Friend of the Sea Standard

FOS - Wild
Sustainable Fishing Requirements

Friend of the Sea
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	Standard update	Paolo Bray	
3.1	18/10/2017	Definitions and guidance to standard	Paolo Bray	

REV	DATE	REASON	APPROVED	VALIDATED	RATIFIED
4	18/03/2020	Standard update	Friend of the Sea Technical Committee	Accredia	Friend of the Sea Board of Directors

Valid from: 18/03/2020

Compulsory from: 18/03/2023

Foreword

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

The Friend of the Sea certification program allows for the 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: The unit of certification shall be 100% compliant with essential requirements to be recommended for certification by the Certification Body (CB). Failure to comply with essential requirements is a major non-conformity. To achieve certification, corrective actions shall be implemented within three months from the date of assessment of non-conformities. Exclusively for the correction of requirements 2.1, 2.2, 3.1.1, 5.1.1b and 5.10.2 due to their more complex nature, six months are allowed. The unit of certification shall provide the CB with satisfactory evidence of correction of all major non-conformities, if necessary, with additional audits.

Important Requirements: Failure to comply with important requirements is a minor non-conformity. To achieve certification, the unit of certification shall first propose a corrective action plan within maximum three weeks from the date of assessment of the non-conformities - to the satisfaction of the CB. In the proposal, the unit of certification shall include the timeframe for the implementation of each corrective action, considering that all minor non-conformities must be closed before the surveillance audit. The proposal shall be analysed by the CB regarding its consistency and feasibility. If accepted, the certificate can be granted. Then, in the surveillance audit, the unit of certification shall be able to demonstrate that all minor non-conformities reported in the approved proposal were solved. If the approved proposal has not been fully implemented, the certificate is suspended until the resolution of any remaining minor non-conformities.

Recommendations: It is not compulsory for the unit of certification to comply with recommendations to achieve certification. Nonetheless, compliance with recommendations shall be verified during the audit and any non-conformities shall be highlighted in the audit report as a "recommendation". The unit of certification shall inform the CB, during the following audit, regarding any corrective measures implemented.

Requirements that are not applicable to the audited unit of certification will be marked with "N.A."

Description of the unit of certification

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

a) NAME OF THE UNIT OF CERTIFICATION TO BE AUDITED:

BIG FISH MALDIVES PVT LTD.

b) NAME OF THE UNIT OF CERTIFICATION REQUESTING THE AUDIT:

BIG FISH MALDIVES PVT LTD.

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

No

d) ADDRESS OF THE UNIT OF CERTIFICATION TO BE AUDITED:

LOT 1, HIMMAFUSHI, 08060, REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

e) NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS OF THE PERSON AT THE UNIT OF CERTIFICATION RESPONSIBLE FOR THE AUDIT AND CONTACTS WITH THE AUDITOR:

SANGEETHA VIJAYAN, QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGER,

f) FLEET TO BE AUDITED:

Name of the fishing vessel	*Registration number*	*Vessel's flag*	*Fishingmethod*	*Capacity (MT)*	*Unloading harbour*	*Ship owner,if different from "a)"*
AARAASTHA	P6976B-01-07-A	Maldives	Pole and Line, Hand Line	34.46	Big Fish Maldives Jetty	Abdul Latheef Abdulla
AILAA 2	P3554B-01-17-B	Maldives	Pole and Line, Hand Line	38.95	Big Fish Maldives Jett	Mohamad Hameed
ARAAKURI	P5586B-01-07-A	Maldives	Pole and Line	29.34	Big Fish Maldives Jett	Adam Abduk Latheef
ARRATHARI	P3726B-01-07-A	Maldives	Pole and Line	19.07	Big Fish Maldives Jett	Mohamd Shifau
AZURO	P8869A-01-01-M	Maldives	Pole and Line	26.91	Big Fish Maldives Jett	Ameena Mohamed
FAHIMAGU 1	P5268B-01-15-B	Maldives	Pole and Line	26.94	Big Fish Maldives Jett	Mohamed Nazim
FARIDHUVALI-4	P8277A-01-01-L	Maldives	Pole and Line, Hand Line	22.46	Big Fish Maldives Jett	Ali Waheed
MALAAHA 2	P8184A-01-02-G	Maldives	Pole and Line, Hand Line	57.97	Big Fish Maldives Jetty	Abdulla Mahamed
RANTHARI 1	P8800A-01-04-I	Maldives	Pole and Line, Hand Line	16.92	Big Fish Maldives Jetty	Maryam Abuobakar
THREERODHI	C5790B-01-13-D	Maldives	Pole and Line, Hand Line	11.68	Big Fish Maldives Jett	Ibrahim Azim
TUNA 2	P9044A-01-04-I	Maldives	Pole and Line, Hand Line	25.12	Big Fish Maldives Jett	Adam Wasif
VENUS 5	P6748B-01-05-H	Maldives	Pole and Line, Hand Line	66.64	Big Fish Maldives Jetty	Abdul Rahman Hassan

ZAHAB1	P3193B-01-02-I	Maldives	Pole and Line, Hand Line	18.48	Big Fish Maldives Jetty	Ali Rasheed

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

Documents and records were verified onsite with full access to all relevant documents and records and the audit was complete and effective. During the audit days as there is hike in the fuel price due to the on going disturbance in middle east, very few boats were going for the fishing, hence the vessel audit was conducted remotely. The organization was anticipating some vessels to come to shore during the audit however they didn't reach due to above reason. All the required documents were verified and was found satisfactory. The vessel was audited as per the below details and the requirements were found compliant.

The complete list of FOS certified vessels under Big Fish is as attached. Total 192 numbers of certified vessels. Vess list attached below.

Name of the fishing vessel	Registration number	Unloading harbour
AARAASTHA	P6976B-01-07-A	Himafushi
AILAA 2	P3554B-01-17-B	Himafushi
ARAAKURI	P5586B-01-07-A	Himafushi
ARRATHARI	P3726B-01-07-A	Himafushi
AZURO	P8869A-01-01-M	Himafushi
FAHIMAGU 1	P5268B-01-15-B	Himafushi
FARIDHUVALI-4	P8277A-01-01-L	Himafushi
MALAAHA 2	P8184A-01-02-G	Himafushi
RANTHARI 1	P8800A-01-04-I	Himafushi
THREERODHI	C5790B-01-13-D	Himafushi
TUNA 2	P9044A-01-04-I	Himafushi
VENUS 5	P6748B-01-05-H	Himafushi
ZAHAB1	P3193B-01-02-I	Himafushi

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

FAO ZONE 51

h) **COMMON AND SCIENTIFIC NAME OF THE SPECIES TO BE AUDITED, WITHTHE RESPECTIVE FISHING METHODS:**

The Yellow Fin Tuna scope has been added during the RC audit

Common Name	Scientific Name	Fishing method
Skip Jack Tuna	*Katsuwonus pelamis*	*Hand Line, Pole and Line*
yellow Fin Tuna	*Thunnus albacares*	*Hand Line, Pole and Line*

j) TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:

107

k) ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATIONS AND AWARDS:

i). Big Fish Maldives Pvt Ltd has a sustainability policy and the management was found committed for the Sustainable fishing practices and is responsible seafood processor in Maldives.

The process wastes are collected by local byproduct-Rhaaku manufacturer by Raiy Rihaakuru for production of Rihakuu, the agreement is valid until 31.12.2026.The sewerage are discharged and there is an agreement with the Sierra construction Pvt Ltd. (contractor from Ministry of environment and energy)the pipelines are connected to Island common pipe line. Environment Impact assessment has been done on 07th January 2014, the same was verified during the audit. The Big Fish is now the member fo IPNLF-International Pole and Line Foundation, head office UK. The IPNLF provides training to the fishermen on sustainable fishing. The organization Big Fish Maldives also associated with the Japan International Cooperation agency, Japan where the agency provided the training to Fishermen on Tuna handling. Also the IPNLF launched the "e-Dhurmashi" and e-commerce plate form to uplift women engaged in Fisheries industries. IPNLF proposal to develop "e-Dhumashi was approved by UNDP Occean Innovation Challenge to tap new technologies and approach end overfishing and put and end to IUU fishing practices. Refer: https://ipnlf.org/ and the Big Fish initiative for sustainability was mentioned as below. https://ipnlf.org/maldives-tuna-an-icon-in-food-production & & https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/maldives-yellowfin-tuna-handline.

i). The organization has an Environment and Sustainability policy and are updated from time to time.

ii). Dolphin Safe Certification by Earth Island Institute.
iii). The company also provides ice to the fishermen before the trip starts for proper preservation of the raw materials.
iv). The organization Fishermen are provided with facilities such as shower and basic facilities, washing machine facility, beverages.
v). The freshwater is provided to all the Fisherman for drinking purpose.
vi). The effluent is treated by the 3rd party contractor and the sludge generated are used for production of Bio fertilizer for used at the Island.
vii). The air pollution the company has got an approval from the Environment protection agency.

l) STAKEHOLDERS INPUT:

*Before or during the audit, the CB shall inform all the relevant stakeholders about the audit of the unit of certification and recommend their input. Please refer to paragraph "**2.4.4. Stakeholders consultation in fishery assessments**" (FOS-Audit Guidance v.2) and provide the list of all contacted stakeholders below:*

i). the competent fishery management organisation (*e.g.* RFMO, national fishery management authority, etc.).: Director. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture: Male, www.fishagri.gov.mv, +960 email. sfrdp@fishagri.gov.mv.
ii). fishing industry associations (*e.g.* shipowners or fishermen representatives, national or state seafood industry association); Maldives Seafood Processing Exporter's association (MSPEA) **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**. Adnan: mspea2009@gmail.com.
iii). local NGOs with a focus on ocean conservation: Mr. Shahina Ali Director of Parley Maldives, Parley for the Oceans. email: Shaahina@parley.tv

m) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Please specify the type of audit (initial, surveillance, additional, unannounced or recertification). In the case of multi-site audits, please specify also the method for calculation of sites inspected.

This was Re-certification audit and during this audit scope extension for a species Yellow Fina Tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) was also added as the Yellow Fin Tuna has been now become sustainable as per the IOTC data.

The organization purchases from the vessels already certified vessels FOS Wild standard in Maldives such as vessels certified under the organization Ensis Fisheries Pvt Ltd, Cyprea Marine and Big Fish Maldives. As present there are total 24 nos. of vessels have been certified under the FOS Wild standard. The vessels list has been attached herewith for your reference.

Big Fish Maldives Pvt Ltd was established in 2016. Big Fish Maldives Pvt Ltd is the major exporter of fresh chilled and frozen tuna from the Maldives. They are mainly exporting fresh and frozen tuna products to both EU and Non-EU countries including US and EU approved (MDV 015) and ISO 22000, BRC, MSC, Dolphin Safe, Halal Certificate and MSC CoC certified company. They are also US-FDA registered company. Big Fish Maldives Pvt Ltd is associated with PARLEY and Fishermen, by collecting the used bottles from vessels which are supplying fish to the facility and given to PARLEY as a raw material for the program used to making shoes and Jerseys by Adidas. The organization is giving financial support for the Island for Fisherman day event celebration, Children evening activities and football competitions.

The total production in last 12 months was as under:

- Quantity – Frozen Skipjack -1371.895 MT
- Quantity – Frozen Yellowfin Tuna- 2,468.49 MT MT
- Quantity – Fresh Yellowfin Tuna- 539.08 MT

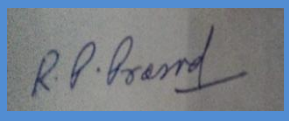
☐ **X. The Friend of the Sea project was introduced** *(If not, the auditor shall provide ashort description).*

☐ **X. The unit of certification 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.**

☐ **X. The unit of certification has a document qualifying and confirming the rolesof the staff carrying out the audit.**

☐ **X. The duration of the audit was agreed upon.**

☐ **X. The information included in the Preliminary Information Form (PIF) wasconfirmed** (in the case of changes to the PIF, an updated version has to be promptly provided).

CERTIFICATIONBODY: DNV Business Assurance India Pvt. Ltd.	**AUDIT TEAM: Roy Puspendra Prasad**	**AUDIT START AND END DATE:2026-04-09 to 2026-04-13**
SIGNATURE OF AUDITOR: 	**NAME OF THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE UNIT OF CERTIFICATION AND ACCOMPANYING THEAUDITOR DURING THE AUDIT: Sangeetha Vijayan QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGER, BIG FISH MALDIVES PVT LTD.**	**AUDIT CODE: PRJN-178501-2019-PA-LKA** **TYPE OF AUDIT: Re-Certification audit**

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 unit of certification 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 evidence added to the checklist or attached are appreciated.

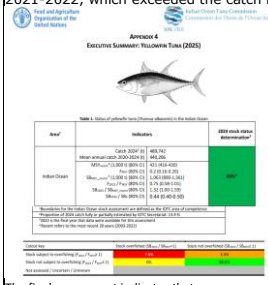
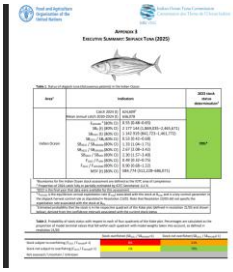
8) After a revised standard come into effect, a transitional period of three years is given to the certified companies to come into compliance. After this transitional period, the revised standard is considered compulsory.

9) The application process is NOT discriminatory on size, scale, management, minimum number of operators and number of vessels involved.

10) Enhanced fisheries and enhancement activities are not applicable to this standard. 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 adopt a responsible approach.

11) The FOS Audit Guidance Version 2 provides guidance on the content of this document. Please review the following definitions: "*best scientific evidence available", "legal framework", "management objectives", "precautionary approach", "irreversible or very slowly reversible", "enhanced fisheries", "enhancement activities" "essential habitat", "ecosystem (structure, processes and function)", "recruitment overfishing", "resilience", "fishery management plan", "participatory",* "data (information): adequate, reliable, current", *"stock under consideration" and "management system".*

1 – STOCK STATUS

No.	Requirement	Level	Parameters and information	Y/N/N.A.	Comments
1.1.1	The fisheries management organization or arrangement shall coordinate the collection and analysis of adequate, reliable and current data and/or other information necessary to assess the state and trends ofthe stock under consideration taking into account the structure and composition of that stock which contribute to its resilience.Management decisions made by the fisheries management organization or arrangement shall be based on this assessment. In data limited situations, with special regards to the deep-sea fisheries stocks in the high seas, a precautionary approach shall be applied. In these cases, it is required to the fishery to acknowledge and explain challenges in data collection and maintenance to cover all stages of fishery development, in accordance with applicable international standards and practices.	Essential	The fishery shall demonstrate it collects adequate, reliable and current data and /or information 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).	Y	The stock of the certification now includes both Skip Jack Tuna as well as Yellow Fin Tuna. The YFT species has recently received the IOTC STOCK assessment result as sustainable with under the scope of certifications: Skip Jack Tuna is managed by i).IOTC Stock Assessment, web site address: www.iotc.org The Fishing area is FAO Zone 051. There is a new stock assessment carried out for skipjack tuna in 2025 using method 'Stock Synthesis' with data up to 2023. The outcome of the 2025 stock assessment model is more optimistic than the previous assessment (2024) despite the high catches recorded in the period 2021-2022, which exceeded the catch limits established in 2020 for this period.   The final assessment indicates that: **YFT Assessment result:** A new stock assessment was carried out for yellowfin tuna in 2024. The 2024 stock assessment was carried out using Stock Synthesis III (SS3), The model uses four types of data: catch, size frequency, tagging and CPUE indices. With regards to the differences in the modelling choices, the new SS3 model includes a new growth model, natural mortality and maturity. All these have been updated from recent biological studies, as agreed by the WPTT in the 2024 data preparatory meeting. For the 2024 model, a new approach was applied to the derivation of the MSY and associated biomass-based reference point (SBMSY) based on the magnitude of recruitment estimated for the recent 20-year period, The derivation of MSY is in line with the recommendations of the 2023 review. MSY was estimated to be 421,000 t. Recent annual catches of 401,000 t are below the estimated MSY. Differences in the estimates of MSY and BMSY using recent and long-term recruitment levels introduce additional uncertainty in the estimates of stock status relative to BMSY. Fishing mortality was estimated to be below the FMSY level in 2021-2023. The recent strong recruitments also contribute to a continued increase in projected biomass in the forthcoming years. The magnitude of the recent annual recruitments (2020-2022) is unprecedented in the time series, Current fishing mortality is estimated to be 25% lower than FMSY (F2023/FMSY = 0.75). The probability of the stock being in the green Kobe quadrant in 2023 is estimated to be 89%. On the weight-of-evidence available in 2024, the yellowfin tuna stock is determined to be **not-overfished** and **not-subject to overfishing** (**Table 1** and **Fig. 4**) **SKJ Assessment result:** No new stock assessment was carried out for skipjack tuna in 2025 and so the advice is based on the 2023 assessment using Stock Synthesis with data up to 2022. The outcome of the 2023 stock assessment model is more optimistic than the previous assessment (2020) despite the high catches recorded in the period 2021-2022, which exceeded the catch limits established in 2020 for this period. SB2022 / SB40%SB0 (80% CI): 1.33 (1.04–1.71), SB2022 / SB20%SB0 (80% CI): 2.67 (2.08–3.42) ,SB2022 / SBMSY (80% CI) : 2.30 (1.57–3.40),F2022 FMSY (80% CI) : 0.49 (0.32–0.75),F2022 / F40%SSB0 (80% CI) .90 (0.68–1.22),MSY (t) (80% CI): 584,774 (512,228–686,071).The stock is above the adopted target for this stock (40%SB0) and the current exploitation rate is below the target exploitation rate with the probability of 70%. Current spawning biomass relative to unexploited levels is estimated at 53%., The spawning biomass remains above SBMSY and the fishing mortality remains below FMSY with a probability of 98.4 %, Over the history of the fishery, biomass has been well above the adopted limit reference point (20%SB0). 2023 stock status determination3 Fisheries Bill: 2018: Draft bill copy. Inspection is done by annual compliance. Email for IUU cases. VMS is system is in the process of establishment and will be covered for all boats.Data managed by the organizations IOTC, Fisheries ministry of Maldives and readily available from their website and the organization keep a track of all relevant data as soon as it is published.. The organization keep communication with Ministry of Fisheries also meets in person with the scientist there for the updates. They also submits the data for environmental reporting system of Maldives on regular basis. with VMS and logbook reporting mandated. The Government of Maldives stopped licensing longliners for a third time in 2019 due to non-compliance of vessels and irregularities in the data reporting. In the event where the VMS stops functioning, the Master or vessel owner shall immediately notify the Ministry in writing and follow the procedures for manual reporting as outlined by the relevant regulations. https://presidency.gov.mv/Press/Article/30452. Ministry of fisheries issues the log sheets for each vessel. And also the log sheets have the latitude and longitude point. It is given by the GPS point of the vessels. The vessels are monitored by the coast guard. If any crossing the EEZ and will be picked by the coast guards. And the same appear in the news for such violation. The govt. news bulletins were verified from ministry web site during the audit. The company management was also interviewed regarding this and found that they review this on weekly basis. Interview with Mr. Naanu. was done to and asked the latest initiatives by Maldives Govt. The marine protected areas (MPA) are ed by the ministryof Fisheries and Agriculture regularly. The list of protected areas.The World Bank funded Sustainable Fisheries Resources Development Project's activities to revamp the existing VMS system is already underway. Consequently, a major overhaul of the VMS System is under way as old units are replaced by new technology that would allow reporting at sea with additional benefits such a crew social welfare messaging etc Vessel Monitoring System for Republic of Maldives GeoEye has entered into a contract from the Republic of the Maldives for a vessel monitoring system that is being developed for fisheries management and safety. This information services project expands GeoEye\'s expertise and presence in location-based information products and servicesLogbooks for all the tuna fisheries have provisions to report interactions with non-targeted protected species, including marine turtles. The data is reported regularly to IOTC.

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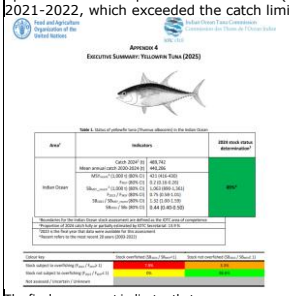
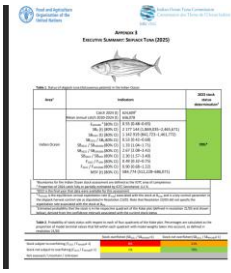
The fisheries management organization is an institution responsible for fisheries management, including the formulation of rules governing fishing activities. The fishery management organization may also be responsible for collection of information, its analysis stock assessment, monitoring, control and surveillance. ***FAO 1997: FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries.***					
1.1.2	The stock under consideration shall NOT be overexploited.	Essential	F ≤ Fmsy within probability range of available stock assessments or at least F ≤ Flim (limit reference point – orits proxy). If overfishing of a stock under consideration of a certified fishery	Y	The stock of the The YFT species under the scope of certifications: Skip Jack Tuna is managed by i).IOTC Stock Assessment, web site address: www.iotc.org The Fishing area is FAO Zone 051. There is a new stock assessment carried out for skipjack tuna in 2023 using method 'Stock Synthesis' with data up to 2022. The outcome of the 2023 stock assessment model is more optimistic than the previous assessment (2020) despite the high catches recorded in the period 2021-2022, which exceeded the catch limits established in 2020 for this. Biomass: Current spawning biomass was considered to be above the target reference point of 40% of SB0, and above the limit reference point of 0.2*SB0 as per Resolution 16/02. • Main fisheries (mean annual catch 2018-2022): skipjack tuna are caught using purse seine (54.4%), followed by baitboat (19.2%) and gillnet (17.9%). The remaining catches taken with other gears contributed to 8.6% of the total catches in recent years. YFT: The recent strong recruitments also contribute to a continued increase in projected biomass in the forthcoming years. The magnitude of the recent annual recruitments (2020-2022) is unprecedented in the time series, Current fishing mortality is estimated to be 25% lower than FMSY (F2023/FMSY = 0.75). The probability of the stock being in the green Kobe quadrant in 2023 is estimated to be 89%. On the weight-of-evidence available in 2024, the yellowfin tuna stock is determined to be not-overfished and not-subject to overfishing (Table 1 and Fig. 4)

			occurs, the certificati on of this fishery is suspend edor revoked.		

1.1.3	The stock under consideration shall NOT be overfished.	Essential	B ≥ Bmsy within probability range ofavailable stock assessments or at least B>Blim (limit reference point – orits proxy). If the stock under consideration of a certified fishery becomes overfished,the certification of this fishery is suspended or revoked.	Y	The stock of the certification now includes both Skip Jack Tuna as well as Yellow Fin Tuna. The YFT species has recently received the IOTC STOCK assessment result as sustainable with under the scope of certifications: Skip Jack Tuna is managed by i).IOTC Stock Assessment, web site address: www.iotc.org The Fishing area is FAO Zone 051. There is a new stock assessment carried out for skipjack tuna in 2025 using method 'Stock Synthesis' with data up to 2023. The outcome of the 2025 stock assessment model is more optimistic than the previous assessment (2024) despite the high catches recorded in the period 2021-2022, which exceeded the catch limits established in 2020 for this period.   The final assessment indicates that: **YFT Assessment result:** A new stock assessment was carried out for yellowfin tuna in 2024. 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Fishing mortality was estimated to be below the FMSY level in 2021-2023. The recent strong recruitments also contribute to a continued increase in projected biomass in the forthcoming years. The magnitude of the recent annual recruitments (2020-2022) is unprecedented in the time series, Current fishing mortality is estimated to be 25% lower than FMSY (F2023/FMSY = 0.75). The probability of the stock being in the green Kobe quadrant in 2023 is estimated to be 89%. On the weight-of-evidence available in 2024, the yellowfin tuna stock is determined to be **not-overfished** and **not-subject to overfishing** (**Table 1** and **Fig. 4**) **SKJ Assessment result:** No new stock assessment was carried out for skipjack tuna in 2025 and so the advice is based on the 2023 assessment using Stock Synthesis with data up to 2022. The outcome of the 2023 stock assessment model is more optimistic than the previous assessment (2020) despite the high catches recorded in the period 2021-2022, which exceeded the catch limits established in 2020 for this period. SB2022 / SB40%SB0 (80% CI): 1.33 (1.04–1.71), SB2022 / SB20%SB0 (80% CI): 2.67 (2.08–3.42) ,SB2022 / SBMSY (80% CI) : 2.30 (1.57–3.40),F2022 FMSY (80% CI) : 0.49 (0.32–0.75),F2022 / F40%SSB0 (80% CI) .90 (0.68–1.22),MSY (t) (80% CI): 584,774 (512,228–686,071).The stock is above the adopted target for this stock (40%SB0) and the current exploitation rate is below the target exploitation rate with the probability of 70%. Current spawning biomass relative to unexploited levels is estimated at 53%., The spawning biomass remains above SBMSY and the fishing mortality remains below FMSY with a probability of 98.4 %, Over the history of the fishery, biomass has been well above the adopted limit reference point (20%SB0). 2023 stock status determination3 Fisheries Bill: 2018: Draft bill copy. Inspection is done by annual compliance. Email for IUU cases. VMS is system is in the process of establishment and will be covered for all boats.Data managed by the organizations IOTC, Fisheries ministry of Maldives and readily available from their website and the organization keep a track of all relevant data as soon as it is published.. The organization keep communication with Ministry of Fisheries also meets in person with the scientist there for the updates. They also submits the data for environmental reporting system of Maldives on regular basis. with VMS and logbook reporting mandated. The Government of Maldives stopped licensing longliners for a third time in 2019 due to non-compliance of vessels and irregularities in the data reporting. In the event where the VMS stops functioning, the Master or vessel owner shall immediately notify the Ministry in writing and follow the procedures for manual reporting as outlined by the relevant regulations. https://presidency.gov.mv/Press/Article/30452
The auditor shall take into account the best scientific evidence available and, in the case of data limited fisheries, shall consider the Precautionary Approach.					
1.1.4	The current status and management measures for the stock under consideration shall include data of bycatch, discards, unobserved mortality, incidental mortality, unreported catch, and	Essential	Documented evidence	Y	The current data is available for Skip Jack Tuna as well as Yellow Fin Tuna and is monitored by Maldives ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture and yearly data is provided to IOTC for compilation at IOTC secretariate. As per the IOTC Resolution 21/01. Reference: **Maldives National Report to the Scientific Committee of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, 2025**

	catch of all the fisheries over the entire area of the distribution of the stock under consideration.				
1.1.5	The methodology, the results and the trends of the stock status assessment under consideration shall be made publicly available in a timely manner and based on the best scientific evidence available, respecting confidentiality where appropriate.	Essential	Documented evidence	Y	The current data is available for Skip Jack Tuna and Yellow Fin Tuna and is monitored by Maldives ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture and yearly data is provided to IOTC for compilation at IOTC secretariate. The IOTC publishes the data on yearly basis for all the catch statistics of the members countries with all fisheries biological parameters analysis. The data is published on the IOTC website www.iotc.org. Reference: Maldives National Report to the Scientific Committee of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, 2025

2 – ECOSYSTEM AND HABITAT IMPACT

No.	Requirement	Level	Parameters and information	Y/N/ N.A.	Comments
2.1	Adequate, reliable and current data and/or other information are collected and updated at the level of the Fishery Management System, taking into account the best scientific evidence available, in order to make an assessment of the effects of the unit of certification on the ecosystem structure, function, processes and essential habitats for the stock under consideration and for habitats that are vulnerable to damage by the fishing gear of the unit of certification (with special consideration to deep-sea fisheries in the high seas and vulnerable marine ecosystems). This includes knowledge of the full spatial range of the relevant habitat, not just that part of the spatial range that is potentially affected by fishing and an assessment on non-target stocks, Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) species, habitats and ecosystem services. The methodology and results of the likelihood and magnitude of adverse impacts of the unit of certification on the ecosystem shall be made publicly available in a timely manner, respecting confidentiality where appropriate. In order to assess severe adverse impacts[1] on dependent predators, data and information shall be collected considering the role of the stock in the food web, including all sources of fishing.	Essential	Data collection shall be in accordance with international standards (e.g. CWP and DSF in theHigh Seas, FAO Programme). The data and analysis may includeany traditional, fisher or community knowledge used within the management system. [1]Severe adverse impacts can be regarded as thosethat are likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible.	Y	Fishing gear used is 'Hand Line' as well as 'Pole and Line' which reduces the percentage of bycatch. No juvenile catch. This is available at the Boat license. Spot verification or surprise checks by the Fisheries officer for is also conducted from time to time. Minimal by-catch (only targeted incidental catch, no turtles and sharks caught.There is a list of endangered. Viable/live release. No degradation of sea bed. During the onsite audit the log books were verified for the sampled vessels and the longitude and latitudes were verified and compared with the MPA of the Maldives. There was such instances of the violations for the sampled vessels. Ministry of Fisheries also keeps monitoring of the same and the same was adequately maintained. This was detailed in the report: **Maldives National Report to the Scientific Committee of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, 2025** The fishing is highly selective and targeted to the species. species selection should reduce impact on non-target species and by-catches. 1.1 IOTC-2025 National Report Maldi No juvenile catch. Awareness training given to fisherman, verified the records for the year 2025-2026, Verified the training record Formt SSOP14, Dated 19.11.2025 , total 42 fisherman were trained and covered under this training. The training covered all FOS wild standard related topics such as Overfishing, Fishing practices, accidental and By catch, Use of Log book and IUU fishing, Legal compliance, Waste management, ETP, Fishing gear, .and found adequate.
2.2	The unit of certification complies with theMarine Protected Areas regulations.	Essential	Verify compliance also byuse of Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and plotters tracking and	Y	Marine protection in the Maldives is anchored by the Environment Protection and Preservation Act (4/93), establishing a framework for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to safeguard biodiversity. Key regulations include a total ban on shark fishing (2010), bans on whale shark fishing (1995), and stringent protection for sea turtles and coral reefs, https://www.maldivesmantaconservation.org/protected-species#:~:text=In%20the%20Maldives%2C%20all%20ray%20species%20are,keep%20or%20harm%20any%2

			World database.		0type%20of%20ray.

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 http://www.mpatlas.org/map/mpas/, where applicable).

2.3	The unit of certification shall use fishing gears that do not affect the seabed, unless it is proved that such impact is negligible.	Essential	The auditor shall list allthe gear types used bythe applicant unit of certification and assesstheir impact on the specific type of seabedand its benthic communities.	Y	Most of the fishing is done by using Pole and Line and Hand line. The impact of this fishing method is not having any impact on seabed. This was verified the log book. The Pole and Line / Handline fishing methods are pelagic gears and do not impact the seabed or the impact to the habitat or environment is not significant. Habitat damage - these hook and line fishing methods do not come into contact with the seabed so are not associated with damage to marine habitat. Marine Protected areas Maldives
The Auditor shall collect conformity evidence.					

3 - GEAR SELECTIVITY

No.	Requirement	Level	Parameters andinformation	Y/N/ N.A.	Comments

3.1	Accidental catches (bycatch) coming from the unit of certification shall not include species listed in the IUCN red list of endangered species as Vulnerable or higher risk. The IUCN assessment shall have been carried out no more than 10 years before.	Essential	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. 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 www.iucnredlist.org.	Y	Log sheets have all the details about the catch. Now the department of fisheries has a dedicated wing for IUCN coordination with relevant govt. departments as well as updating the IUCN from time to time. The studies/monitoring and analysis is done department of Fisheries and publish data and submit to IOTC. The control by the Ministry of Fisheries, Govt. of Maldives and the organization is by the "Daily catch Data for a Fishing trip. Which details the ETP species, by catch data, Shark and Manta Rays. It specifies the release of by catch dead or alive. Verified records for the period Ist January2025-26.. The records of Log books were adequately maintained. The log-book copy is attached herewith for the reference. IUCN web site : www.iucn.org. The Maldivian Fisheries Law (1987) is prohibited the caught of endangered species, non- target catch and discards. The FAO, IUCN and IOTC and MRC are referred from time to time for the latest updated and controls are taken accordingly. Organization collected data from Maldives Fishery ministry website from time to time. Verifid the various data o the Maldives & IOTC data on YFT fishery catch an fushery management practices, e.g. The Maldives Tuna Fishery: An Example of best practice.*Ocean Yearbook* 36: 314–345. Link: https://brill.com/view/journals/ocyo/36/1/article- p314_11.xml?language=en Bycatch study Maldives

3.2	The unit of certification collects and maintains adequate, reliable and current data and/or other information about its effects on endangered species, non-target catches and discards in accordance with applicable international standards and practices. It is required the monitoring and subsequent assessment of the extent to which non-target catches and discards by the unit of certification of stocks other than the stock under consideration threaten those non-target stocks with recruitment overfishing or other impacts that are likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible.	Essential	Evidence of conformity	Y	The Fisheries Act of the Maldives (No. 14/2019) is prohibited the caught of endangered species, non-target catch and discards. The FAO, IUCN and IOTC and MRC are referred from time to time for the latest updated and controls are taken accordingly. Last information collected from these websites are checked on fortnightly interval, last visited all the website was on 16th Dec 2025. Bycatch are used for human consumption in the form of either processed, Fish meal, fresh, dry fish, Fish oil. The discards are not the above 8% of total catch, this is recorded in the raw material procurement register /(format no. 001/HACCP/BFM).
The auditor shall obtain records kept by the unit of certification 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 www.redlist.org. The Auditor shall provide a final document that shows if any of the accidentally caught species is included in the IUCN list.					
3.3	The level of discard shall not be over 8% of total catch (in weight).	Essential	Discards are bycaughtspecies, which are notused for human consumption nor for fishmeal or fish oil production.	Y	Bycatch are not used for human consumption in the form of either processed, Fish meal, fresh, dry fish, Fish oil. The level of by catches are < 8% of the total catch by weight. This was verified from the log book of the sampled vessels.
3.4.1	The unit of certification shall provide a census of the number of all fish aggregating devices (FADs) deployed per vessel during the previous 12 months. **Only applicable to fisheries and fleet targeting tuna. N/A to fisheries targeting any other species.**	Important	Auditor shall collect thedata provided by the fleet or fishery and attach it to the audit report.	Y	Targeting only Tuna species-SKJ. FADs is used for Pole & Line fishery. This is allowed by the Maldives Fisheries Law for using FADs for Pole and Line. This information is available at the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture website. The Maldivian govt. regulation is also listed country-wise at FAO website with regulations including on FAD. The FAD used at Maldives is a non-entangling type. This is detailed at the national report of Maldives to scientific community of IOTC. nchored Fish Aggregating Devices (AFADs) are critical to the Maldivian pole-and-line tuna fishery, with approximately 55 units deployed across the archipelago to attract skipjack and yellowfin tuna. These devices consist of surface buoys with reflectors, solar lights, and underwater attractors (like palm fronds) anchored to the seabed.

3.4.2	The unit of certification shall use non-entangling FADs only, to avoid entanglement of sharks, turtles and other non-target species. **Only applicable to fisheries and fleet targeting tuna. N/A to fisheries targeting any other species.**	Important	Auditor shall collect evidence including pictures of FADs, purchase invoices with technical specifications to prove compliance.	Y	Targeting only Tuna species-SKJ. FADs is used for Pole & Line fishery. This is allowed by the Maldives Fisheries Law for using FADs for Pole and Line. This information is available at the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture website. The Maldivian govt. regulation is also listed country-wise at FAO website with regulations including on FAD. The FAD used at Maldives is a non-entangling type. This is detailed at the national report of Maldives to scientific community of IOTC.
3.4.3	Marking FADs and FAD components with ownership details, consistent with the Voluntary Guidelines for the Marking of Fishing Gear, adopted at the FAO's Committee on Fisheries (COFI 33). **Only applicable to fisheries and fleet targeting tuna. N/A to fisheries targeting any other species.**	Important	More information about Voluntary Guidelines for the Marking of Fishing Gear at this link: https://www.wcpfc.int/system/files/WCPFC_Gear%20Marking_FAO.pdf The auditor shall attach to the report at least one picture of markers as example.	Y	The FADs in the Maldives are generally government-managed anchored FADs, and to avoid implying direct control by Big Fish unless evidenced. Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture has placed Fish Aggregating ***Devices*** (***FADs***) in ***all*** areas of the ***Maldives*** ***Ref:*** https://psmnews.mv/en/103513. FADs-in-Responsible-Tuna-Fisheries.pdf
3.4.4	Equipping all FADs with a tracking device and sharing real-time FAD location with relevant authorities. **Only applicable to fisheries and fleet targeting tuna. N/A to fisheries targeting any other species.**	Important	Evidence of compliance, such as purchase invoices withtechnical specificationsand maintenance records. If possible, the auditor can include pictures of tracking devices.	Y	FADs should be marked and ownership of FADs clarified by complying with the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear, enabling all FADs to be traced back to their owners. Ref: https://www.bluemarinefoundation.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Minimum-Requirements-for-Responsible-Drifting-FAD-Use.pdf. The FADs are monitored by the RFMO of Maldives. The individual
3.4.5	Recovering all deployed FADs and avoiding their deliberate abandonment. **Only applicable to fisheries and fleet targeting tuna. N/A to fisheries targeting any other species.**	Important	Evidence of recovering all deployed FADs, e.g. logbook.	Y	Yes, it is followed as part of the vessel monitoring and during the interview of the vessel staff, it was revealed that they are aware of this fact.Ref: https://www.bluemarinefoundation.com

3.4.6	Ensuring there is adequate storage space on boats/vessels for recovered FADs. **Only applicable to fisheries and fleet targeting tuna. N/A to fisheries targeting any other species.**	Essential	Verify that there is adequate storage spaceon boat/vessels for recovered FADs, collecting evidence through pictures that have to be attached to the audit report.	Y	The FADs- Anchored FADs used in the Maldives are of non-entangling designs it is done at the vessel and the vessel captains takes care of this, this was verified during the audit.
3.4.7	Reporting of lost FADs with date, time and last known position to relevant authorities. **Only applicable to fisheries and fleet targeting tuna. N/A to fisheries targeting any other species.**	Essential	Verify the existence ofa logbook where reported cases of lossand attach to the audit report at least one example.	Y	Yes, it is done at the vessel and the vessel captains takes care of this, this was verified during the audit.

3.5	Shark finning is prohibited.	Essential	Procedure and evidence of conformity: site inspection and interview. The unit of certification shall declare that they do not practice shark finning.	Y	The shark species are protected at Maldives under the R-75/2020 General Fisheries Regulation all type of activities such as Harvesting, retaining on-board, storing on-board, transhipping, transporting to a landing facility or landing any of the species protected under the General Fisheries Regulation is prohibited.

3.6	Turtle excluder devices (TEDs) are in place and subjected to periodic maintenance. **Only applicable to trawler fisheries and fleets targetingshrimps.**	Important	The unit of certification shall haveappointed at least one employee to monitor the functioning and maintenance of TEDs.The auditor shall collect evidence of compliance, such as purchase invoices withtechnical specificationsand maintenance records.If possible, the auditor can include pictures ofTEDs.	N/A	This is not applicable as Trawler fishery is not under the scope of certification. Ref: https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2017-041.pdf https://www.cms.int/iosea-turtles/sites/default/files/document/Maldives_19_09_2014.pdf
3.7	The unit of certification shall usecircle hooks. **Only applicable to fisheries and fleet using pole and line andlong line fishing methods.**	Recommendation	Evidence of conformity	Y	At Maldives circle hooks are used in the Pole and Line and handline fishery in majority of the areas.

4 - LEGAL CONFORMITY

No.	Requirement	Level	Parameters and information	Y/N/N.A.	Comments
4.1	All fishing vessels shall be officially registered.	Essential	Vessel registration and fishing license inspection.	Y	All fishing Vessels are registration under the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture in Maldives. They issue a list of IUU vessels to all processors and exporters when ever such vessels are noticed. Website link: http//fishagri.gov.in. The last news bulletin regarding IUU was checked and uploaded here. News Articles on IUU vessels in Maldives.m IO10TC Links:https://www.iotc.org/about-iotc/scaf https://www.iotc.org/about-iotc https://www.iotc.org/science/scientific-committee https://www.iotc.org/node/3388 There is a circular from Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture that all the processors must inspect the vessels for compliance of Log book.The govt. body MFDA-Maldives Food and drug agency does the inspection for each vessel before issuing the license. Copy of inspection The organization also checks the license when the vessels reaches landing center before material's unloading and the validity and all details are checked. The material receiving record was also verified.
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).					

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 Flagof Convenience. Pleaserefer to: https://www.itfseafarers .org/foc-registries.cfm	Y	All fishing Vessels are registration under the Ministry of fisheries and agriculture of Maldives list of vessel is available at the ministry website. The organization also maintains a list of vessels from which the fishes are purchased. With details such as Vessel ID/Registration no./fishing gear/negative for Flag of convenience. Verified all the vessels from where the fish is purchased are not present in the list as per fos-registries. The Master list of vessel list is available dated 05.01.2023 which is updated when-ever there is any renewal of license. . There are updates also as per the IUU list conveyed by ministry of fisheries. The organization has also system of updating latest vessel list by using bar coding system. Expired and Non-expired Vessels details are available in Seafood pro System (Bar Code)

4.3	The fleet does not include illegal, unreported, unregulated (IUU) fishing vessels.	Essential	The auditor shall verify that the vessels are not listedin EU IUU vessel list (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv%3AOJ.L_.2015.199.01.0012.01.ENG), or in the IUUvessel list made available by the competent RFMO.	Y	The ministry of fisheries regulations are prohibited the IUU fishing and them also monitoring the fishing vessels. The ministry of fisheries issues a list of IUU vessels to all processors and exporters as and when there are notification of IUU vessels. This is notified at the news. link attached herewith. https://iotc.org/sites/default/files/documents/compliance/vessel_lists/IUU%20lists/IOTC_IUU_Vessels_List_20250416EF.pdf https://iotc.org/documents/indian-ocean-tuna-commission-draft-iuu-vessels-list-2026.
4.4	The fleet shall be "Dolphin Safe" approved by the Earth Island Institute. **Only applicable to fisheries and fleet targeting tuna. N/A to fisheries targeting any other species.**	Essential	The unit of certification shall be included in the Dolphin-Safe list of the Earth Island Institute: www.dolphinsafetuna.org	Y	The organization has already received the Dolphin safe certificate. The validity of the Dolphine safe certificate is up to February 2027. The copy of the certificate is attached. BFM Dolphin Safe Certificate feb 2027.p
The Auditor shall verify conformity on the latest list of approved Dolphin Safe companies and/or importers, brokers, and retailers. A copy of the signed EII DS Policy shall be included in the audit report.					

4.5	The unit of certification complies with local, national and international fisheries regulations. In particular, based on the best scientific evidence available, compliance with the following regulations has to be confirmed andverified:	Essential	Countries' fisheries laws are available on the FAOwebsite: http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/ **The auditor shall specify applicable indicators.**	Y	Yes, it is being complied. The organization also audited by MFDA at six monthly interval fisheries for compliance of for compliance of Vessel license. The organization also is approved by Ministry of Fisheries of Maldives for license to seafood processing. Fisheires law of Maldives.pdf The copy of the license is attached. Yes, the Fisheries Law is available at the http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/.

4.5.1	Total Allowable Catches (TAC).	Essential	Countries' fisheries laws are available on the FAO website: http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/ **The auditor shall specify applicablelimits.**	Y	There is total allowable catch limit for SKJ tuna in the Indian Ocean Tuna commission circular. Longline fishery has been a minor component in the Maldives tuna fisheries. Maldives used to have a licensed foreign longline fleet operating in the outer EEZ (75 miles and beyond) since 1985 (Anderson, Hafiz and Adam, 1996). During the height of the fishery some 30-40 vessels operated in the Maldivian waters. Reporting and monitoring of the foreign longline fishery was sub-optimal. Due to pressure from the pole-and-line and handline fishermen, licensing for foreign vessels was ended in mid-2010. The Government of Maldives resumed licensing fully local longline vessels and businesses to fish from 75 miles from shore, within the Maldives EEZ, in 2011. The Longline Fishery Regulation (No. 2014/R-388) allowed vessels to target yellowfin and bigeye tuna from 100 miles and beyond and regulated the fishery with a total allowable catch (TAC) based on the fleet development plan submitted to IOTC, a quota system to distribute the TAC, mandatory VMS and logbook reporting of catch and effort. Reference (MALDIVES NATIONAL REPORT SUBMITTED TO IOTC - IOTC-2021
4.5.2	Use of a logbook.	Essential	Countries' fisheries lawsare available on the FAOwebsite: http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/ **The auditor shall specify applicable indicators.**	Y	The ministry of fisheries and agriculture has now mandatorily set rule to use log book for all commercial fishing activities. The copy vessel log book is attached herewith for reference (English version).Catch certificates are also a mandatory requirements for vessels to provide to the processors. **Copy of catch certificate attached.** Yes it is used quite well with all the required details. The log books of the sampled vessels were verified during the audit. Model catch certificate (NOAA) also submitting to USA Shipments **(Attached)** Sample Catch Certificate.PDF
4.5.3	Minimum net mesh size.	Essential	Countries' fisheries lawsare available on the FAOwebsite: http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/ **The auditor shall specify applicable indicators.**	N/A	There is no net is used as fishing gear, all are Hand Line and Pole and Line.

4.5.4	Net size.	Essential	Countries' fisheries lawsare available on the FAOwebsite: http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/ **The auditor shall specify applicable indicators.**	N/A	There is no net is used as fishing gear, all are Hand Line and Pole and Line.

4.5.5	Minimum legal size of the target species.	Essential	Countries' fisheries lawsare available on the FAOwebsite: http://www.fao.org/faole x/en/ **The auditor shall specify applicable indicators.**	Y	The ministry of fisheries and agriculture has control the fishing methods and gear size to regulate the Size of the fish. There are no minimum legal size of the catch for all there species. The organization discourages buying of SKJ (small size) by raising the rate of small fishes. Also, the fishing methods ad gear size to regulate the Size of the fish. The same has been mentioned in the Fisheries license issued to the boat.
4.5.6	Distance from the shore.	Essential	Countries' fisheries lawsare available on the FAOwebsite: http://www.fao.org/faole x/en/	Y	There is no minimum distance from the shore but in practice Pole and line fishing it is about 2 nautical mile and Hand line it is more than 10 nautical miles out-side the atoll territorial and coastal fishing till the EEZ. Vessels are having operating licenses according to the fishing areas. (i.e.: EEZ license and High Seas license) Maldives Economic Zone (EEZ)-FAO 51. The guidelines of the : UNCLOS) are followed.
4.5.7	Measures that minimize unwanted catchand discards, where appropriate.	Essential	Countries' fisheries lawsare available on the FAOwebsite: http://www.fao.org/faole x/en/ **The auditor shall specify applicable measures.**	Y	Since the organization is taking the fishing method Hand Line and Pole and Line. The organization has given an awareness training on using the Logbook to the concerned Fishermen. Fishing is basically conducted at day time. No light attraction is used.
4.5.8	No fishing in protected habitats.	Essential	Countries' fisheries lawsare available on the FAOwebsite: http://www.fao.org/faole x/en/ **The auditor shall specify applicable indicators.**	Y	There is no fishing in protected area as it is being controlled by VMS Vessel monitoring system. Further, Necessary advice and instructions are given by DFAR and organization for skippers regarding protected habitat areas. By Law; it is prohibited catching, keeping in possession transportation and Transshipping of Marine Mammals, Turtles, Thresher Sharks, Species of Sea Birds are totally prohibited. No fishing operation should be conducted within the radius 1km of the data buoys installed in high seas. The same is followed no change in the year 2022-23.
4.5.9	Use of forbidden gear,	Essential	Countries' fisheries lawsare available on the FAOwebsite: http://www.fao.org/faole x/en/ **The auditor shall specify applicable indicators.**	Y	In vessels, they use only Pole and Line and Hand Line gears only. All these items are prohibited by ministry of Fisheries and agriculture. And they have the boat inspection plan. This was confirmed during the vessel inspection conducted during the audit

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/N.A.	Comments
5.1.1a	The fishery management system of which the unit of certification is a part is managed under an effective legal framework according to a regularly updated Fishery Management Plan (FMP), at the appropriate level, and complies with local, national and international laws and regulations.	Essential	The Unit of Certification shall provide a copy of the FMP according to the Fishery Management System (FMS). In addition, national fishery ministries and authorities can be considered, e.g. Fisheries Management Organisations (FMOs). A map of existing RFMOs is available at http://www.fao.org/figis/geoserver/factsheets/rfbs.html	Y	The fisheries management plan has been developed by the Ministry of Fisheries Govt of Maldives.(attached). Web site: www.fao.org. Since there is no vessels owned by the organization, the organization exercise control during the purchase. The organization buy Skip Jack Tuna. The management system is typical for highly migratory species and tuna is particular. In Maldives. Tuna fishery is managed by the Fisheries Law of Maldives, 1987. and the Regulations therein. The fisheries bill has been prepared and accordingly it will be put up in the parliament for approval. There are efforts by the govt. the Competent Authority to combat IUU fishing and adverse fishery methods such as Industrial purse seining vessel. Department of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources handles the management of fishery with interaction with IOTC. The MSPEA-Maldives Seafood Processor and exporter's Association has applied to IOTC to be part of the observer program application dated 5th January 2023. Attached.
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 organization or arrangement is in place.	Essential	Evidence of conformity. In case this is not applicable,provide justification.	Y	The IOTC-Indian Ocean Tuna commissioned at head quarter at Seychelles with 32 members including Maldives and is mandated for sustainability of tuna in the Indian ocean. All the members gives input to IOTC on regular on Fisheries Management. Maldives is involved in tuna resource management the establishment of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission (IOFC) for the Management of Indian Ocean Tuna in 1968. Mr. Adam Zyad, Director-Fisheries compliance, ministry of Fisheries and agriculture, Maldives is also vice chair person of IOTC. The Maldives became the member of the IOTC in the year 2011. The vice chair person for the working party on Tropicool Tuna IS Dr. M. Shiham Adam. He is also vice chairman of the scientific committee of IOTC. Mr. Hussain Sinan from Maldives is the chair person of Administrative and Finance committee of IOTC.

	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, with clear rolesand responsibilities. The arrangement shall ensure the rights of the small- scale fishing communities are granted. In order to find out the potential effects of bycatch management and discardreduction measures, States shall alsoprovide an assessment on livelihoods toascertain the potential effects of theirimplementation a				Department of fisheries, Govt of Maladies in Maldives has updated their regulation. The Fisheries management organizations is conducted annually along with intermittent meetings w.r.t scientific committee meeting, Technical committee working party meeting and compliance committee meeting and all updates are published regularly and the report is submitted deiminated to the respective govt. for taking actions. www.iotc.prg..

5.1.1c	The fishery management organization or arrangement convenes to update its management advice according to the most updated data and in a timely manner, with special consideration to deep-sea fisheries, adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems, bycatch management, reduction of discards and ecosystem structure, function and processes.	Essential	Evidence of meeting frequency.	Y	Department of fisheries, Govt of Maladies in Maldives has updated their regulation. The Fisheries management organizations is conducted annually along with intermittent meetings w.r.t scientific committee meeting, Technical committee working party meeting and compliance committee meeting and all updates are published regularly and the report is submitted deiminated to the respective govt. for taking actions. www.iotc.prg..
The Auditor shall verify and describe briefly the legal and administrative structure of the fishery management system in force and provide the evidence of compliance with local laws and regulations. ***Small-scale fisheries are here intended as those using fishing craft with size < 24 m and engine <375 kW.*** ***Large-scale fisheries are intended as those using fishing craft 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).***					
5.1.2	The fisheries management system (FMS) under which the fishery or fleet under audit is managed shall be **both** participatory and transparent, including consultation with "responsible" deep-sea fishers, 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 Fisheries management organizations of Maldives is conducted annually along with intermittent meetings w.r.t scientific committee meeting, Technical committee working party meeting and compliance committee meeting and all updates are published regularly and the report is submitted deiminated to the respective govt. for taking actions. The same is followed no change in the year 2025-26.

5.2.1	A precautionary approach shall be applied, through the FMS, taking into account the best scientific evidence available to protect the target stock and its habitat and preserve the marine environment, with special consideration for data limited fisheries.	Essential	Procedure and evidence of conformity.	Y	The Maldives the catches for YFT is from HL and PL. The organization has a policy to buy from only Hand line and Pole and Line only which is a precautionary measure to protect marine environment. The log books were verified (attached). The IUU vessel list attached; list of vessels border crossings, canceled boats. Sample Catch Certificate.PDF
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 that allow for the restoration of the stock to such levels within a reasonable timeframe. These measures shall be based on the best scientific evidence available. This requirement also pertains to species introductions or translocations that have occurred historically and that have become established as part of the natural ecosystem.	Essential	Procedure indicating target reference points and timeframe.	Y	The Skip Jack Tuna and Yellow Fin Tuna are above the target level and is not overfished and the stock is not dropped. The IOTC catch details have been attached herewith for reference.
5.2.3	Efficacy of management measures and their possible interactions are kept under continual review in order to evaluate and adjust the regulatory measures as necessary. The assessment shall take into account the multipurpose nature of the use patterns in inland and marine waters.	Essential	Evidence of periodical reviews of the management measures shall be provided.	Y	The FAO code is used as a measures for efficacy of management measures. The risk assessment procedure is also available https://www.fao.org/4/Y4411E/y4411e00.htm#Contents
The auditor shall verify if the Country the flag of the unit of certification refers to has ratified the FAO Code of conduct. Otherwise, the unit of certification shall include a precautionary approach in their procedures, including a risk assessment procedure.					

5.3	The compliance with fishery regulations is ensured by the fishery management organization or arrangement through an effective and suitable monitoring, surveillance, control and enforcement.	Essential	This requirement refers to the wider fishery of which the unit of certification is apart. Procedure and evidence of monitoringand control by the fishery management authority.	Y	The compliance is regularly monitored surveillance, controlled and enforced by the Ministry of Fisheries Govt. of Maldives from time to time. The Organization has obtained the Operating License for fish processing & exporting from MFDA. As the Competent Authority ; Ministry of Fisheries monitors, surveillance, controls for the enforcement of the Act and other international laws.
The Auditor shall describe briefly the monitoring, surveillance, control, and application methods and provide the evidence of the activities undertaken by the wider fishery of which the unit of certification is a part and its enforcement system to ensure compliance.					
5.4	The unit of certification shall recordbycatch and discards during every fishing trip.	Essential	Proced ure and eviden ce of confor mity.	Y	Ministry of Fisheries Govt. of Maldives issue the log sheets separately for high sea and EZZ boat vessels. All details were record in the log sheets. Attachment # 4) English version of log IOCT has the record of by catch. The log books were verified for the sampled vessels for the discard percentage and this was found satisfactory
5.5	Bycatch and discard data shall be made publicly available by the fisheries management system.	Recommendat ion	Proced ure and eviden ce of confor mity.	Y	Department of fisheries and agriculture, Govt of Maldives has issued the log sheets for all EZZ boat vessels. This has now made mandatory 3rd March'2019.This is published on the Ministry of Fisheries and agriculture web site Govt. of Maldives. The same is being followed by the company on regular basis.
The auditor shall attach copies of the bycatch and discard reports to the audit report.					

5.6	A management system to prevent possible accidental catch, reduction of discards and significant negative impacts of endangered species shall bein place and in compliance with national policies, legal and institutional frameworks. This shall consider international fisheries management plans and include objectives, strategies, standards and directed measures.	Essential	Procedure, performance indicatorsand evidence of conformity.	Y	This is regulated Department of fisheries and agriculture of Govt. of Maldives has prohibited the catch endangered species.is recorded in the log book. Record attached. Department of fisheries and agriculture of Maldives has prohibited the catch endangered species and prohibited catch some species in their breeding season. Department of fisheries and agriculture of Govt. of Maldives has prohibited the catch endangered species.

5.7	The unit of certification implements a management program with an effective and suitable monitoring, surveillance, control and enforcement to manage bycatch and reduce discards. The management of bycatch shall be consistent with achieving management objectives and include procedures for the release of live animals under conditions that guarantee high chances of survival. This shall consider the "FAO International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards", where applicable.	Essential	Procedure, performance indicators, and evidence of conformity. Refer to: http://www.fao.org/docrep/015/ba0022t/ba0022t00.pdf , Para 4.1.4.	Y	This is regulated Department of fisheries and agriculture of Govt. of Maldives has prohibited the catch endangered species.is recorded in the log book. Record attached. Department of fisheries and agriculture of Maldives has prohibited the catch endangered species and prohibited catch some species in their breeding season.
The auditor shall provide documented evidence that the unit of certification 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 gear to avoid "*ghost fishing"*.	Essential	Procedure and evidence of conformity.	Y	This is being regulated by Ministry of Fisheries. The Gear marking has been shown to be a significant measure toward the elimination of ghost gear as the gear can be traced back to the owner when found (http://www.fao.org/news/story/pt/item/1099767/icode/). Therefore, as the gear is accounted for during the departure and arrival, as well as spot inspections at sea by the coast guard as well as the logbook markings of where the lines were set/fishing grounds these measures have been set on a national to mitigate negative impacts of ghost fishing. Now they have the AIS: Automatic Identification system through the satellite communication and some are direction finders with Radio Buoy. https://ipnlf.org/ghost-gear-ipnlf-maldives/ Net fishing is banned in the Maldives; local fishers use sustainable pole-and-line or hand-line methods. Most ghost nets are "foreign," originating from industrial gillnet or purse seine fisheries in neighboring countries or international waters. The International Pole and Line Foundation (IPNLF) works with local fishers (such as those in Gemanafushi) to incentivize the collection of ghost nets at sea.

5.8.1	Vessels shall have appropriate equipment on board to assist in the safe recovery of lost fishing gear.	Important	Evidence of conformity.	Y	Some projects been implemented for recovery of lost fishing gear. Ref: https://ipnlf.org/ghost-gear-ipnlf-maldives/

5.8.2	When retrieval is not possible, the vessel must record the last known position of lost gear and report to the relevant authorities. If fishing authorities do not have the means to collect information on lost fishing gear, an alternative option is to report the details to the Global Ghost Gear Initiative via the Ghost Gear Reporter App.	Important	Procedure and evidence of conformity. Further information about the Ghost Gear Reporter App: https://www.ghostgear.org/news/2018/7/6/ggi-ghost-gear-reporter-app	Y	The Maldives Fishing authorities don't record the lost gear information at present, however the reporter app is being provided to the fishers by the organization so to report the lost gear details to Ghost Gear App.
5.8.3	Vessels shall be prepared and commit to the recovery and salvage of fishing gear lost by other vessel operators and to recycle damaged or found fishing gear, where appropriate and practically possible.	Important	Procedure and evidence of conformity.	Y	The projects has been implemented for recovery of lost fishing gear. Ref: https://ipnlf.org/ghost-gear-ipnlf-maldives/
5.8.4	The unit of certification undertakes an annual assessment of the lost gear records (amount and reasons for loss) and, in high-risk areas or during high-risk times, implement mitigation measures to address, where appropriate and practically possible.	Important	Procedure and evidence of conformity. Such measures could include: reducing soak times, implementing gear use limits in high-risk areas or during high-risk times (e.g. inclement weather), implementing other spatial or temporal measures as needed (e.g., to avoid severe weather or crowded fishing areas) and measures to reduce gear conflict that could result in gear loss.	Y	546 entangled Olive Ridleys have been recorded and over 745 ghost net conglomerates have been removed from **Maldivian** waters Ref: https://www.ghostgear.org/projects/2018/10/10/olive-ridley-project

The auditor shall obtain a copy of the procedures.

5.9	The unit of certification has an independent observer on board, from the fisheries management organizations or States. In alternative, a CCTVs system has been deployed and it is accessible by the auditor to verify compliance with Friend of the Sea requirements. **Only applicable to large-scale vessels and fleets. Not applicable to small-scale artisanal fisheries.**	Important	Documented evidence of employment. At least one monthly report of the on-board inspector.	N	Only deal with small scale fishing vessels. There is a boat inspection records. Attachment # 6f) Annual surveillance u
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, shall be consistent with all management objectives related to the unit of certification and the conservation of stock under consideration. Management objectives shall take into account the best scientific evidence available and, where applicable, take into account a Precautionary Approach regarding:	Essential	Documented evidence.	Y	These are all captured by IOTC on a regular interval and the achievement against the management objectives are monitored and published.www.iotc.org
5.10.1	Clear target reference points consistent with achieving Maximum Sustainable Yield, MSY (or a suitable proxy) on average and limit reference points (or proxies) consistent with avoiding recruitment overfishing or other impacts that are likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible.	Essential	A proxy is a surrogate or substitute approach that results in acceptable outcomes consistent with the primary approach.	Y	These are all captured by IOTC on a regular interval and the achievement against the management objectives are monitored and published.www.iotc.org

5.10.2	Marine resources exploited in deep-sea fisheries in the high seas that have low productivity. Biological reference points shall be set, in a precautionary manner and determined on a case-by-case basis, to ensure long-term sustainability. **Only applicable to deep-sea fisheries.**	Essential	Documented evidence that deep-sea stocks are harvested at levels that are sustainable in the long term.	NA	The Skipjack Tuna at Maldives are mainly fished by Pole and Line and Handline method, not by Deep-sea fisheries.
5.11	There are clear management objectives[1] based on the best scientific evidence available, applicable to the unit of certification and the stock under consideration, as well as consistent with the outcome indicators and measures defined and periodically reviewed by means of risk assessment, including knowledge of the full spatial range of the relevant habitat[2], to ensure protection and/or avoid significant/severe[3] adverse impacts[4] on:	Essential	[1]Management objectives consider all the economic, social and environmental aspects for the fishery of which the unit of certification is part. In addition, it includes recruitment overfishing or other impacts likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible. [2]Consideration of the full spatial range of the relevant habitat, not just that part of the spatial range that is potentially affected by fishing. [3]Severe adverse impacts can be	Y	These are all captured by IOTC on a regular interval and the achievement against the management objectives are monitored and published.www.iotc.org
5.11.1	Essential habitats and vulnerable marine ecosystems (with special consideration to high seas), that are specifically those of the unit of the certification, and on habitats that are highly vulnerable to damage by the fishing gear of the unit of certification.			Y	These are all captured by IOTC on a regular interval and the achievement against the management objectives are monitored and published.www.iotc.org
5.11.2	Endangered species.			Y	These are all captured by IOTC on a regular interval and the achievement against the management objectives are monitored and published.www.iotc.org

5.11.3	Non-target stocks represented by non-target catches and discards coming from the unit of certification. Additional research shall be conducted where information is insufficient to conduct a risk assessment.		regarded as those that are likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible and are applicable only in relation to dependent predators. Thus, the auditor shall consider the term "severe adverse impacts" only in relation to the	Y	These are all captured by IOTC on a regular interval and the achievement against the management objectives are monitored and published.www.iotc.org

5.11.4	Dependent predators resulting from fishing on the stock under consideration and/or key prey species.		requirement 5.11.4 and the term "significant adverse impacts" in relation to the requirements 5.11.1, 5.11.2, 5.11.3 and 5.11.5. [4]Adverse impacts are from the interaction with the unit of certification.	Y	Dependents predators are Dolphin and Shark however they are not affected as the catch percentage is minimal.
5.11.5	Ecosystem (structure, processes and function).			Y	These are all captured by IOTC on a regular interval and the achievement against the management objectives are monitored and published.www.iotc.org
5.12	A yearly reviewed Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) that considers the interdependencies and functioning of the ecosystem, minimizing cumulative negative impacts and, as far as possible, enhancing ecosystem health and integrity is in place.	Recommendation	Documented evidence Refer to the EAF: http://www.fao.org/fishery/topic/16034/en	Y	These are all captured by IOTC on a regular interval and the achievement against the management objectives are monitored and published.www.iotc.org
5.13	Fisheries management approaches, plans and strategies are an integral part of integrated coastal management, and/or ocean management for oceanic fisheries. Safeguards are in place to protect the fisheries ecosystems from adverse effects coming from other sectors.	Recommendation	Documented evidence	Y	These are all captured by IOTC on a regular interval and the achievement against the management objectives are monitored and published.www.iotc.org
5.14	Any traditional, fisher or community knowledge[1] used within the management system can be objectively verified.	Essential	[1]Uncertainties can be assessed using a risk assessment/risk management approach.	Y	Ref:https://www.bbc.com/storyworks/travel/maldives-calling/the-ancient-fishing-practice-maldivians-are-keeping-alive
The auditor shall provide evidence of the reference values targeted and implemented. In some cases, these can be threshold reference limits and precaution limits set by regional bodies. Therefore, the auditor shall verify if such limits were measured or estimated with acceptable certainty.					

6 – WASTE MANAGEMENT

No.	Requirement	Level	Parameters and information	Y/N/ N.A.	Comments
6.1	The unit of certification 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	There is a system of collecting waste by the Fisheries harbor management and the same is collected by 3rd party vendors-all the waste oil and lubricants, oil and plastic materials. All the waste generated during fishing, conservation and transport of the fish up to the selling point are considered, including packaging. The govt. rules Fine for spillage in the sea. There are coast guard for strict monitoring of the compliance of this rule. Document verified: Gate pass for waste disposal, Waste disposal procedures are available. Vessel inspection record and training record were also verified and found in place. The Waste is collected by boat and respective island it will be disposed by government waste disposal area. Local Island Waste Management Centres (IWMCs)The factory will segregate, MS scrape, Biodegradable, Fish waste and Plastic items wastage. Waste oil and Fish waste are disposed to Raiy Rihaakuru Investment, agreement dated 01.01.2026 and valid unitill 31.12. 2026. The Fish waste is used in manuring of Rihaakuru and waste oil will be used for fuel purpose. There is a legal he Waste Management Act [Law No. 24/2022] has introduced strict regulations on waste handling, including fines for illegal waste disposal or importation. The *Maldives Tuna Fishery Management Plan* sets specific standards for fishing vessels, often in line with MARPOL Annex V, which restricts the discharge of garbage at sea.
6.2	The unit of certification implements measures to prevent dispersion of waste at sea (including fuels, lubricants and plastic materials).	Essential	Procedure and evidence of conformity.	Y	There is a system of collecting waste by the Fisheries harbor management and the same is collected by 3rd party vendors-all the waste oil and lubricants, oil and plastic materials. All the waste generated during fishing, conservation and transport of the fish up to the selling point are considered, including packaging The govt. rules Fine for spillage in the sea. There are coast guard for strict monitoring of the compliance of this rule. The Awareness training given to boat Staffs regarding waste management, fire-fighting and first aid and other work instructions. The EPA monitors adherence to waste management regulations, and failure to comply—such as polluting the ocean. At the plant the waste is collected by the contractor.
6.3	The unit of certification utilizes 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 boat inspection is carried out by QA. The fishing Vessels use ice, water, Lubricant diesel during the trip. There is no specific toxic chemicals are used and traps uses for the pest controls. They use chlorine: Sodium hypochlorite/brand MAMA detergent for dishwash. The a major waste-to-energy plant is being built at Thilafushi, slated for completion by 2026, to treat 500 tons of waste per day, producing energy and significantly reducing landfill volume
6.4	The unit of certification does not use CFC, HCFC, HFC or other refrigerants that cause ozone depletion.	Essential	Procedure and evidence of conformity.	Y	There is no use of CFC, HCFC, refrigerant to protect the ozone depletion. The organization uses R404, R507, R32A, R410A all are used. In the air conditioning also this is not used. hence no ozone-depleting substances (CFC/HCFC) are used, while HFCs are in use and managed accordingly.
6.5	Fishing vessels must be equipped with storage facilities for damaged or end-of-life fishing gear, where appropriate and practically possible.	Important	Evidence of conformity	Y	There is a system of collecting waste by the Fisheries harbor management and the same is collected by 3rd party vendors-all the waste oil and lubricants, oil and plastic materials All the waste generated during fishing, conservation and transport of the fish up to the selling point are considered, including packaging. The govt. rules Fine for spillage in the sea. There are coast guard for strict monitoring of the compliance of this rule. Document verified: Gate pass for waste disposal, Waste disposal procedures are available. Vessel inspection record and training record were also verified and found in place.

6.6	Gear shall be properly disposed of at port. If appropriate disposal facilities are not available, the unit of certification shall endeavour to work with port operators to provide adequate, low-cost and accessible disposal facilities.	Important	Procedure and evidence of conformity.	Y	There is a procedure in place and the same was verified.
6.7	Where applicable, the unit of certification shall work with ports to implement gear collection and/or recycling programs for end-of-life gear.	Recommendation	Procedure and evidence of conformity.	Y	Common Recycling program has been implemented. The waste are offloaded at the designated areas at the landing area.
The auditor shall provide procedures complete with photographic evidence. See definition of large-scale fisheries in section 5.					

7 - ENERGY MANAGEMENT

No.	Requirement	Level	Parameters and information	Y/N/ N.A.	Comments
7.1	The unit of certification 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. As a minimum, the register shall include the following parameters: 1. incoming energy sources (renewable or not); 2. energy consumption per process line (fishing, processing, transport).	Y	The records of the energy, fuel, water and waste water are monitored on regular basis. The power is supplied from the captive Generation sets. Transport officers and stores officers maintains the record for vehicles fuel consumption. The objectives have been set for the reduction of the power, fuel and water per MT of the finished products for the year 2024. Generation sets. Transport officers and stores officers maintains the record for vehicles fuel consumption. The objectives have been set for the reduction of the power, fuel and water per MT of the finished products for the year 2026. There are total nos of captive generator at the factory: 4 generators: 400KW, 400KW, 800. New 1600 KW installed in Oct 2024.. Fuel Purchased 2025 : 1297669 liters.(Ice Plant, Shipment Transport Boat, Staff Accommodation, Canteen and Factory Usage): The diesel is purchased from FSM-Fuel Supply Maldives. Finished Product Produced : 2025:.4379469.43kg. So per KG the consumption of fuel was 296.3 liter/MT during the year 2025.
7.2	The unit of certification should calculate its carbon footprint per product unit and commit to reducing it every year.	Recommendation	Procedure and evidence of conformity.	N	The organization has a policy to replace the CFL to LED tube lights and bulbs., Total of more than 100% bulbs have been replaced so far and the balance will be completed in the year 2026. Tube lights, ceiling lights, Float lights, Garden lights. The total diesel used 1297669 liter and carbon emission factor used was 2.68 amount of carbon released was 3477752.92 CO2 e for the year 2025, total production for the year 2025 was 4379.469MT. The organization is working on the Zero carbon emissions as project and have plans to install solar cells on the roofs. Recommendation: Although the carbon Foot print assessment per unit of production for the year 2025 has been calculated however the improvement target for the year 2026 has yet to be set.
The Auditor shall request copies of the registers.					

8 - SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

No.	Requirement	Level	Parameters and information	Y/N/ N.A.	Comments
8.1	The unit of certification shall respect human rights, complying with the following requirements:			Y	The organization follows the Maldives Govt. rule for the Child labour: It also complies to the ILO rule.
8.1.1	Compliance with national regulations and ILO on child labour.	Essential	The Minimum Age Convention 1973 (No. 138) sets "the general minimum age for admission to employment or work at 15 years (13 for light work) and the minimum age for hazardous work at 18 (16 under certain strict conditions). It provides for the possibility of initially setting the general minimum age at 14 (12 for light work) where the economy and educational facilities are insufficiently developed".	Y	The minimum wages rules are followed as per the Maldives Govt. norms "Employment of women and child young person and children. Maldivian Employment Act - Enc This has been mentioned in the HR policy. PL01 year 2022. The minimum wages rules are followed as per the Maldives Govt. norms "Employment of women and child young person and children. The vessel owners pays to the workers who work as crew on the Fishing vessels as profit sharing. This was confirmed during the worker's interview of the fishing vessels. The profit is shared among the workers and this ranges from Maldivian Rufyaa 10k to the range of 30k Maldivian Rufyaa. This was verified during the employee interview during the vessel. inspection.
8.1.2	Pay the employees adequate salaries compliant at least with the minimum legal wages according to the international legal framework.	Essential	The minimum wages vary depending on the country. The Auditor shall verify that the unit of certification is aware of the minimum wages of the countries in which it operates.	Y	The Maldivian Employment Act for minimum wage of workers Act and health care of the employees are well taken for the employees. Health Safety policy: First aid training program is conducted on annual basis. Medical check is done for Govt. regulation on health check up is available and which says it must be done on annual level. The minimum wages rules are followed as per the Maldives Govt. norms "Employment of women and child young person and children. The vessel owners pays to the workers who work as crew on the Fishing vessels as profit sharing. This was confirmed during the worker's interview of the fishing vessels. The profit is shared among the workers and this ranges from Maldivian Rufyaa 10k to the range of 30k Maldivian Rufyaa. This was verified during the employee interview during the vessel.

8.1.3	Grant employees access to health care.	Essential	The unit of certification shall have workers' compensation insurance to cover their employees when an illness or injury happens at work. The auditor shall verify that the unit of certification provides, where necessary, measures to deal with emergencies and accidents, including adequate first-aid arrangements.	Y	All the occupational health and Safety measures are taken by the organization> Health and safety law is being followed strictly. Health insurance: workmen compensation insurance, accidental insurance. Medical facility are as follows: a). medical test for employees during work permit issuance, verified the following records. First aid boxes are available on the boat.All the Maldivian are provided by the government medical insurance and the boats are also insured. There are also overseas treatment provided to all Maldivians along with 41 impaneled health facilities in India and Srilanka. This was verified during the interaction with the vessel captains during the vessel inspection. Health Safety policy: First aid training program is conducted on annual basis. Medical check is done for Govt. regulation on health checkup is available and which says it must be done on annual level. Dedicated health officer is posted.
8.1.4	Apply safety measures required by the law. Nonetheless, compliance with the minimum safety requirements are mandatory, even if not required by local law.	Essential	To assess the minimum safety requirements, the auditor shall verify and collect evidence of hazards and risks in the work environment, dangers to life, safe drinking water, health and safety training and use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).	Y	All the occupational health and Safety measures are taken by the organization> Health and safety law is being followed strictly. PPE provided for safety boots, hand gloves, head gears, safety harness, Safety goggles, masks. Fire drill, water proof apron, First aid training. Health and safety Policy is available. The training on Fire fighting and first aids are provided by the Maldives National Defence Force and this is the mandatory training, all captain of the Fishing vessels must attend. Based on this training only the Vessel Diving license is issued to the captain. This was verified during the interaction/interview of the vessels inspection. There are Lifebuoys available on each vessels and were verified. Storage of diesel and petrol are securely stored at one store and are carefully managed.

8.1.5	Keep records of accidents or injuries.	Important	These records shall be used to take corrective measures and identify the causes of the incidents, preventing future occurrences.	Y	Yes, records are maintained for the year 25-2026 verified the same during the audit.

8.1.6	Freedom of association and collective bargaining.	Essential	The auditor shall verify if workers are free to form organizations to bargain collectively, advocate for and protect their rights.	Y	Yes the organization has a system in place and employee committee is available. 20 ETI Base code is given to the employees training, ETI base code. The employees and management meeting is conducted on annual basis and the last meeting was conducted. This was communicated to the employees on 2nd March, 3rd April and 5th April 2026.
8.1.7	No forced or compulsory labour.	Essential	All work, including overtime, must be voluntary. The hours worked in excess of the normal working hours must be remunerated at the rates prevailing in the case of overtime for voluntary labour.	Y	Yes, there is no forced or compulsory labour practice at the factory as well as at the vessels. The HR policy is available. The age is verifiedbefore the apponitmnet and the minimum age is 18 years.
8.1.8	No discrimination.	Essential	Opportunities for recruitment, access to training, promotion, compensation, termination and retirement shall not be made based on race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction or social origin. Physical, verbal or sexual abuse, bullying or harassment are prohibited.	Y	Yes, there is an equal opportunity for recruitment, accessto training, promotion, compensation, termination and retirement and it is not based on race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction or social origin. Physical, verbal orsexual abuse, bullying or harassment are prohibited as per the HR policy and as per the employees interview.

8.1.9	Rights on board.	Essential	The auditor shall verify if the vessels are maintained in a clean and habitable condition and check if regular periods of rest of sufficient length are given to fishers.	Y	Yes vessels are adequately maintained at Maldives as there are supervision form the government as well as from the exporter also and boat hygiene records are also maintained adequately.

Further comments:

The organization is recommended for continuation of certification to FOS Wild and FOS COC for Skip Jack Tuna as well as Yellow fin Tuna which is now added in the scope of certification.

CONCLUSIONS:

The Auditor shall fill out the following fields

□ **X The unit of certification COMPLIES with Friend of the Sea requirements**

□ **The unit of certification DOES NOT COMPLY with Friend of the Sea requirements**

MAJOR NON-CONFORMITIES (to be corrected within 3 months)
Nil

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

Nil

RECOMMENDATIONS (to be communicated within the next inspection)

Although the carbon Foot print assessment per unit of production for the year 2025 has been calculated however the improvement target for the year 2026 has yet to be set. Clause # 7.2.