

**Friend of the Sea has opened a public consultation period for the FOS-Aqua Inland-Marine Standard v.4, Fish Welfare Standards, FOS-Audit Guidance for Aquaculture Inland-Marine Standard and FOS-Audit Guidance for Fish Welfare Standards.**

Stakeholders are invited to share their inputs into this revision process. So, if you are interested to share your insight and knowledge, please see below the proposed scope and objectives of this revision process, justification of the need for the standard, guidance on comments and suggestions, timelines and decision making procedure.

***Proposed scope***

As part of a continuous alignment process, Friend of the Sea revised its sustainability criteria and requirements regarding the management of sustainable aquaculture farms. Aiming improvements, a draft version of **FOS-Aqua Inland-Marine Standard v.4** has been elaborated by either strengthening some of the requirements already included in the previous version and addressing a number of new and relevant issues. The previous version of **the FOS-Aqua Inland and FOS-Aqua Marine standards have been merged** in a unique standard. As part of this revision, the standard and its audit guidance have been updated to improve consistency in the audit process of management of the aquaculture system; location of the site; infrastructures; seeds, feeding; GMO and growth hormones; disease prevention and use of veterinary drugs and chemicals; management of water and wastewaters; hazardous substances; energy management; social accountability; legal compliance; risk assessment and waste management.

In addition, Friend of the Sea has developed 24 species-specific standards for Fish Welfare in aquaculture, plus a related Audit Guidance.

Below the list of the draft of the documents under revision:

- **FOS-Aqua Inland-Marine v.4 Standard**
- **FOS Audit Guidance for Aqua Inland-Marine Standard**
- **FOS-Aqua – *Acipenser baerii* – Fish Welfare Standard**
- **FOS-Aqua – *Acipenser gueldenstaedtii* – Fish Welfare Standard**
- **FOS-Aqua – *Acipenser naccarii* – Fish Welfare Standard**
- **FOS-Aqua – *Acipenser ruthenus* – Fish Welfare Standard**
- **FOS-Aqua – *Acipenser stellatus* – Fish Welfare Standard**
- **FOS-Aqua – *Acipenser transmontanus* – Fish Welfare Standard**
- **FOS-Aqua – *Argyrosomus regius* – Fish Welfare Standard**
- **FOS-Aqua – *Dentex dentex* – Fish Welfare Standard**
- **FOS-Aqua – *Dicentrarchus labrax* – Fish Welfare Standard**



- **FOS-Aqua – *Diplodus puntazzo* – Fish Welfare Standard**
- **FOS-Aqua – *Huso huso* – Fish Welfare Standard**
- **FOS-Aqua – *Liza ramada* – Fish Welfare Standard**
- **FOS-Aqua – *Mugil cephalus* – Fish Welfare Standard**
- **FOS-Aqua – *Oncorhynchus mykiss* – Fish Welfare Standard**
- **FOS-Aqua – *Rachycentron canadum* – Fish Welfare Standard**
- **FOS-Aqua – *Salmo carpio* – Fish Welfare Standard**
- **FOS-Aqua – *Salmo salar* – Fish Welfare Standard**
- **FOS-Aqua – *Salmo trutta* – Fish Welfare Standard**
- **FOS-Aqua – *Salvelinus alpinus* – Fish Welfare Standard**
- **FOS-Aqua – *Salvelinus fontinalis* – Fish Welfare Standard**
- **FOS-Aqua – *Scophthalmus maximus* – Fish Welfare Standard**
- **FOS-Aqua – *Seriola dumerilii* – Fish Welfare Standard**
- **FOS-Aqua – *Seriola lalandi* – Fish Welfare Standard**
- **FOS-Aqua – *Sparus aurata* – Fish Welfare Standard**
- **FOS Audit Guidance for Fish Welfare Standards**

### ***Objectives***

Friend of the Sea is a non-governmental organisation founded in 2008 to safeguard the marine environment and its resources, encouraging a sustainable market and implementing specific conservation projects. Regarding the management of sustainable aquaculture products, Friend of the Sea certification programme contributes to the health of the oceans by certifying and promoting sustainable aquaculture practices.

### ***Justification of the need for the standard and intended geographical application***

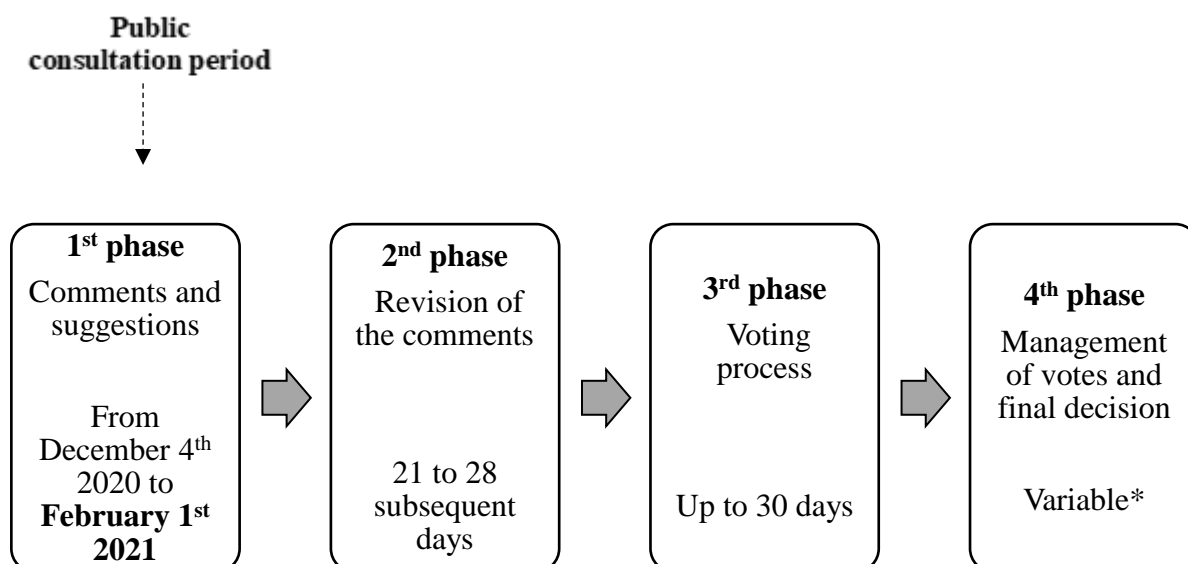
Friend of the Sea certification for sustainable aquaculture products has an international geographic application and provide consumers with a third-party assurance on the environmental and social aspects of certified products. This requires a continuous alignment process so that the standard and its audit guidance reflects the best practices, the latest scientific findings and experience of experts, as well as consistency in the audit process.

### *Guidance on comments and suggestions*

Stakeholder inputs into this revision process are greatly appreciated. Those interested can download all the documents under revision on a specific webpage of our website (<https://friendofthesea.org/standard-improvement/>), fill in the [Stakeholder Input Form](#) and send it by email to [info@friendofthesea.org](mailto:info@friendofthesea.org) until February 1<sup>st</sup> 2021. [The Stakeholder Input Procedure](#) provides guidance on how to contribute to this public consultation period.

### *Timelines*

Friend of the Sea is launching this revision process following its [Standard Development and Maintenance Procedure of Seafood Standards](#). As part of this process, Friend of the Sea is counting on the collaboration of its Technical Committee as well as stakeholder participation through shared feedback. This revision process will take place divided into four phases:



\*Timeframe depends on Accredia's validation.

- ➔ **Technical Committee members** are invited to participate during the **1<sup>st</sup> phase** of the revision process, by sharing comments and suggestions, as well as in the **3<sup>rd</sup> phase**, by voting for the approval of the revised standard.
- ➔ A wide range of **stakeholders**<sup>1</sup> is invited by e-mail to participate during the **1<sup>st</sup> phase** of the revision process. However, all interested parties are encouraged to share their inputs at any time. Whenever an input is received outside of a public consultation period, it will be considered during the subsequent revision process.
- ➔ Once the revision process is finalized, a summary of the process with all comments received will be made publicly available without attribution or identifier.



### ***Decision-making procedure***

Our Technical and Scientific Department (FOS-TSD) combined the latest science regarding the management of sustainable fisheries with Friend of the Sea's experience in the field and its constant dialogue with experts and stakeholders to elaborate the draft version of the documents under revision. At the end of the public consultation period, based on the inputs received, the FOS-TSD will start the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the revision process, in which changes to the documents under review may apply. The revised documents with clearly identified changes will then be submitted to our Technical Committee for approbation by votes (3<sup>rd</sup> phase). If approved, the documents will be sent to our National Accreditation Body, Accredia, for validation. Finally, our Board of Directors will ratify the decision made by the Technical Committee and Accredia (4<sup>th</sup> phase). All parties involved in this revision process will be notified by e-mail about the findings of each phase.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact us through [info@friendofthesea.org](mailto:info@friendofthesea.org).

FOS Team