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:

D&L Seafoods

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

D&L Seafoods

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:

Yes – Philippe Tuna Association

Jam Seafoods
FRI Seafood Trading
EM BUENAVENTURA TRADING
JARLA TRADING
NUEVO FRESCO MARINE TRADING
JOEL N. MERCADO SEAFOOD EXPORT SUPPLY
D&L Seafoods

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

106 Merriment St., Better Living Subdivision, Don Bosco, Parañaque City, 1711, Metro Manila, Philippines

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

Nome: Kim R. Piol

Contatto telefonico: +63 917 421 440

f) FLEET TO BE AUDITED:

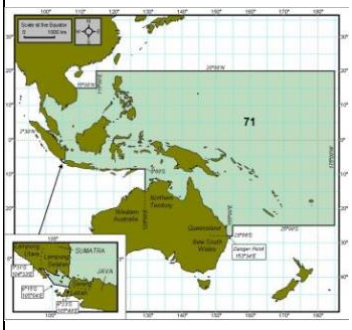
Name of the fishing vessel	*Registration number*	*Vessel's flag*	*Fishing method*	*Capacity (MT)*	*Unloading harbour*	*Ship owner if different from a)*
Adrian	OCM-05-1059 / MFVGL NO.2025-0029	Philippines	Hook & Line	2.97	Mamburao	
Lady Rhiencel	OCM-05-0455 / MFVGL NO.2025-0016	Philippines	Hook & Line	2.27	Mamburao	
Tita Nhor 6	OCM-05-0247 / MFVGL NO.2025-0010	Philippines	Hook & Line	2.73	Mamburao	
Alehandrew 1	OCM-08-2025-1705109000-2064	Philippines	Hook & Line	1.30	Sablayan	
Arnjoe 10	OCM-08-2025-1705109000-	Philippines	Hook & Line	2.50	Sablayan	

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

Name of the fishing vessel	Registration number	Unloading harbour
Adrian	OCM-05-1059 / MFVGL NO.2025-0029	Mamburao
Lady Rhiencel	OCM-05-0455 / MFVGL NO.2025-0016	Mamburao
Tita Nhor 6	OCM-05-0247 / MFVGL NO.2025-0010	Mamburao
Alehandrew 1	OCM-08-2025-1705109000-2064	Sablayan
Arnjoe 10	OCM-08-2025-1705109000-0460	Sablayan
Boss Rico	OCM-08-2025-1705109000-1461	Sablayan
Barron	OCM-08-2025-1705109000-0576	Sablayan
Koby and Rej	OCM-08-2025-1705109000-2510	Sablayan
Princess Rhea 2	OCM-08-2025-1705109000-1085	Sablayan

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

FAO Major Fishing Areas: Pacific, Western Central (Major Fishing Area 71)



A description of the area is as follows:
All marine waters of the Western Central Pacific bounded by a line commencing from a point on the southeast coast of Asian Mainland at 15°00'N latitude; thence due east to 115°00'E longitude; thence due north to 20°00'N latitude; thence running due east along this parallel to 175°00'W longitude; thence running due south along this meridian to 25°00'S latitude; thence due west to 155°00'E longitude; thence due south to 28°09'S latitude; thence due west to meet a point on the coast of Australia at the boundary

between the States of New South Wales and Queensland; thence due north along the coast of Queensland and the State of Northern Territory to a point at 129°00'E longitude at the boundary between the State of Western Australia and the Northern Territory; thence due north to 8°S latitude thence due west to 113°28'E longitude; thence due north to meet the south coast of Java at 8°23'S latitude; thence in a westerly direction along the coast of Java; thence across the marine waters between Java and Sumatra; thence along the east coast of Sumatra and running due north in the Strait of Malacca to 2°30'N latitude; thence across the Strait to meet the coast of Malay Peninsula; thence round the coasts of the Peninsula and running due north along the coast of Asian Mainland to the point of departure. There are no subdivisions of the Western Central Pacific (Major Fishing Area 71) that are recognized for the collection of STATPAC catch and effort data.

https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/area/fao:71/en

i) COMMON AND SCIENTIFIC NAME OF THE SPECIES TO BE AUDITED, WITH THE RESPECTIVE FISHING METHODS:

Common Name	Scientific Name	Fishing method
Yellowfin Tuna	Thunnus albacares	Hook and Line

j) TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:

15

k) ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATIONS AND AWARDS:

Fair trade certification from august 2021 - expired on august 2024

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:*

According to the **Stakeholder Mapping** document for **D&L Seafoods**, the relevant stakeholders to be informed and consulted before or during the audit include:

- **D&L Seafoods employees**
- **Fishermen and their families**
- **Boat captains**
- **Local tuna fishermen's associations**
- **WWF**
- **Local government units and Barangay officials**
- **Customers and final consumers**
- **Exporters and fishing equipment suppliers**
- **Scientific entities and media**

All listed stakeholders were informed of the audit and invited to provide input, in accordance with FOS Audit Guidance v.2.

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.

INITIAL AUDIT FOS WILD STANDARD
REMOTE AUDIT

☐ **X The Friend of the Sea project was introduced** *(If not, the auditor shall provide a short 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 roles of 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) was confirmed** (in the case of changes to the PIF, an updated version has to be promptly provided).

<table>
<tr><td>CERTIFICATION BODY:

EKOVERITAS SRL</td><td>AUDIT TEAM:

(Lead Auditor)
Ancy Kollamparambil</td><td>AUDIT START AND END DATE:
1/09/2025
11/09/2025</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">SIGNATURE OF AUDITOR:

Ancy

Kollamparambil</td><td rowspan="2">NAME OF THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE UNIT OF CERTIFICATION AND ACCOMPANYING THE AUDITOR DURING THE AUDIT:

Kim R. Piol – D&L Seafoods</td><td>AUDIT CODE:
0187</td></tr>
<tr><td>TYPE OF AUDIT:

Initial audit</td></tr>
</table>

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 of the 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 Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) oversees the stock assessment and fisheries management of the audited species in the Philippines. BFAR implements national policies and monitoring programs to ensure sustainable fishing practices and resource conservation. Reference Documents: Fisheries Management Areas (FMA), National Stock Assessment Program (NSAP) & the Role of NSAP Teams: These initiatives provide scientific data on fish stocks, fishing pressure, and ecosystem health. Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 (Republic Act No. 8550): Establishes legal guidelines for sustainable fisheries management. Republic Act No. 10654: Amends RA 8550 to strengthen regulations against Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 10654: Defines enforcement mechanisms for fisheries management, including catch limits and monitoring requirements. West Philippine Sea - State of the Coasts 2024: Provides insights on environmental and fisheries conditions affecting the Philippine marine ecosystem. Additionally, the FishCRRM program supports FMA 6 and FMA 9, strengthening local fisheries governance through Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EAFM). Key focus areas include: Development of Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) and monitoring strategies. Institutional framework for fisheries regulation. Monitoring, evaluation, and control measures to support adaptive management. Supporting Links: • Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management – FishCore (da.gov.ph) • Boat and Fisherfolk Statistics – FishCore (da.gov.ph)
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	$F \leq F_{msy}$ within probability range of available stock assessments or at least $F \leq$ Flim (limit reference point – or its proxy). If overfishing of a stock under consideration of a certified fishery occurs, the certification of this fishery is suspended or revoked.	Y	The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) conduct regular stock assessments to monitor the sustainability of the yellowfin tuna (Thunnus albacares) population in FAO Area 71. Reference Documents: ISSF Report - Status of the World Fisheries for Tuna (March 2024): The Western and Central Pacific yellowfin tuna stock is not overfished, and there is no evidence of ongoing overfishing. In 2022, total catches of yellowfin tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) were approximately 695,300 tonnes, representing a 6% decrease compared to 2021. About 31% of the catches came from a combination of gear types used in the Philippines and Indonesia, while 12% was caught by longliners. Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 (RA 8550) and Republic Act No. 10654: These laws establish precautionary stock management measures to prevent overexploitation. West Philippine Sea - State of the Coasts 2024: Reports on fishery conditions in Philippine waters, supporting stock sustainability. Key Findings: The latest stock assessment (2023) introduced refinements to mortality estimates and stock distribution models, ensuring more accurate evaluations. Spawning biomass remains above the critical limit: The ratio SSB recent/SSBMSY is 2.30 (80% confidence interval: 1.77-2.89), confirming the stock is not in an overfished state. The estimated Fishing Mortality (F recent/FMSY) is 0.50 (80% CI: 0.42-0.61), indicating that fishing pressure remains within sustainable levels. Median Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) is estimated at 700,400 tonnes, meaning current (2022) catches remain within sustainable levels. Harvest control rules are still under development, with CMM-2014-06 being revised in accordance with WCPFC strategies. These assessments confirm that yellowfin tuna stocks in FAO Area 71 are being managed sustainably, with ongoing efforts to refine reference points, harvest strategies, and monitoring measures. Supporting Links: • Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

					• International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) Reports • FAO Fisheries & Aquaculture
1.1.3	The stock under consideration shall NOT be overfished.	Essential	B ≥ Bmsy within probability range of available stock assessments or at least B>Blim (limit reference point – or its proxy). If the stock under consideration of a certified fishery becomes overfished, the certification of this fishery is suspended or revoked.	Y	The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) conduct stock assessments to monitor the sustainability of yellowfin tuna (Thunnus albacares) in FAO Area 71. Reference Documents: ISSF Report - Status of the World Fisheries for Tuna (March 2024) The Western and Central Pacific yellowfin tuna stock is not classified as overfished. Provisional yellowfin tuna catches in the WCPO for 2022 totaled 695,300 tonnes, reflecting a 6% decrease from 2021. Approximately 31% of these catches came from a combination of gear types used in the Philippines and Indonesia, while 12% were attributed to longliners. Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 (RA 8550) and Republic Act No. 10654 Establishes national frameworks for monitoring, control, and surveillance to prevent overfishing. West Philippine Sea - State of the Coasts 2024 Provides ecological data on fisheries sustainability within Philippine waters. Key Findings: The 2023 stock assessment integrated refinements in mortality estimation, spatial stock distribution, and uncertainty models. Spawning biomass remains above the overfishing threshold, with the ratio SSB recent/SSBMSY = 2.30 (80% CI: 1.77-2.89), confirming the stock is in a healthy state. Fishing Mortality (F recent/FMSY) is 0.50 (80% CI: 0.42-0.61), indicating that extraction levels remain within sustainable limits. The Median Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) is estimated at 700,400 tonnes, ensuring that current (2022) catches remain slightly below MSY. Harvest control strategies are currently being refined under WCPFC guidelines, with ongoing efforts to define target reference points and harvest rules.

					These assessments confirm that yellowfin tuna stocks in FAO Area 71 are being managed effectively, with continued research and regulatory adjustments ensuring long-term sustainability. Supporting Links: • Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) • International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) Reports • FAO Fisheries & Aquaculture
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 catch of all the fisheries over the entire area of the distribution of the stock under consideration.	Essential		Y	The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) compiles and maintains a comprehensive fisheries database, including data on stock status, total catches, by-catch rates, mortality, and other fisheries-related parameters. This data is publicly available through the OpenSTAT platform, which allows users to access and analyze fisheries statistics for different regions and species. Reference Sources: Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) OpenSTAT database, which provides real-time fishery data, including commercial and municipal fisheries production trends. BFAR Capture Fisheries Reports, which detail by-catch estimates, mortality rates, and fishing effort across different fisheries management areas (FMA). Supporting Links: • PSA OpenSTAT - Fisheries Data • BFAR Capture Fisheries & Licensing Reports These databases serve as primary sources for monitoring stock status and ensuring that fisheries management aligns with sustainable practices.
1.1.5	The methodology, the results and the trends of the stock status assessment	Essential	Documented evidence	Y	The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) ensures public access

	under consideration shall be made publicly available in a timely manner and based on the best scientific evidence available, respecting confidentiality where appropriate.				to fisheries-related data, including information on catch volumes, by-catch rates, stock assessments, fishing licenses, and mortality statistics. This data supports evidence-based decision-making and sustainable fisheries management. Reference Sources: BFAR Capture Fisheries & Licensing Reports, which include statistical data on commercial and municipal fishing activities, licensing regulations, and compliance monitoring. Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) OpenSTAT platform, which provides real-time fisheries statistics and catch monitoring data. National Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization and Industrialization Plan (NAFMIP) 2021-2030, which outlines long-term strategies for fisheries sustainability in the Philippines. Supporting Links: • BFAR Capture Fisheries & Licensing Reports • PSA OpenSTAT - Fisheries Data • NAFMIP 2021-2030 Plan BFAR's commitment to data transparency ensures that fisheries stakeholders, including D&L Seafoods, have access to up-to-date stock status reports and regulatory information necessary for responsible fisheries management.

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 the High Seas, FAO Programme). The data and analysis may include any traditional, fisher or community knowledge used within the management system. [1]Severe adverse impacts can be regarded as those that are likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible.	Y	The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) ensures that fisheries data collection in the Philippines aligns with internationally recognized standards, including those set by the FAO Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP) and other relevant frameworks for data management. BFAR, through its National Stock Assessment Program (NSAP) and Fisheries Management Areas (FMA) framework, collects and updates data on: Fishing effort and total catch Stock assessments and trends Bycatch, discards, and mortality rates Traditional and community-based fisheries knowledge Reference Documents: FAO Programme on Fisheries Data Collection: Establishes global best practices for fisheries statistics and reporting. The West Philippine Sea - State of the Coasts 2024: Provides regional insights on fisheries management and stock sustainability. Review of Tuna Fisheries and the Tuna Fishery Statistical System in the Philippines: Details the methods and frameworks used in the Philippines to collect and analyze fisheries data. Severe Adverse Impacts & Management Measures BFAR applies a Precautionary Approach to mitigate severe adverse impacts on marine ecosystems, ensuring that: Data collection incorporates ecosystem-based fisheries management (EAFM). Stock status assessments account for both scientific data and local community knowledge. Management decisions prioritize stock sustainability to prevent irreversible damage. Supporting Links: • FAO Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP) • BFAR Official Website - Fisheries Monitoring • FAO Fisheries & Aquaculture Statistics

					By adhering to these standards, D&L Seafoods ensures that its fishing activities are aligned with national and international fisheries management protocols, supporting sustainable and responsible fishing practices.

2.2	The unit of certification complies with the Marine Protected Areas regulations.	Essential	Verify compliance also by use of Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and plotters tracking and World database.	Y	The certification unit strives to comply with regulations on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). The auditor has not identified evidence of fishing activity within protected areas. Reference & Supporting Documents: Philippines Marine Protection Atlas (MPAtlas) – Provides an overview of MPAs in Philippine waters. Supporting Link: Philippines Marine Protection | Marine Protection Atlas (mpatlas.org)
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 all the gear types used by the applicant unit of certification and assess their impact on the specific type of seabed and its benthic communities.	Y	Hooks and lines are a type of fishing gear where fish are attracted using natural or artificial bait placed on hooks attached to lines. These hooks can be used individually or in large numbers, depending on the fishing operation. In small-scale fisheries, the gear is typically hauled manually. In larger commercial operations, vessels are equipped with powered line haulers, automatic jiggers, line reels, and automated hook handling systems to improve efficiency. Reference & Supporting Documents: • FAO Fishing Techniques – Hooks and Lines • FAO Fishing Gear Database Supporting Link: • Hooks and Lines - Fishing Gear Type (fao.org) D&L Seafoods utilizes hook and line fishing methods, aligning with selective and sustainable fishing practices.
The Auditor shall collect conformity evidence.					

3 - GEAR SELECTIVITY

No.	Requirement	Level	Parameters and information	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	Tuna fishing in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (FAO Area 71) has developed significantly over the years. While large-scale commercial fishing operations have expanded, small-scale and traditional fisheries remain an important part of the industry. One such method is handline fishing, where fishers use a single hook and line to catch individual tuna. This technique is commonly used in the Philippines, where fishing is an integral part of coastal communities. Fishing trips are short, usually lasting only one day, to ensure fish quality is maintained. Yellowfin and skipjack tuna are the two species with the highest catch rates in the region, while bigeye and bluefin tuna represent only a small fraction of the total catch. The selective nature of handline fishing helps reduce the likelihood of bycatch. Since fishers use single hooks instead of nets, the risk of catching non-target species such as dolphins, turtles, or sharks is significantly lower. Additionally, because this fishing method is practiced at the surface of the ocean, it has minimal impact on marine habitats. Reference & Supporting Documents: IUCN Red List Database (www.iucnredlist.org) Philippines Marine Protection Atlas BFAR Reports on Bycatch Management Supporting Link:

					Philippines Handline Yellowfin Tuna | Sourcing Transparency Platform Handline fishing in FAO Area 71 aligns with sustainable fishing practices, supporting local fishing communities while reducing the environmental impact of tuna fishing.
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	Evidenze of conformity	Y	The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) regularly update stock assessments and fisheries data, ensuring compliance with international monitoring standards. In the STATUS OF THE WORLD FISHERIES FOR TUNA: March 2024, the stock situation in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) is examined: The WCPO accounts for approximately 51% of the world's tuna production. In 2022, provisional catches of yellowfin tuna totaled 695,300 tonnes, marking a 6% decrease from 2021. The primary fishing gear is purse seine (54% of total catches), followed by longliners (12%) and various mixed gears (31%), mainly used in the Philippines and Indonesia. The yellowfin tuna stock is not overfished, and overfishing is not occurring.

					Most catches come from tropical regions where the stock is fully exploited, leaving little room for increased fishing pressure. The last yellowfin stock assessment (2023) introduced improvements over the 2020 assessment, including: Internal estimation of natural mortality. Refined spatial stock distribution models. Improved uncertainty analysis across multiple assessment models. These studies contribute to an ongoing monitoring process that evaluates the impact of non-target species (bycatch) and discards on marine ecosystems. The unit of certification aligns with these assessments to ensure that its fishing activities do not pose a risk of recruitment overfishing or irreversible environmental impacts. Reference & Supporting Documents: WCPFC Tuna Stock Status Reports BFAR National Stock Assessment Program (NSAP) IUCN Red List & FAO Guidelines on Sustainable Fisheries Supporting Links: Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) BFAR Fisheries Monitoring & Data Through participation in these scientific monitoring programs, the certification unit maintains a commitment to sustainable and responsible fisheries management.

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 bycaught species, which are not used for human consumption nor for fishmeal or fish oil production.	Y	Discards are below 8% of the total catch. Handline operations are highly selective, and almost all catches are landed for human consumption. **Evidence**: Landing reports, prescribed catch reports.
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 the data provided by the fleet or fishery and attach it to the audit report.	Y	The organization confirmed the use of **anchored FADs** under BFAR regulation. Pictures provided. No drifting FADs are deployed. A census of anchored FADs per vessel has been provided.
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	The organization provided pictures and written confirmation that the FADs are **non-entangling** (no old nets or entangling materials used).
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	Anchored FADs are deployed under BFAR regulation and are **marked/registered** in line with national requirements. Evidence provided through declaration and supporting documentation.
3.4.4	Equipping all FADs with a tracking device and sharing real-time FAD location with relevant authorities.	Important	Evidence of compliance, such as purchase invoices with technical specifications and maintenance records.	Y	Anchored FADs used are **registered and monitored by BFAR**. The organization confirmed compliance with BFAR regulation.

	Only applicable to fisheries and fleet targeting tuna. N/A to fisheries targeting any other species.		If possible, the auditor can include pictures of tracking devices.		
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	The organization confirmed that **anchored FADs are recovered and not abandoned**. Evidence provided through operator declaration and BFAR regulatory framework.
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 space on boat/vessels for recovered FADs, collecting evidence through pictures that have to be attached to the audit report.	Y	The fleet operates **small-scale handline vessels**. Storage and management of anchored FADs is handled according to BFAR requirements. Evidence confirmed by declaration.
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 of a logbook where reported cases of loss and attach to the audit report at least one example.	Y	The organization confirmed that in case of lost FADs, reporting is made to **BFAR authorities**, as required by national regulation. Supporting statement provided

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 Philippine Department of Agriculture has established regulations for the conservation and management of sharks, as outlined in Rules and Regulations for the Conservation and Management of Sharks for Philippine Fishing Vessels, No. 272. Key Provisions (Pages 2-3, Sections 3-4-5): Prohibitions on shark finning and other unsustainable practices. Guidelines for responsible shark management, ensuring that fishing operations comply with conservation policies. Monitoring and enforcement measures to regulate shark bycatch and prevent illegal trade. The certification unit (D&L Seafoods) acknowledges and adheres to these regulations, ensuring that its operations align with national conservation policies. Supporting Documents: Rules and Regulations for the Conservation and Management of Sharks - No. 272 (Department of Agriculture, Philippines) Declaration Attached D&L Seafoods remains committed to responsible fishing practices and the protection of marine biodiversity.
3.6	Turtle excluder devices (TEDs) are in place and subjected to periodic maintenance. **Only applicable to trawler fisheries and fleets targeting shrimps.**	Important	The unit of certification shall have appointed at least one employee to monitor the functioning and maintenance of TEDs. The auditor shall collect evidence of compliance,	N.A	The requirement is not applicable, because the company does not carry out bottom trawling and doesn't catch shrimp.

			such as purchase invoices with technical specifications and maintenance records. If possible, the auditor can include pictures of TEDs.		
3.7	The unit of certification shall use circle hooks. **Only applicable to fisheries and fleet using pole and line and long line fishing methods.**	Recommendation	Evidence of conformity	Y	The fishery uses handline (hook-and-line) fishing gear, where each line has a single baited hook operated manually by the fisher. This selective method minimizes bycatch and aligns with the intent of the requirement on circle hooks. Evidence: photos and gear description provided (see Handline | Sourcing Transparency Platform).

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 under the unit of certification are officially registered with BFAR. Copies of vessel registration certificates and fishing licenses (e.g. Mamburao 2025) were inspected and verified during the audit. Vessel Masterlist 2025 provided as supporting evidence.
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 Flag of Convenience. Please refer to: https://www.itfseafarers.org/foc-registries.cfm	Y	All fishing vessels of the unit of certification are officially registered in the Philippines under BFAR. None of the vessels operate under a flag of convenience. Verification was carried out against the ITF list of Flag of Convenience registries (https://www.itfseafarers.org/en/focs/current-

					registries-listed-as-focs). Supporting evidence: Vessel Masterlist 2025 and vessel licenses inspected during the audit
4.3	The fleet does not include illegal, unreported, unregulated (IUU) fishing vessels.	Essential	The auditor shall verify that the vessels are not listed in 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 IUU vessel list made available by the competent RFMO.	Y	The fleet of the unit of certification does not include illegal, unreported, or unregulated (IUU) fishing vessels. Verification was carried out against the official EU IUU vessel list (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv%3AOJ.L_.2015.199.01.0012.01.ENG) and the IUU vessel list maintained by relevant RFMOs. No vessels belonging to D&L Seafoods appear on these lists. In the Philippines, IUU fishing activities are regulated and controlled under RA 10654, and the Philippines IUU Fishing Index (2021) confirms national monitoring measures.
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	All companies undergoing FOS Wild certification are automatically covered under the Earth Island Institute "Dolphin Safe" program/certification. Once certified, they will be included in the official Dolphin Safe list and are required to pay the annual royalties to maintain the validity of the certificate (1 year).
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 and verified:	Essential	Countries' fisheries laws are available on the FAO website: http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/ **The auditor shall specify applicable indicators.**	Y	The vessels comply with applicable local, national and international fisheries regulations. Verification was carried out through BFAR laws/circulars and WCPFC measures. References include, inter alia: FAO 251 (Traceability System for Fish and Fishery Products), FAO 253 (Moratorium on Commercial Fishing Vessel and Gear Licenses and Other Clearances), FAO 263 (Establishment of Fisheries Management Areas), and FAO 254 series (Group Handline Operations in the WCPFC High Seas).
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 applicable limits.**	Y	Yellowfin tuna is harvested by selective handline fishing. Where no species-specific national TAC applies to handline/municipal operations, management is achieved through effort controls, seasonal/area measures, and WCPFC CMMs; catches are monitored via BFAR logbooks. Fishing trips are short and targeting is species-specific, which helps maintain compliance with conservation objectives.
4.5.2	Use of a logbook.	Essential	Countries' fisheries laws are available on the FAO website: http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/ **The auditor shall specify applicable indicators.**	Y	All vessels maintain BFAR Prescribed Fish Catch Reports (or e-logbooks), recording catch, area, dates, gear, and effort. Logbooks were inspected during the audit. Copies are attached as evidence.

4.5.3	Minimum net mesh size.	Essential	Countries' fisheries laws are available on the FAO website: http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/ **The auditor shall specify applicable indicators.**	N.A.	Not applicable. The unit of certification uses handline (hook-and-line) and does not operate purse seines or other net gears.
4.5.4	Net size.	Essential	Countries' fisheries laws are available on the FAO website: http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/ **The auditor shall specify applicable indicators.**	N.A	Not applicable. No purse seine or other net gears are used; the fishery operates with handline.
4.5.5	Minimum legal size of the target species.	Essential	Countries' fisheries laws are available on the FAO website: http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/ **The auditor shall specify applicable indicators.**	Y	The unit targets adult yellowfin tuna through handline methods and company procedures prohibit the retention of juveniles. Compliance is aligned with national regulations and WCPFC conservation objectives (e.g., avoiding juvenile catch, selective gear use). Size/grade checks at landing are documented in receiving records and logbooks.
4.5.6	Distance from the shore.	Essential	Countries' fisheries laws are available on the FAO website: http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/	Y	Operations are coastal/nearshore handline trips conducted within permitted municipal/commercial zones under BFAR/Local Government Unit rules. Vessel characteristics and safety procedures limit range accordingly. Evidence: licenses/permits and logbook positions.
4.5.7	Measures that minimize unwanted catch and discards, where appropriate.	Essential	Countries' fisheries laws are available on the FAO website: http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/ **The auditor shall specify applicable measures.**	Y	Handline is a highly selective method (single hook per fisher), resulting in minimal bycatch and discards. Company procedures require immediate release of non-target species in viable condition

					and the retention of target fish only. Evidence: SOPs, training records, logbooks.
4.5.8	No fishing in protected habitats.	Essential	Countries' fisheries laws are available on the FAO website: http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/ **The auditor shall specify applicable indicators.**	Y	No fishing occurs inside Marine Protected Areas. Compliance is verified through licenses, landing site checks, and area controls (BFAR/LGU). Mapping resources (e.g., MPAtlas) are consulted as needed. No infringements were detected during the audit.
4.5.9	Use of forbidden gear, chemical substances and explosives.	Essential	Countries' fisheries laws are available on the FAO website: http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/ **The auditor shall specify applicable indicators.**	Y	The auditor confirms that forbidden gear, chemical substances, and explosives are not used in the fishing operations of the certification unit. Regulatory Reference: Philippine Regulation No. 206 – Disposal of fish and other objects confiscated from fishing activities using explosives, harmful, or poisonous substances.
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 fishery operates under the BFAR legal framework (RA 8550 as amended by RA 10654) and within WCPFC measures. FMA/NSAP programs provide the scientific basis for advice and management. Evidence: BFAR circulars, WCPFC CMMs, NSAP/FMA documentation.

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. 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 roles and 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 discard reduction measures, States shall also provide an assessment on livelihoods to ascertain the potential effects of their implementation and the support necessary to facilitate their uptake.	Essential	Evidence of conformity. In case this is not applicable, provide justification.	Y	Yellowfin tuna is highly migratory and managed regionally by the WCPFC. National measures (e.g., VMM/ERS, FOP) implement monitoring and control for Philippine-flagged vessels targeting highly migratory stocks. Evidence: BFAR FAO 260 (VMM/ERS), FAO 261 (FOP).
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	Management advice is updated through annual WCPFC processes and national BFAR consultations, incorporating the latest assessments (e.g., 2023 WCPO YFT stock assessment) and measures on bycatch/discards and ecosystem impacts. Evidence: WCPFC SC/Commission reports, BFAR notices.

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	No deep-sea fishing is conducted. Fishermen only fish in coastal areas because their vessels are not designed for offshore operations. The fishery is artisanal and based on small handline vessels. Supporting evidence: BFAR licenses, vessel masterlist, and Fishery Portraits for line-caught yellowfin tuna.
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 FMS applies a precautionary approach via RA 10654, FMA Plans, and WCPFC CMMs. Company practices (selective handline, short trips, release of non-targets) support precautionary objectives. Evidence: SOPs, training, regulatory references.
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	Management measures are in place to ensure that yellowfin tuna stocks remain within sustainable levels. Based on the ISSF Technical Report 2024-02 (March 2024), the WCPO yellowfin stock is not overfished, and overfishing is not occurring. Measures adopted by WCPFC (CMM 2023-01) include FAD closures, effort limits, and reference points to maintain stock above limit levels. **Evidence:** ISSF Technical Report 2024-02; WCPFC CMM 2023-01.

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	Management measures are periodically reviewed and updated according to stock trends and regulatory frameworks. National and regional measures (BFAR, WCPFC) ensure continuous adaptation. **Evidence:** ISSF 2024; FAO 260 (2018); FAO 261 (2018).
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 a part. Procedure and evidence of monitoring and control by the fishery management authority.	Y	Compliance with fisheries management measures is ensured through national (BFAR) and regional (WCPFC) monitoring, surveillance and control frameworks. Measures include vessel monitoring, daily catch reporting, observer program, and compliance audits. Enforcement is supported by CMM 2023-01 (tropical tuna), CMM 2022-05 (Record of Fishing Vessels), and CMM 2022-06 (Daily Catch and Effort Reporting). **Evidence:** CMM 2023-01; CMM 2022-05; CMM 2022-06; Yellowfin Tuna SS & MA (Feb 2024).
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 record bycatch and discards during every fishing trip.	Essential	Procedure and evidence of conformity.	Y	Handline fishing results in very low bycatch or discards, given the selectivity of the method (single hook and line per fisher, short trips, surface fishing). **Evidence:** Philippines handline yellowfin tuna fishery profile; ISSF 2024-03Rev; BMIS database.

5.5	Bycatch and discard data shall be made publicly available by the fisheries management system.	Recommendation	Procedure and evidence of conformity.	Y	Bycatch and discard data are monitored by BFAR through the National Stock Assessment Program (NSAP) and WCPFC reporting obligations. Information is made publicly available via scientific and management publications. **Evidence:** BFAR NSAP reports; ISSF 2024-04; BMIS (bmis-bycatch.org).
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 be in 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 indicators and evidence of conformity.	Y	A management framework is in place to minimize accidental catches and discards, aligned with national regulations and international standards. Measures include selective handline gear, prohibition of shark finning, and reference to FAO International Guidelines on Bycatch Management. **Evidence:** ISSF 2022-01; ISSF 2024-03Rev; FAO Guidelines (2011)
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	Compliance is ensured through BFAR regulations (e.g. VMM and FOP orders), WCPFC measures (CMM 2023-01), and reporting requirements. Live release protocols are in place for non-target species where relevant. **Evidence:** FAO 260-2018 (VMM), FAO 261-2018 (FOP), CMM 2023-01, ISSF technical reports.
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.	N.A	Not applicable. Fishing is carried out with small artisanal handline vessels,

					which do not use or lose large gear.
5.8.1	Vessels shall have appropriate equipment on board to assist in the safe recovery of lost fishing gear.	Important	Evidence of conformity.	N.A	Not applicable to small-scale handline operations.
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/gggi-ghost-gear-reporter-app	Y	If gear loss occurs, fishers record the last known position and communicate with nearby vessels. The Ghost Gear Reporter App is available as an additional reporting tool. To date, no incidents have been recorded.
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.	N.A	Not applicable to small-scale handline operations.
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.	N.A	Not applicable, as small handline vessels do not use or lose significant gear.

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.A	Not applicable. The fishery is artisanal small-scale, not subject to observer or CCTV requirements.
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	Performance indicators are monitored at regional level through WCPFC scientific assessments and ISSF publications. Yellowfin tuna stock is currently not overfished and overfishing is not occurring (ISSF Technical Report 2024-02).
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	Management measures are in place. The most recent 2023 WCPFC assessment confirms that WCPO yellowfin tuna stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. According to ISSF's Status of the Stocks (Nov 2024), 88% of tuna catch comes from stocks at healthy abundance levels. Reference Points and measures are guided by WCPFC CMM 2023-01 and related regulations.
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	Essential	Documented evidence that deep-sea stocks are harvested at levels that are sustainable in the long term.	N.A.	Not applicable. The fishery does not operate in deep-sea areas.

	precautionary manner and determined on a case-by-case basis, to ensure long-term sustainability. **Only applicable to 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 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 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	Management measures are in place to mitigate impacts on ecosystems, habitats, endangered and non-target species. The selective nature of handline fishing further reduces risks
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	The handline fishing method does not compromise marine habitats. Preventive measures are implemented through national FAO regulations (Orders 202, 203, 206, 208, 233, 246, 250) prohibiting destructive practices such as muro-ami, coral exploitation, and Danish seine operations.
5.11.2	Endangered species.			Y	Handline fishing does not significantly impact endangered species. Preventive measures are in place in line with CITES, the WCPFC Guidelines for Handling Sea Turtles (2010), and ISSF educational resources on sharks, mobulids, and turtles.
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.			Y	Bycatch levels are minimal in handline fisheries. Management measures are informed by the BMIS platform, ISSF technical reports (2022–2024), and national resolutions on non-target fish species. Safe handling and release guidelines are promoted.
5.11.4				Y	Predator–prey relationships are considered. Reference is

	Dependent predators resulting from fishing on the stock under consideration and/or key prey species.				made to ISSF 2024 reports on tuna fisheries' ecosystem impacts, trophic ecology studies of tunas, and research on tuna–dolphin associations.
5.11.5	Ecosystem (structure, processes and function).			Y	Ecosystem-level measures are adopted through WCPFC resolutions (e.g. 2019-01 on climate change), ISSF guidelines for FAD design/management, and Philippine aquatic wildlife conservation frameworks.
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	The ISSF annually releases updated reports and strategic plans supporting an EAF (e.g. 2024 Tuna Status Report, ISSF Strategic Plan 2023–2027, WCPFC Handbook).
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	Fisheries management is integrated with broader ocean governance through ISSF Capacity Management resources, WCPFC CMMs, and climate change resolutions.
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	Traditional knowledge is recognized and cross-checked against national legislation (RA 8550 as amended by RA 10654) and WCPFC CMMs/Resolutions (2024 update).
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	Waste is recycled or reused where possible. Fishermen apply these practices during fishing and landing activities.
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	Each vessel keeps lubricants and plastics in closed containers to prevent dispersion at sea.
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	No fishing chemicals are used. The unit strictly supports artisanal fishing, relying only on ice for preservation.
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.	N.A	No refrigerants (CFC, HCFC, HFC) are used. Fish are stored in tubs with crushed ice.
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	Vessels have small containers with lids for damaged or end-of-life fishing gear.
6.6	Gear shall be properly disposed of atport. 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	Waste, including damaged gear, is disposed of through accredited municipal waste facilities at port.
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.	N	The unit does not currently collaborate with ports on recycling programs for end-of-life gear. Recommendation: consider engaging in future initiatives with port operators

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 organization keeps records of electricity consumption through Meralco invoices and payment receipts. These bills are updated monthly and include consumption trends and environmental impact data (kWh, CO_2 emissions). Evidence shows that electricity is the main energy source used for office and operational activities.
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 does not currently calculate its carbon footprint per product unit. **Recommendation:** The unit should consider calculating its carbon footprint based on existing electricity consumption data (Meralco bills already provide CO_2 emission factors) and establish a reduction plan.
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:	Essential		Y	The unit of certification complies with human rights standards. Evidence: employee contracts, disciplinary code, and BFAR employee training program.
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	Employee contracts show workers are of legal age (e.g., Andres 25 y/o, Ignacio 32 y/o). No child labour is employed.
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	Contracts indicate monthly salaries (₱26,000 / ₱15,000), aligned with Philippine minimum wage regulations and including overtime/13th month pay
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,	Y	Contracts state that in case of work-related illness or injury, the company covers hospital and recovery bills. Employees are also enrolled in SSS, PhilHealth, and Pag-IBIG.

			including adequate first-aid arrangements.		
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	Employees are provided with food, housing (separate facilities for men/women), and company training (BFAR Employee Training). PPE and workplace safety measures are included.
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	Companies maintain records of accidents and injuries as per employment conditions and national law (e.g., disciplinary code and contract clauses).
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	Explicitly stated in Ignacio's contract: workers have the right to democratically choose representatives without interference

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	Contracts clarify all work and overtime is voluntary; salaries are monetary and not withheld.
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	Disciplinary Code Policy states zero tolerance for discrimination, abuse, or harassment.
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	Contracts guarantee rest periods (24 consecutive hours after 5–6 working days), food provision, and decent accommodation.

Further comments:

During the next surveillance audit, the organization will be requested to provide documentary evidence related to all requirements under point 6, in order to fully demonstrate conformity with the criteria.

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)

List major Non-conformities: NONE

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

List minor Non-conformities: NONE

RECOMMENDATIONS (to be communicated within the next inspection)

List recommendations;

- 6.7: The organization should consider engaging in collaboration with port authorities to implement end-of-life gear collection/recycling programs.
- 7.2: It is recommended to calculate the carbon footprint per product unit and commit to progressive reduction.
- 5.5: Continuous improvement is advised in documenting and making bycatch and discard data more systematically available.