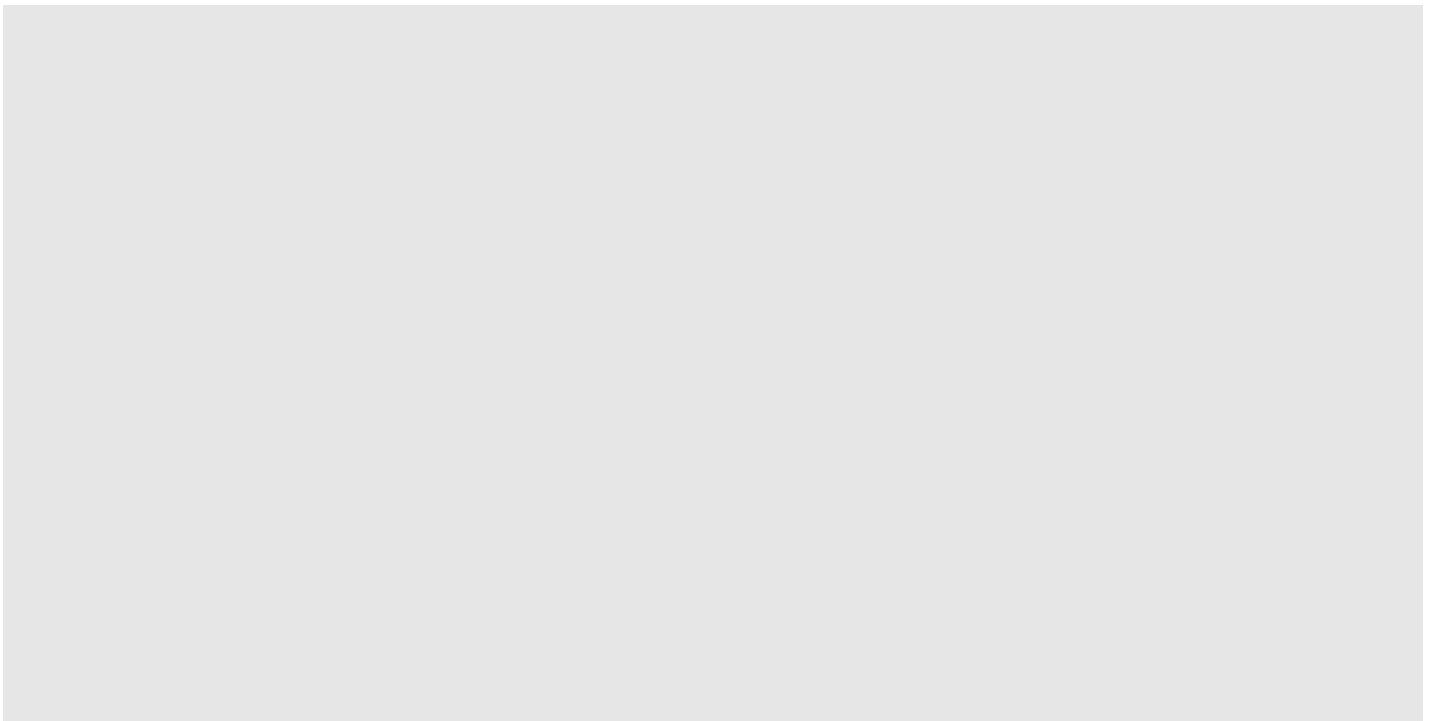




The dried-up Song May reservoir bed. AFP/Getty Images

In images, the reservoir bed can be seen visibly dried up, cracked and muddied, with the clustered dead fish floating in the remaining water.

Nghia told AFP that the effort to renovate the reservoir included a pump being brought in to remove mud so that the fish would have more space to move.



A fisherman deep in the reservoir collecting the dead fish surrounding him. AFP/Getty Images

The reservoir provides water for crops in the Trang Bom and Vinh Cuu districts, and its management had previously discharged water from it in an attempt to save crops downstream, Nghia said.

Tuoi Tre newspaper reported that extra water initially planned to be released into the reservoir for the fish was instead diverted downstream because of the “unrelenting heatwave,” according to AFP.

Authorities are investigating the mass die-off as efforts continue to remove the dead fish, AFP said.

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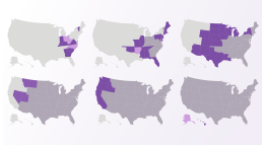


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