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Scheme, Scope and Objectives

The Friend of the Sea project is a certification scheme for products from sustainable fisheries and aquaculture. The application process is independent of the geographical location. Moreover, it is NOT discriminatory on size, scale, management, minimum number of operators and number of vessels involved. Nonetheless, enhanced fisheries and enhancement activities, regarding wild catches, cannot apply for certification.

Friend of the Sea has excluded enhanced fisheries and enhancement activities from its Wild Standard because, among other reasons, these practices imply human intervention in the natural biological cycles of aquatic species. Due to the lack of knowledge on the consequences of these practices on the environment, Friend of the Sea has decided to apply a responsible approach. Therefore, any fishery that fits in the above descriptions, and any aquaculture, can apply and potentially aim for certification.

The objective of Friend of the Sea is the conservation of environmental resources, in particular those which are part of the marine ecosystem. These include, but are not limited to, fish populations, habitats, ecosystems, water, energy, endangered species, biodiversity and social standards. The Friend of the Sea project also develops pilot initiatives connected to its sustainable approach. A more comprehensive and updated list of objectives and thresholds, including quantitative and qualitative criteria and indicators, is available in the documents FOS Performance Indicators – Objectives, results and outcomes, under the section “WSO’s Governance procedures and policies for Friend of the Sea” in the webpage [Governance](#).

Certifiable products include, but are not limited to:

- Seafood of any kind, format and conservation type;
- Fish eggs;
- Fish meal;
- Fish feed;
- Fish oil;
- Omega–3 supplements.