



Milano, 09/01/2020

Circolare 0120

TO: Accredited Certification Bodies

IN COPY: National Accreditation Bodies

TO whom it may concern,

we have received requests from some CBs regarding interpretation of Requirements related to STOCK STATUS (1.1, 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 1.1.4, 1.2) in particular related to the anchovies' fishery in the Adriatic Sea.

The Audit process and decisions have to be carried out independently by the Audit team and Certification Body, so the Standard Owner cannot interfere by expressing opinions about the compliance of a certain fishery or fleet to any of the requirements.

The Auditor must request inputs from all the stakeholders (1) page 9 FOS Wild): the company, fleet and fishery to be audited, as well as the Regional Fishery Body in order to be sure to have all official and updated information available.

Neither the Auditor nor the Standard Owner have the right to take an independent decision to not authorize the audit because the audited fishery SEEMS to be not compliant with a given requirement. It is acceptable however for the Certification Body to provide to the audited organization a preliminary opinion before the audit.

In consideration of the complexity of a fishery audit, it is possible that Certification Bodies have divergences regarding compliance of audited fishery/company with requirements. The Standard Owner has however developed and gradually improved the standards to reduce the possibility of divergences. Parameters and Information beside the requirements, as well as the manual normally provide enough explanation and reference to prevent divergences.

In the specific case of the Adriatic Sea anchovies, the auditor should focus on 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 and verify current compliance with Blim and Flim. From review of the attached reports it would seem for example that the equivalents of Blim and Flim are $B_{pa}=91,872$ and $E(\text{Patterson})=0,4$. In case these were the best and most updated Reference Points set by the RFMO, these should be compared with most updated B and F.

Corso Buenos Aires 45 – 20124 Milano (MI) – Italy - P.IVA: IT08630940966

www.friendofthesea.org – www.friendoftheearth.org



This is just an example of how the Auditor must proceed and it is the Certification Body's task and responsibility to carry out the actual audit and draw its own best conclusions.

In faith,

Paolo Bray
Director
WSO / Friend of the Sea project