

September 20th 2019

Friend of the Sea has opened a public consultation period for the FOS-Wild Caught Standard v.4 and FOS-Audit Guidance v.2.

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 fisheries. Aiming improvements, a draft version of FOS-Wild Caught 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. As part of this revision, the standard and its audit guidance have been updated to improve consistency in the audit process of stock status; ecosystem and habitat impact; gear selectivity; legal conformity; fishery, waste and energy management; social accountability.

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 fisheries and fleets, Friend of the Sea certification programme contributes to the health of the oceans by certifying and promoting sustainable fishing practices.

Justification of the need for the standard and intended geographical application

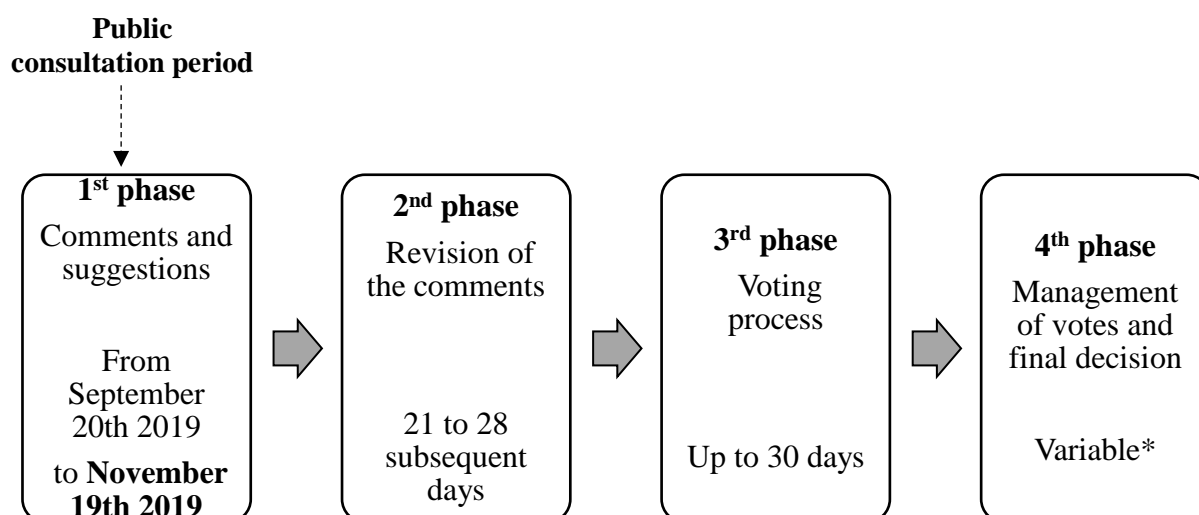
Friend of the Sea certification for sustainable fisheries and fleets has an international geographic application and provide consumers with a third-party assurance on the environmental and social aspects of certified products. This requires a continuous alignment process so that the standard and its audit guidance reflect the best practices, the latest scientific findings and experience of experts, as well as consistency in the audit process. Moreover, enhanced fisheries and enhanced activities were formally excluded from the scope of the standard.

Guidance on comments and suggestions

Stakeholder inputs into this revision process are greatly appreciated. Those interest can download both 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 until November 19th 2019. The [Stakeholder Input Procedure](#) (items 1, 3 and 5) 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 **1st phase** of the revision process, by sharing comments and suggestions, as well as in the **3rd phase**, by voting for the approval of the revised standard.
- ➔ A wide range of **stakeholders**¹ is invited by e-mail to participate during the **1st 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 FOS-Wild Caught Standard v.4 and its Audit Guidance v.2. At the end of the public consultation period, based on the inputs received, the FOS-TSD will start the 2nd 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 (3rd 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 (4th 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.

FOS Team