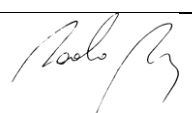
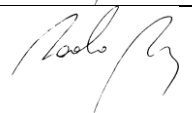
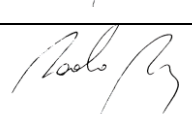
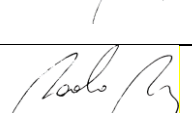


# Friend of the Sea Standard

## FOS - Wild Sustainable Fishing Requirements

**Friend of the Sea**  
[www.friendofthesea.org](http://www.friendofthesea.org)

REV	DATE	REASON	VALIDATION	APPROVAL
1	18/01/2013	First issue	Paolo Bray	
2	01/07/2015	Update	Paolo Bray	
3	30/09/2016	Standards update	Paolo Bray	
3.1	18/10/2017	Definitions and guidance to standards	Paolo Bray	

## Foreword

Friend of the Sea is a non-governmental organisation, which was established in 2008. Its aim is to safeguard the marine environment and its resources by incentivising a sustainable market and implementing specific conservation projects.

Friend of the Sea certification program allows assessment of fisheries and aquaculture products according to sustainability criteria and requirements. The certification, granted following an audit by independent certification bodies, ensures that a product complies with the sustainability requirements.

Requirements are classified as Essential, Important or Recommendations, according to their level of importance.

Essential Requirements: 100% conformity to essential requirements is mandatory in order for the certification body to certify the organisation's product. Any lack of compliance with these requirements will generate a Major Non Conformity and the organisation has to undertake effective corrective actions, to be implemented within three months from the issuing of the Non Conformity. The organisation shall provide satisfactory evidence to the certification body of correction of all major non conformities. Six months are allowed exclusively for correction of requirements 2.1 and 2.2, in consideration of their more complex nature.

Important Requirements: 100% conformity to important requirements is mandatory in order for the certification body to certify the organisation's product. Any lack of compliance with these requirements is to be considered as a Minor Non Conformity and the organisation has to propose effective corrective actions (declaration of intents and implementation plan), to be submitted to the certification body within three weeks from the issuing of the non conformity. This proposal shall also include a timetable concerning the implementation of each correction measure. Each proposed corrective action shall be fully implemented within the following 12 months.

Recommendations: Compliance with recommendations is not mandatory for the product to be certified. However compliance with recommendations will be verified during the audit and any deficiency will be included in the Audit Report as a recommendation. The organisation shall inform the certification body, during the following audit, regarding any corrective measures implemented.

Requirements which are not applicable to the audited organisation will be marked with 'N.A.'

## Description of the Organisation

This document shall only be filled out by personnel of the certification body in charge of the audit. It shall be filled out in English if spoken fluently.

**a) NAME OF THE ORGANISATION TO BE AUDITED:**

OMEGA PROTEIN Inc.

**b) NAME OF THE ORGANISATION REQUESTING THE AUDIT:**

OMEGA PROTEIN Inc.

**c) IS THE ORGANISATION TO BE AUDITED PART OF A GROUP? IF SO, PLEASE SPECIFY THE NAME OF THE GROUP AND LIST ALL MEMBERS:**

Yes. Omega Protein is now part of Cooke Inc, along with True North Seafood, Iccle Seafoods, Whacese Fish Company, Cooke Uruguai, Cooke Aquaculture (USA, Pacific, Scotland, Chile and Spain) and Grupo Culmarex.

**d) ADDRESS OF THE ORGANISATION TO BE AUDITED:**

9730 Andrew Road, Abbeville, Louisiana 70510

**d) NAME AND CONTACTS OF THE PERSON WITHIN THE ORGANISATION RESPONSIBLE FOR THE AUDIT AND CONTACTS WITH THE AUDITOR**

Robertt Horton – Senior Quality Manager: robertt.Horton@omegaprotein.com  
Seth Riche – Site quality manager / Steve Williams – Plant General Manager

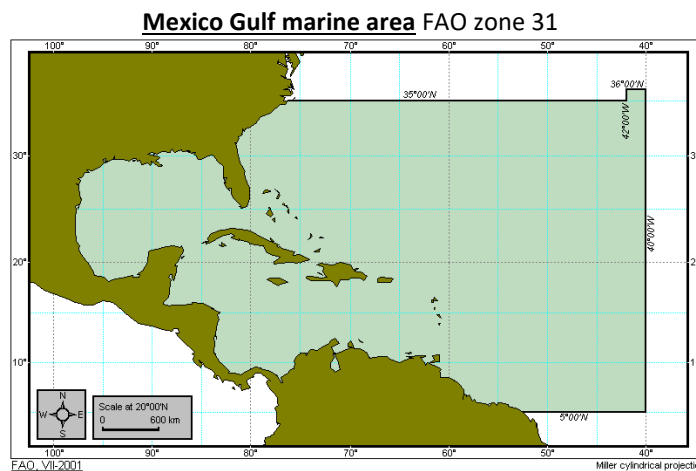
**f) FLEET TO BE AUDITED:**

<i>Name of the fishing vessel</i>	<i>Registration number</i>	<i>Vessel's flag</i>	<i>Fishing method</i>	<i>Capacity (MT)</i>	<i>Unloading harbour</i>	<i>Ship owner, if different from a)</i>
Atchafalaya Bay	490771	USA	Purse seine	363	Abbeville	
Albert J. Bourg	215767	USA	Purse seine	363	Abbeville	
Bull Dog	490772	USA	Purse seine	363	Abbeville	
Cote Blanche Bay	490775	USA	Purse seine	363	Abbeville	
Galveston Bay	482650	USA	Purse seine	363	Abbeville	
Grande Batture	490764	USA	Purse seine	363	Abbeville	
Q. O. Dunn	495856	USA	Purse seine	363	Abbeville	
Oyster Bayou	490785	USA	Purse seine	363	Abbeville	
Terrebone Bay	121750	USA	Purse seine	363	Abbeville	
Timbalier Bay	490797	USA	Purse seine	363	Abbeville	

**g) VESSELS AUDITED ON SITE** (the auditor shall list the vessels which have actually been audited on site as sample representing the fleet):

Name of the fishing vessel	Registration number	Unloading harbour
OYSTER BAYOU	490785	ABBEVILLE
ATCHAFALAYA BAY	490771	ABBEVILLE
TIMBALIER BAY	490797	ABBEVILLE

**h) FISHING ZONE** (Coordinates and/or FAO area and/or subarea and/or ICES area and/or EEZ. If available, please include a map.):



**i) COMMON AND SCIENTIFIC NAME OF THE SPECIES TO BE AUDITED:**

Common Name	Scientific Name
GULF MENHADEN	<i>Brevoortia patronus</i>

**j) TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:**

Abbeville:  
off season= 94 employees  
During season = 300 during season  
April 15th to Nov 1st fishing season

**k) ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATIONS AND AWARDS**

IFFO, GMP Plus, Safe Feed Safe Food, FoS

**I) STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT:**

*Before or during the audit, the CB shall inform all the relevant stakeholders about the audit of the applicant organisation and recommend their input. Please provide the list of all contacted stakeholders below:*

NA – This is a surveillance audit. At the time Omega Protein was audit for the first time, this was nor a requirement.

**m) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Gulf plants: 5735 Elder Ferry Road, Moss Point, Mississippi 39563 / 9730 Andrew Road, Abbeville, Louisiana 70510.


Atlantic plants:

243 Menhaden Road, Reedville, Virginia 22539 / 610 Menhaden Road, Reedville, Virginia 22539

The Organization produces Fish Oil, Crude Oil, Fish Meal, Fish solubles from Gulf Menhaden, processed in the sites of Moss Point and Abbeville and from Atlantic Menhaden, processed by the Reedville site, according the same organization, technical tools and procedures. All the vessels use the purse seine fishing gear.



- The Friend of the Sea project was introduced** (If not, the auditor shall provide a short description)
- The organisation and the ship owners were informed of the opportunity, in case of approval, of using the Friend of the Sea logo on the certified products**
- The organisation has a document qualifying and confirming the roles of the staff carrying out the audit**
- The duration of the audit was agreed upon**
- The information included in the Preliminary Information Form (PIF) has been confirmed** (in case of changes to the PIF, an updated version has to be promptly provided)

<b>CERTIFICATION BODY:</b>  RINA Services Brazil.	<b>AUDIT TEAM:</b>  Osires De Melo – Lead Auditor	<b>AUDIT START AND END DATE:</b>  12/03/2019 and 13/03/2019
<b>SIGNATURE OF AUDITOR:</b>  	<b>NAME OF THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE ORGANISATION AND ACCOMPANYING THE AUDITOR DURING THE AUDIT:</b>  <b>Robertt Horton</b> - Senior Quality Manager	<b>AUDIT CODE:</b>  20 BQ 2 DF

**NOTES TO THE AUDITOR**

- 1) The auditor shall fill out all fields in the checklist.
- 2) Checklist compilation guidelines are highlighted in the blue boxes.
- 3) The Auditor shall provide an explanation when requirements are not applicable.
- 4) The Auditor shall write YES when the organisation complies with a requirement and NO when it does not.
- 5) The Auditor shall comment and explain the positive or negative answers. Simple "YES," "NO," or "N.A." are insufficient.
- 6) Each relevant document shall be added to the final audit report in a separate and numbered attachment.
- 7) Photographic evidences added to the checklist or attached are appreciated.
- 8) In the present document 'organisation' is used to refer to the unit of certification.



# **1 STOCK STATUS**

No.	Requirement	Level	Parameters and information	Y/N	Comments
1.1	The state of the stock under consideration shall be assessed by the fisheries management organisation.	Essential	The fishery shall demonstrate to collect data in accordance with applicable international standards (e.g. Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics, the FAO Guidelines for the routine collection of capture fishery data, FAO Fisheries Technical Paper No. 382; Deep Sea Fishery (DSF) in the High Seas, FAO Programme).		<p>The Gulf menhaden stock is distributed in both state waters within 3nm of shore and federal waters further out, but as the large majority of fishing occurs in state waters, the management of the fishery is largely the responsibility of state authorities. The five Gulf states which engage, to varying extents, in the menhaden fishery are Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. Each state has an administrative governmental body tasked with the management of commercial and recreational fisheries. The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) coordinates inter-state management of the stock. The GSMFC makes recommendations to the state governments based on the results of scientific studies carried out by state, federal and academic agencies. It is also responsible, within the Gulf region, for the Interjurisdictional Fisheries (IJF) Program designed to develop management plans for transboundary stocks such as Gulf menhaden.</p> <p>The primary management authorities in relation to Gulf menhaden at the state level are the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (Alabama); the Department of Marine Resources (Mississippi); the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (Louisiana) and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Each state authority is legally empowered to introduce and enforce fisheries management regulations, through either the State administrative code, statutes, or specific legal instruments.</p>

**The fisheries management organisation is an institution responsible for fisheries management, including the formulation of rules governing fishing activities. The fishery management organisation may also be responsible for collection of information, its analysis stock assessment, monitoring, control and surveillance.**

**FAO 1997: FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries.**

1.1.1	The stock under consideration shall NOT be data deficient	Essential		Y	The Gulf stock is provided by a wide series of data published by the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC).
1.1.2	The stock under consideration shall NOT be over-exploited.	Essential	<p><math>F \leq F_{msy}</math> within probability range of available stock assessments or at least <math>F \leq F_{lim}</math> (limit reference point – or its proxy)</p> <p>If overfishing of a stock under consideration of a certified fishery occurs, the certification of this fishery is suspended or revoked.</p>	Y	<p>The 2016 update assessment generated point estimates for the biological reference points (benchmarks) of <math>F_{30\%} = 5.98</math>, <math>F_{35\%} = 4.28</math>, <math>SSB_{30\%} = 41,605</math>, and <math>SSB_{35\%} = 50,635</math>. Equilibrium landings for SPR values of 30% and 35% were 862,361 mt and 829,737 mt, respectively.</p> <p>There is strong evidence from the stock assessments that the level of fishing pressure currently exerted on the stock is sustainable, is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring.</p>
1.1.3	The stock under consideration shall NOT be over-Fished.	Essential	<p><math>B \geq B_{msy}</math> within probability range of available stock assessments or at least <math>B &gt; B_{lim}</math> (limit reference point – or its proxy).</p> <p>If the stock under consideration of a certified fishery becomes overfished, the certification of this fishery is suspended or revoked.</p>	Y	<p>Current stock status was estimated to be <math>SSB_{2015}/SSB_{30\%} = 3.51</math>. MCB analysis suggested there the chances of the stock being overfished (i.e., <math>SSB &lt; SSB_{30\%}</math>) were extremely low with over 99% of MCB runs estimating <math>SSB_{2015} &gt; SSB_{30\%}</math>. The assessment concluded that both fishing mortality and spawning biomass criteria indicated that overfishing was not occurring; all the various stock assessment models trialed supported this result.</p>

**All the requirements related to the current status and trend of the stock under assessment shall include data of bycatch, discards, unobserved mortality, incidental mortality, unreported catch, and catch outside of the unit of certification.**

**Up-to-date data and/or information on the stock status is available from one of the following: FAO, Regional Fisheries Management Organisation, Marine Research National Authority, University, other independent research institute. Other information may include generic evidence based on similar stocks, when specific information on the stock under consideration is not available, providing there is low risk to the stock under consideration in accordance with the Precautionary Approach.**

1.1.4	The methodology of assessment of the status and trends of the stock under consideration shall be made publicly available in a timely manner.	Essential	Documental evidence	Y	The stock is regularly monitored and the reports are public (Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission 2404 Government Street) Ocean Springs, Mississippi 39564)
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1.2	<p><u>Only applicable to small-scale and artisanal fisheries (i.e. it is not applicable to large-scale fisheries and fleets)</u></p> <p>If the organisation complies with all the requirements of the standard in the present document and does not catch more than 10% of the total catch (weight) of the stock under consideration, requirements 1.1.2., 1.1.3. do not apply.</p>	Essential	Weight of catches by fishery with same fishing method as the one under assessment is not over 10% of total catch from the same stock.	NA	Omega Protein is a Large Scale fishing operation.
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**The auditor shall fill-in requirement 1.2 ONLY in case of negative answer to the requirement 1.1. The aim of this requirement is to allow certification of small-scale artisanal and/or traditional fisheries targeting stocks which might have been overfished by bigger scale vessels and fisheries.**

**Small-scale fisheries are here intended as those using fishing crafts with size < 24 m and/or engine <375 kW.**

**Large-scale fisheries are intended as those using fishing crafts with size ≥ 24 m, engine ≥375 kW, vessels with freezing facilities and/or factory vessels (i.e. ocean-going vessels with on-board facilities for processing and freezing).**

## **2 ECOSYSTEM and HABITAT IMPACT**

No.	Requirement	Level	Parameters and Information	Y/N	Comments
2.1	Current data and/or other information are collected and updated about the effects of the fishery under assessment on the ecosystem structure and habitats vulnerable to damage by fishing gear, also considering the role of the stock in the food web (e.g. key prey or predator species).	Important	<p>Data collection shall be in accordance with international standards (e.g. CWP and DSF in the High Seas, FAO Programme).</p> <p>The data and analysis may include local, traditional or indigenous knowledge and research, providing its validity can be objectively verified.</p> <p>The methodology and results of the analysis of the most probable adverse impacts of the unit of certification on the ecosystem are made publicly available in a timely manner, respecting confidentiality where appropriate.</p>	Y	<p>The purse seine fishing gear just occasionally touches the seabed which, in this fishing area, has a muddy composition.</p> <p>The fishing gear flows in the water and its impact the habitat of this species is very low.</p>

2.2	The fishery or fleet complies with Marine Protected Areas regulation.	Essential	Verify compliance also by use of VMS and plotters tracking and World database www.mpaglobal.n etc	y	There are no marine protected areas in the Gulf of Mexico
<b><i>The auditor, through random sampling, using the Satellite Control System on the vessels or valid alternative evidence, shall verify that the fishing activity is not carried out in infringement of Marine Protected Areas (MPA). Alternatively an official declaration from local Control Authorities shall be produced. The Auditor shall provide a list of Protected Marine Areas in the area (refer to www.mpaglobal.org).</i></b>					
2.3	The fishery or fleet shall use fishing gears that do not affect the seabed unless proven that such impact is negligible.	Essential	The seabed and benthic communities shall return to their original conditions within a maximum of 30 days from the impact of the fishing gear on the seabed.	Y	The purse seine fishing method causes, in general, a very low impact. The sea bed in the region near the Mississippi river mouth has a muddy composition, caused by sediment carriage from the river DON NOT TOUCH THE BOTTOM
<b><i>The auditor shall collect conformity evidence.</i></b>					
2.4	The organisation has requested or conducted an assessment of the impact of its fishing activities on essential habitats for the stock under consideration and on habitats vulnerable to damage by the fishing gear.	Recommendation	Studies made available by the competent FMO can be used. These studies shall consider the impact of the fishery on the ecosystem and shall be considered when producing management advice.	NA	See above
<b><i>The Auditor shall provide evidence referring to all available studies.</i></b>					

### **3 GEAR SELECTIVITY**

No.	Requirement	Level	Parameters and information	Y/N	Comments
3.1	<p>Accidental catches (bycatch) shall not include species listed in the IUCN red list of endangered species as Vulnerable or higher risk.</p> <p>The IUCN assessment shall have been carried out no more than 10 years before.</p>	Important	<p>Bycatch studies shall have been carried out by the relevant bodies (FAO or RFMOs or National Authorities or Universities) and they shall provide information regarding level of bycatch and bycaught species</p> <p>These studies shall not indicate the presence of species vulnerable or higher risk among the regularly caught (over 0.25% of total weight) species according to <a href="http://www.iucnredlist.org">www.iucnredlist.org</a>.</p>	Y	<p>The Company has a NOAA 2016 Marine Mammal Authorization certificate.</p> <p>INSPECTED MANUAL FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF MAMMAL CATCH</p> <p>Inspected the form MARINE MAMMAL INCIDENT REPORT.</p>
3.1.1	The organisation collects and maintains current data and/or other information about the effects of the fishery on endangered species, non-target catches and discards.	Essential	Traditional, fisher or community knowledge can be used as reference, provided its validity can be objectively verified	Y	<p>BYCATCH IS LESS THAN 1% .</p> <p>Small sharks are the species that can be caught eventually.</p> <p>The fishery activity is very selective because of the fishing gear, the characteristics of the schools, the specific identification of the school made by the airplane, which gives the pilot a sharp information about the position. The bar excluder put at the entrance of the tube where the fish is pumped to the vessel, prevents the capture of big mammals and predators.</p>
<p><b><i>The auditor shall obtain records kept by the organisation of the species that are caught accidentally, and an assessment of the effects of the fishery on non-target stocks. The information included in the list shall be compared with the accidental catches actually occurred on site at the time of unloading. The list shall also be compared with the database of the IUCN red list <a href="http://www.redlist.org">www.redlist.org</a>. The auditor shall provide a final document that shows if any of the accidentally caught species is included in the IUCN list.</i></b></p>					
3.2	The level of discard shall not be over 8% of total catch (in weight).	Essential	Discards are bycaught species which are not used for human consumption not for fish meal or fish oil production.	Y	<p>Discard composed by crackers, catfish and sharks.</p> <p>According to the statistical data collected by the organization, in each landing, Menhaden fish represents 99,0127% of the total. Discards and bycatches amounts are negligible.</p> <p>There is a can in the plant to put these fish. But is not discarded.</p>

3.3.1	The fleet or fishery shall provide a census of number of all fish aggregating devices (FADs) deployed during the previous 12 months and shall report on a yearly basis to Friend of the Sea regarding FADs deployment per vessel.  <b>Only applicable to fisheries and fleet targeting tuna. N/A to fisheries targeting any other species</b>	Important	Auditor shall collect the data provided by the fleet or fishery and attach it to the audit report	NA	The fleet does not fish tuna.
3.3.2	The fleet shall use non entangling FADs only, to avoid entanglement of sharks, turtles and other non-target species.  <b>Only applicable to fisheries and fleet targeting tuna. N/A to fisheries targeting any other species</b>	Important	Audit shall collect evidence including pictures of FADs, purchase invoices with technical specifications to prove compliance.	NA	The fleet does not fish tuna.

## **4 LEGAL CONFORMITY**

<b>N°</b>	<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Parameters and information</b>	<b>Y/N</b>	<b>Comments</b>
4.1	All fishing vessels shall be officially registered.	Essential	Vessel registration and fishing license inspection.	Y	See list of vessels above.  Inspected license of the audited vessels: Atchafalaya Bay, Oyster Bayou Timbalier Bay.
<b><i>The Auditor shall request a list of all the fishing boats and the respective registration number. The Auditor shall collect on site all the documents concerning the registration of at least 10% of the audited boats (copies of photos of the documents)</i></b>					
4.2	The fleet does not include vessels with a flag of convenience.	Essential	The auditor shall verify that each vessel is not registered to another Nation identified as Flag of Convenience ( <a href="http://www.itfsseafarers.org/foc-registries.cfm">http://www.itfsseafarers.org/foc-registries.cfm</a> ).	Y	The United States of America are not on the flag of convenience list. See vessels list.
<b><i>The Auditor shall verify according to the website <a href="http://www.itfseafarers.org/foc-registries.cfm">http://www.itfseafarers.org/foc-registries.cfm</a>.</i></b>					
4.3	The fleet does not include IUU (illegal, unreported, unregulated) fishing vessels.	Essential	The vessels cannot be included in the list <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.199.01.0012.01.ENG">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.199.01.0012.01.ENG</a>	Y	None of the vessels are included on the IUU fishing boats list.

**The auditor shall verify that the vessels are not listed in EU IUU vessel list([http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L\\_.2015.199.01.0012.01.ENG](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.199.01.0012.01.ENG)), or in the IUU vessel list made available by the competent RFMO.**

4.4	<p>The fleet shall be "Dolphin Safe" approved by the Earth Island Institute.</p> <p><b>Only applicable to fisheries and fleet targeting tuna. N/A to fisheries targeting any other species</b></p>	Essential	<p>The organisation shall be included in the Dolphin-Safe list of the Earth Island Institute: <a href="http://www.dolphinsafetuna.org">www.dolphinsafetuna.org</a></p>	NA	The fleet does not fish tuna.
<p><b>The Auditor shall verify the conformity on the list <a href="http://www.dolphinsafetuna.org">www.dolphinsafetuna.org</a> or else the company shall sign the EII DS Policy and a copy shall be included in the audit report</b></p>					
4.5	<p>The organisation complies with national and international fisheries regulations.</p> <p>Compliance with the following regulations in particular has to be confirmed and verified:</p>	Essential	<p>Countries' fisheries laws are available on the website FAO <a href="http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/">http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/</a></p> <p><b>The auditor shall specify applicable indicators.</b></p>	y	The Organization follows the National and local regulations for fishing and for all other related environment matters
4.5.1	TAC (Total Allowable Catches)	Essential	<p>Countries' fisheries laws are available on the website FAO <a href="http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/">http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/</a></p> <p><b>The auditor shall specify applicable limits.</b></p>	y	In general, the Gulf menhaden fishery is not managed using a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) based system, but rather by technical measures such as closed seasons, areas, and limited entry. All five Gulf States manage the menhaden fishery with closed areas, restricted fishing seasons, limited licensing and other technical measures. Texas is currently the only Gulf state which sets a TAC for menhaden of 14,288 mt per year. Once this quantity has been landed, the fishery is closed. Stock assessments indicate that these mechanisms have been effective at keeping fishing pressure below, and SSB (measured as fecundity) above, defined thresholds.
4.5.2	Use of a logbook	Essential	<p>Countries' fisheries laws are available on the website FAO <a href="http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/">http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/</a></p> <p><b>The auditor shall specify applicable indicators.</b></p>	y	<p>Each vessel uses the net logbook which is regularly filled and available.</p> <p>Seen logbook of the audited vessels Oyster Bayou, Atchafalaya Bay and Timbalier Bay.</p>

4.5.3	Minimum net mesh size	Essential	Countries' fisheries laws are available on the website FAO <a href="http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/">http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/</a>  <b>The auditor shall specify applicable indicators.</b>	y	The mesh size is 4,3cm (1 5/8")
4.5.4	Net size	Essential	Countries' fisheries laws are available on the website FAO <a href="http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/">http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/</a>  <b>The auditor shall specify applicable indicators.</b>	y	The fishing net has a length of 1,500 feet by a depth of 200 feet.
4.5.5	Minimum legal size of the target species	Essential	Countries' fisheries laws are available on the website FAO <a href="http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/">http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/</a>  <b>The auditor shall specify applicable indicators.</b>	y	There is no minimum size allowed for menhaden. The fishing fleet cannot catch juveniles and is forbidden to fish in the nurseries areas/grounds.  The fish size is approximately detected by the recognizing airplane, selecting the school.  The net size allows most of smaller size fish to escape.
4.5.6	Distance from the shore	Essential	Countries' fisheries laws are available on the website FAO <a href="http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/">http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/</a>	y	There is a gentleman agreement to fish at 1 mile off the coast of Louisiana, stated according the map by point to point for Mississippi.
4.5.7	Measures for the reduction of accidental catches	Essential	Countries' fisheries laws are available on the website FAO <a href="http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/">http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/</a>  <b>The auditor shall specify applicable measures.</b>	y	An excluder placed before the entrance of the fish on board, Airplane spotting and Mesh size reduce the possibility of accidental catches.
4.5.8	No fishing in protected habitats	Essential	Countries' fisheries laws are available on the website FAO <a href="http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/">http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/</a>  <b>The auditor shall specify applicable indicators.</b>	Y	No protected areas are defined in the Gulf of Mexico



4.5.9	Use of forbidden gears, chemical substances and explosives	Essential	Countries' fisheries laws are available on the website <a href="http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/">FAO http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/</a>  <b>The auditor shall specify applicable indicators.</b>	y	The fleet uses the purse seine fishing method.  No illegal fishing method is employed.
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**The auditor shall verify, according to fisheries national and international regulations, that the aforementioned legal requirements are met and provide an exhaustive report with reference to the law. Where possible, the auditor shall provide documents and photographs. A detailed description of the fishing regulation concerning each Country is available on FAO's website <http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/>**

## 5 – FISHERY MANAGEMENT

No.	Requirement	Level	Parameters and information	Y/N	Comments
5.1.1a	A fishery management organisation, that holds a legal mandate in compliance with national and international laws, manages, by means of a Fishery Management Plan (FMP), the fishery of which the fishery or fleet under audit is a part.	Essential	The organization shall provide a copy of the FMP.  A map of existing RFMOs is available at <a href="http://www.fao.org/figis/geoserver/factsheets/rfbs.html">http://www.fao.org/figis/geoserver/factsheets/rfbs.html</a>  In addition, national fishery ministries and authorities can be considered, e.g. Fisheries Management Organisations (FMO).	y	The fishery behaves in compliance with the regulations stated by the NOAA'S NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE and the Gulf and Atlantic Authorities for the fishery management.  Fishery management plan has a monitoring, and programmes, and independent surveys (Coast Guards, EPE Regulations, etc.) and dependent surveys (as Omega's surveys)
5.1.1b	If the stock under consideration is a transboundary fish stock, straddling fish stock, highly migratory fish stock or high seas fish stock, a bilateral, sub regional or regional fisheries organisation or arrangement is in place.  States and entities in the arrangement shall collaborate in the management of the whole stock unit and bycaught or discarded species over their entire area of distribution.  The arrangement shall ensure the rights of the small-scale fishing communities are granted.	Essential	Evidence of conformity.  In case this is not applicable, provide justification.	y	The stock is managed by the Interstate Commission, from Florida to Texas, and from Maine to Florida and Pennsylvania.

5.1.1c	The fishery management organisation convenes regularly to update its management advices according to the most updated data.	Essential	Evidence of meetings frequency.	Y	From Two to four meetings per year. Last meeting was in August 2018.
<p><b>The Auditor shall verify and describe briefly the legal and administrative structure in force and provide the evidence of compliance with local laws and regulations.</b></p> <p><b>The fishing company or organisation may also be part of traditional or community system of management of the stock, provided their performance can be objectively verified.</b></p>					
5.1.2	The fisheries management system (FMS) under which the fishery or fleet under audit is managed shall be <b>both</b> participatory and transparent, to the extent permitted by national laws and regulations.	Essential	Information and advice used in FMS decision-making is publicly available. A consultation process regularly seeks and considers relevant information.  Consultation with Deep Sea fishers shall be carried out when applicable.	Y	The Fishery department issues every year a public regulation for the new season.  Season is from the 3rd week of April to last week of October.
5.1.3	Small-scale fishing communities and deep-sea fishers shall be involved in the planning and implementation of management measures affecting their livelihood, as appropriate.	Important	Evidence of involvement of local communities.  <i>E.g.</i> monitoring and control of fishing activities, protected areas	Y	The recreational menhaden fishing is included in the FMO plans.
5.2.1	A precautionary approach is applied through the FMS to protect the target stock and its habitat and preserve the marine environment.	Important	Procedure and evidence of conformity.	Y	See section 1 and 2
5.2.2	Management measures specify the actions to be taken in the event that the status of the stock under consideration (with special consideration to deep-sea stocks) drops below a level consistent with achieving management objectives.  These measures shall prompt the restoration of the stock to such levels within a reasonable timeframe.	Important	Procedure indicating target reference points and timeframe.	y	See section 1 Each year the Fishing Department issues new rules for the Next season on the base of data and the stock situation previous statistics.  The Commissions would evaluate the eventual worrying data in order to undertake measures such as reduction of captures

5.2.3	Efficacy of management measures and their possible interactions is kept under continuous review.	Essential	Evidence of periodical reviews of the management measures shall be provided.	y	See section 1 and 5.2.1 There are regular meetings of the two Commissions.
<b>The auditor shall verify if the Country the flag of the fishing company refers to has ratified the FAO Code of conduct. Otherwise the organisation shall include a precautionary approach in their procedures, including a risk assessment procedure.</b>					
5.3	The compliance with fishery regulations is achieved through monitoring, surveillance, control and enforcement.	Essential	Procedure and evidence of monitoring and control by the fishery management authority.	y	See section 1 and 5,2,1
<b>The Auditor shall describe briefly the monitoring, surveillance, control, and application methods and provide the evidences of the activities undertaken by the fishery enforcement system to ensure compliance.</b>					
5.4	The fleet or fishery shall record bycatch during every fishing trip.	Essential	Procedure and evidence of recording during at least one fishing trip.	Y	The fishery records bycatch from each fishing trip using the Marine Mammal Incident Report where records are kept both in case of catching and of not catching any mammal.
5.5	The fleet or fishery shall record discards.	Essential	Procedure and evidence of conformity	Y	The fishery keeps a net log book where all landings are recorded and in case there are discards, they are recorded.
5.5.1	Bycatch and discard data shall be made publicly available by either the FMO or the organisation.	Recommendation	Procedure and evidence of conformity	Y	NOAA'S NATIONAL MARINE FISHERY SERVICE REGULATION Marine Mammal reporting form is regularly sent to this authority
<b>The auditor shall attach copies of the bycatch and discards reports to the audit report.</b>					
5.6	A management system to prevent possible accidental catch and significant negative impacts of endangered species shall be in place.	Essential	Procedure, performance indicators and evidence of conformity.	y	An excluder for large species is put on the pump entrance where the fish is caught from the net and pumped on the vessel. Bar guard to prevent large fish from entering the hose and being pumped aboard the vessel  Airplane spotters are instructed to prevent the entrance of vessels into the boundaries stated by the Company and State fishing authorities.
5.7	The organisation implements a management program to reduce the accidental catch of non-target species, including procedures for the release of live animals under conditions that guarantee high chances of survival.	Essential	Procedure, performance indicators, and evidence of conformity.	y	A procedure is in place for managing live animals such as mammals OPI-5 NON-TARGETED SPECIES – In case of catching of marine mammals, the Captain has to inform the General manager, record the GPS location and inform if it's injured. The capture shall be recorded on the form Marine Mammals Reporting Form. INSPECTED THE FORMS FROM THE YEAR OF 2018.

**The auditor shall provide documental evidence that the organisation collects data to assess the impact of the fishing activities on non-target species and endangered fauna (i.e. IUCN listed). The data collection shall address specific outcome indicator(s) consistent with achieving management objectives.**

5.8	The fleet is equipped with measures that guarantee a quick retrieval of lost fishing gears to avoid 'ghost fishing'.	Essential	Procedure and evidence of conformity.	Y	Very seldom this accident occurs. In such a case the net breaks but it's not completely lost because the crew take it on board
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**The auditor shall obtain a copy of the procedures.**

5.9	The fleet has a full-time on-board independent observer who reports compliance with Friend of the Sea requirements. In alternative a CCTVs system has been deployed and it is accessible by the auditor to verify compliance with Friend of the Sea requirements.  <b>Only applicable to large-scale vessels and fleets. Not applicable to small-scale artisanal fisheries.</b>	Important	Documental evidence of employment. At least one monthly report of the on-board inspector.	NA	The fishing vessels are not freezer boats.
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**The auditor shall verify the presence of the observer(s) and obtain their CV and contacts. See definition for large-scale fisheries in section 1.**

5.10	Outcome indicator(s), including target and limit reference points, are defined for all management objectives related to the conservation of the stock under consideration.  Management objectives take into account the best scientific evidence available	Essential	Target reference points. e.g maximum sustainable yield (MSY, or a suitable proxy) or a lesser fishing mortality if that is applicable to the fishery.  Marine resources exploited in deep-sea fisheries in the high seas have low productivity, thus biological reference points shall be set to ensure long term sustainability.	Y	See 1.1.2 and 1.1.3
5.11	There are clear management objectives, outcome indicators and measures defined and periodically reviewed by means of risk assessment to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts on:	Essential	Procedure, outcome indicators, action taken and outcomes.		
5.11.1	Essential habitats for the stock of consideration, and vulnerable ecosystems, including those potentially impacted by Deep-Sea fisheries			y	The fishing occurs ate 1 mile from the shore. There is no inland fishing, where the young fish grows up
5.11.2	Endangered species			y	Menhaden is not endangered species

5.11.3	Non-target stocks			y	Main catches are of menhaden fish
5.11.4	Dependent predators and/or preys			y	There are just a few predators
5.11.5	Ecosystem structure and processes			y	They can only fish in the open areas on the Gulf, not in the inland areas.
5.12	A yearly reviewed Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries is in place	Recommended	Documental evidence	y	Both Commissions meet two to four times a year for this purpose
5.13	Fisheries management approaches, plans and strategies are an integral part of integrated coastal management, and/or ocean management for oceanic fisheries.	Recommended	Documental evidence	Y	This is part of the activities of these Commission

***The auditor shall provide evidence of the reference values targeted and implemented. These can, in some cases, be threshold reference limits and precaution limits set by regional bodies.***

***The management measures implemented by the management system of the organisation shall be based on the best available scientific evidence. Any traditional or scientific knowledge can be used within the management system, given that it can be objectively verified by the auditor***

## **6 WASTE MANAGEMENT**

No.	Requirement	Level	Parameters and information	Y/N	Comments
6.1	The organisation recycles, re-uses or re-processes all materials used during fishing, conservation and transport of the fish up to the selling point, including packaging.	Essential	Procedure and evidence of conformity.	y	Clean water is reused in the process, oil is reused. The water separated from the bilge water The company in Abbeville sells the scrapmetal to a recycling plant . Inspected the Pick-Up & Delivery
6.2	The organisation implements measures to prevent dispersion of waste at sea (including fuels and lubricants and plastic materials)	Essential	Procedure and evidence of conformity.	y	Omega Protein has admitted to two violations of the Clean Water Act as a result of bilge water discharge practices discovered by the U.S. Coast Guard at the Company's facilities in Beedville
6.3	The organisation utilises all the chemical non-toxic alternatives available in order to reduce the use of toxic, persistent or bio-accumulating substances.	Essential	Procedure and evidence of conformity.	y	The vessels cleaning is mostly performed just using pressure water. No chemical substances are used on boats.  Non bleached cleaners used for
6.4	The organisation does not use CFC, HCFC, HFC or other refrigerants that cause ozone depletion.  <i>Only applicable to large-scale vessels</i>	Essential	Procedure and evidence of conformity.	y	The Company uses Ammonium for refrigeration

**The auditor shall provide procedures complete with photographic evidence. See definition of large-scale fisheries in section 1.**

## **7 ENERGY MANAGEMENT**

No.	Requirement	Level	Parameters and information	Y/N	Comments
7.1	The organisation shall keep a register of all energy sources and their use, updated at least once a year.	Essential	Energy consumption records, which shall be created at least once a year shall be included in the procedure.  At minimum, the register shall include the following <b>parameters:</b> 1. incoming energy sources (renewable or not) 2. energy consumption per process line (fishing, processing, transport)	y	The energy consumption is kept under control through a series of records which has been kept for several years (since 2001). The value is influenced by the quantity of worked fish.  In 2018, Abbeville facilities used: 6,296,544 KWh of electricity 321,598 BTU's 1,218,524 gallons of diesel

7.2	The organisation should calculate its carbon footprint per product unit and engage to reduce it every year.	Recommendation		y	Seen declaration of the Environmental Manager W. R. of February 9th, 2017 where it's declared that the Moss Point facility is below the reporting threshold established by the EPA therefore it's a minor emitter of greenhouse gasses.
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**The auditor shall review copies of the registers.**

## **8 SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY**

No.	Requirement	Level	Parameters and information	Y/N	Comments
8.1	The Organisation shall respect human rights, complying with the following requirements:				
8.1.1	compliance with national regulations and ILO on child labour	Essential	Refer to ILO: <a href="http://www.ilo.org/global/standards/introduction-to-international-labour-standards/lang-en/index.htm">http://www.ilo.org/global/standards/introduction-to-international-labour-standards/lang-en/index.htm</a>	Y	Seen HR Compliance Checklist Social SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONNAIRE (EMPLOYEE INFORMATION IN NON-DISCLOSABLE) DATED MAY 10TH 2018, Accountability where a sample of employees are asked to answer a series of questions about the economic treatment, employee pay, benefits, Policies and Procedures and discipline and termination. All the questionnaire shows a positive answer. In particular, the minimum age for employment is over 18. FEDERAL REGULATION IS 19 YEARS OLD - FAIR LABOR STANDARD ACT (DEPARTEMENT OF LABOR WEBSITE <a href="http://www.dol.gov">www.dol.gov</a> ).  The youngest worker at the Company is a Travis Hudson, 20 years old.
8.1.2	pay the employees adequate salaries compliant at least with minimum legal wages	Essential	Minimum wages vary depending on the country. The Auditor shall verify that the organisation knows the minimum wage.	Y	The salaries are set according the Fair Labor Standard Act and any State Laws that are more favorable to employees.  The usual minimum wage applied in the Company is US\$ 13/h against a minimum legal of 7,25. The woekers have to punch the time is and time out with a thumb digital reader. Inspected the payslip from the week 03 march 1 <sup>st</sup> , of the lowest salary paid in the company. Employee name Travis Hudson, Pump Operator, salary at USD 14.80. Salary is paid every two weeks.

8.1.3	grant employees access to healthcare	Essential		Y	<p>Annually is planned a visit by the appointed doctor to all employee.</p> <p>An insurance is offered to all workers. This treatment is the same for personnel on board.  Primera Blue Cross – Medical insurance.  Ocean Fleet Services – Ocean Harvesters.  The company pays the most of it. The employee has the choice to choose one of the Plans</p> <p>The company provides a life insurance (1.5 x the annual salary). There are other optional higher insurances, that the employee can chose for.</p> <p>Short term disability insurance is offered.</p> <p>Office employees are also covered for long term disability.</p> <p>41K - RETIRE</p>
8.1.4	apply safety measures required by the law	Essential		Y	<p>A risk analysis is performed involving the workers engaged in each activity. (seen Job risk assessment check list 16/12/15 moss point plant areas DRY AREA).</p> <p>Code of business conduct and ethics states health and safety guidelines.</p> <p>All workers and employees are trained about safety measures and GMP (seen 26/01/17 – training on spill prevention control, fuel oil transfer, operational manual, etc.  Warning instructions are present in the factory and offices.</p> <p>Dalton Howe – safety manager.</p>

**The auditor shall verify the compliance with the requirements through documental evidence (work contract samples) and on-site observation.**



Further comments:

**CONCLUSIONS:**

The Auditor shall fill out the following fields

- The fleet COMPLIES with Friend of the Sea requirements**
  
- The fleet DOES NOT COMPLY with Friend of the Sea requirements**

**MAJOR NON CONFORMITIES (to be corrected within 3 months)**

*List major non conformities*

**MINOR NON CONFORMITIES (corrective plan to be produced within 3 weeks and correction within 1 year)**

*List minor non conformities*

**RECOMMENDATIONS (to be communicated within the next inspection)**

*List recommendations*