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: JUDE FOODS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
b) NAME OF THE UNIT OF CERTIFICATION REQUESTING THE AUDIT: JUDE FOODS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
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: The organization isn't part of group.
d) ADDRESS OF THE UNIT OF CERTIFICATION TO BE AUDITED: 230/1 North Thamaraikulam 629704 Kanyakumari
e) NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS OF THE PERSON AT THE UNIT OF CERTIFICATION RESPONSIBLE FOR THE AUDIT AND CONTACTS WITH THE AUDITOR: Suresh Vadassery – Quality Department natureincsp@gmail.com

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)*
TN14MFB-275	IND-TN-14-MM-16	India	Pole and line	14.70	Chinnamuttom	Vijayan
RAGINI 2	IND-TN-14-MM-1574	India	Pole and line	14.15	Kanyakumari	Maria john
REGOBOTH MFB	IND-TN-14-MM-1589	India	Pole and line	14.80	Kanyakumari	Wilington
TN14MFB-299	IND-TN-14-MM-1874	India	Pole and line	14.35	Chinnamuttom	Amalisa abishek
TN2FV01506/12	IND-TN-14-MM-2156	India	Pole and line	15.80	Chinnamuttom	Siluvai francis
KADAL MATHA 1	IND-TN-15-MM-5006	India	Pole and line	17.80	Eraviputhenturai	Niman
KADAL MATHA 3	IND-TN-15-MM-6761	India	Pole and line	17.70	Eraviputhenturai	Prabin

The auditor viewed the following documents:

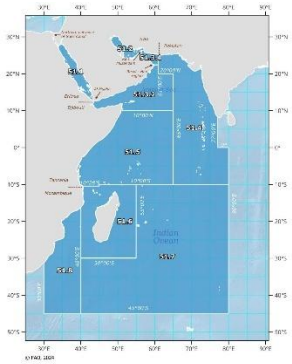
- Annual Metric Tons: yellowfin tuna 603 MT / swordfish 183 MT.
- Fishing licenses.
- List of audited vessels containing the necessary information.

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
TN14MFB-275	IND-TN-14-MM-16	Chinnamuttom
REGOBOTH MFB	IND-TN-14-MM-1589	Kanyakumari
KADAL MATHA 3	IND-TN-15-MM-6761	Eraviputhenturai

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

Indian Ocean, Western (Major Fishing Area 51)



A description of the area and its subareas, divisions and subdivisions follows:

All marine waters of the Western Indian Ocean bounded by a line commencing on the southeast coast of India at 77°00'E longitude where the boundary between the States of Kerala and Tamil Nadu meet at the sea; thence due south to the Equator; thence due east to 80°00'E longitude; thence due south to latitude 45°00'S; thence running due west along parallel 45°00'S from 80°00E longitude to 30°00'E longitude; thence due north to the coast of southern Africa; thence in a northeasterly direction along the east coast of the African continent to the northern entrance to the Suez Canal; thence running in a southeasterly direction along the east coast of the Red Sea; thence round the Arabian Peninsula and along the coast of Iran, Pakistan and India to the point of departure.

The Western Indian Ocean is divided into the following subareas:

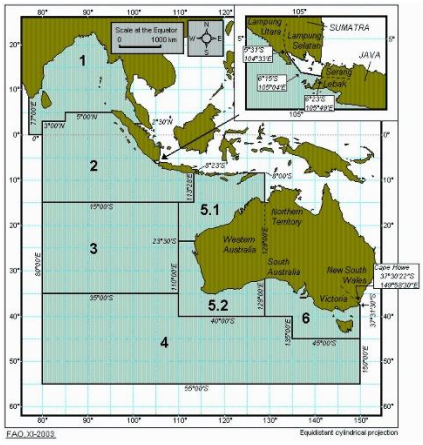
Area 51 is divided as follows:

- Red Sea (Subarea 51.1)
- The Gulf (Subarea 51.2)
- Western Arabian Sea (Subarea 51.3)
- Eastern Arabian Sea, Laccadives (Subarea 51.4)
- Somalia, Kenya and Tanzania (Subarea 51.5)
- Madagascar and Mozambique Channel (Subarea 51.6)

- Oceanic (Subarea 51.7)
- Mozambique (Subarea 51.8)

website: Indian Ocean, Western (Major Fishing Area 51) - FAO Major Fishing Areas

Indian Ocean, Eastern (Major Fishing Area 57)



A description of the area and its subareas and divisions follows.

All marine waters of the Eastern Indian Ocean bounded by a line commencing on the southeast coast of India at 77°00'E longitude where the boundary between the States of Kerala and Tamil Nadu meet at the sea; thence due south to the Equator; thence due east to 80°00'E longitude; thence due south along the meridian 80°00'E to 55°00'S latitude; thence running along this parallel to 150°00'E longitude; thence due north to a point at 37°31'30''S latitude; thence on a rhumb line in a northwesterly direction to meet the southeast coast of Australia at the boundary between the States of New South Wales and Victoria at Cape Howe; thence in a westerly direction round the south, the west and the northwest coasts of Australia to a point at 129°00'E longitude at the boundary between the State of Western Australia and the Northern Territory; thence running 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 coasts of Java and Sumatra; thence round the coast of Sumatra running south in the Strait of Malacca; thence across the Strait at 2°30'N latitude to meet the coast of the Malay Peninsula; thence in a northerly and westerly direction along the coasts facing the Bay of Bengal to the point of departure.

The Eastern Indian Ocean is divided into the following subareas and divisions:

Area 57 is divided as follows:

- Bay of Bengal (Subarea 57.1)
- Northern (Subarea 57.2)
- Central (Subarea 57.3)
- Oceanic (Subarea 57.4)
- Western Australia (Subarea 57.5)
- Southern Australia (Subarea 57.6)
- Bay of Bengal (Subarea 57.1)

Website: Indian Ocean, Eastern (Major Fishing Area 57) - FAO Major Fishing Areas

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*	Pole and line/Longline
Swordfish	*Xiphias gladius*	Pole and line/Longline

Note: The organization uses mainly pole and line for tuna and swordfish. Majority of their vessels use pole and line. Only a couple of vessels were equipped with long line.

j) TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:

6

k) ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATIONS AND AWARDS:

The organization doesn't have any environmental certifications.

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:*

The nodal agency in India is (FSI) Fishery Survey Of India under the Ministry of Fisheries. The organization can get information only through FSI.

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.

Renewal audit FOS Wild
The organization is FOS CoC certified and is in the process of renewing.

For documentary support, videos relating to the fishing activity, the release of the by-catch into the sea, the unloading of the catch at the port, and photos of the vessels and how the fish is stored on board have been attached.

☐ **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 S.r.l.</td><td>AUDIT TEAM:

Chiara Di Pietro
(Lead Auditor)</td><td>AUDIT START AND END DATE:

21/10/2025
24/10/2025</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">SIGNATURE OF AUDITOR:

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

Suresh Vadassery
Quality Department</td><td>AUDIT CODE:

0364</td></tr>
<tr><td>TYPE OF AUDIT:

Renewal 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	Managed by various government organisation like DOF, FSI, CMFRI, NFDB, IOTC, BOBP. The auditor viewed the file containing the list of reference organizations managing fisheries in the corresponding FAO areas for the fish species to be audited.

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 – 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 auditor viewed the following documents: -Fish and Seafood Sustainability and Welfare Policy, which outlines fisheries management and how the organization adopts measures to minimize the impact of fishing activities on the environment. -EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: YELLOWFIN TUNA (2024), issued by IOTC which reports: Current fishing mortality is estimated to be 25% lower than FMSY (**F2023/FMSY = 0.75**). On the weight-of-evidence available in 2024, the yellowfin tuna stock is determined to be not-overfished and not-subject to overfishing. -EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: SWORDFISH (2024), issued by IOTC, which reports: **FMSY: 0.16 (0.12–0.20).** Taking into account the characterized uncertainty, and on the weight-of-evidence available in 2023, the swordfish stock is determined to be not overfished and not subject to overfishing.
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	Y	The auditor viewed the following documents: -Marine Fishery Legislation in the Maritime States of India. -EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: YELLOWFIN TUNA (2024), issued by IOTC which reports: Spawning biomass in 2023 was estimated to be 32% higher than the level that supports the maximum sustainable yield (**SB2023/SBMSY = 1.32**). On the weight-of-evidence available in 2024, the yellowfin tuna stock is determined to be not-overfished and not-subject to overfishing.

			revoked.		-EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: SWORDFISH (2024), issued by IOTC, which reports: **SB2021/SBMSY: 1.39.** Taking into account the characterized uncertainty, and on the weight-of-evidence available in 2023, the swordfish stock is determined to be not overfished and not subject to overfishing.
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	Documented evidence	Y	The auditor viewed the following documents: -Stock assessment principle found in FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (1995) and also echoed in CMFRI stock assessment methodology documents. -RESOLUTION 24/06 ON A BAN ON DISCARDS OF BIGEYE TUNA, SKIPJACK TUNA, YELLOWFIN TUNA, AND NON TARGETED SPECIES CAUGHT BY VESSELS IN THE IOTC RECORD OF AUTHORISATION THAT OPERATE IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE. -Compendium of Active Conservation and Management Measures for the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, edition 2025. Website: Status summary for species of tuna and tuna-like species under the IOTC mandate, as well as other species impacted by IOTC fisheries | IOTC / Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) | IOTC / Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute | Home
1.1.5	The methodology, the results and the trends of the stock	Essential	Documented evidence	Y	The auditor viewed the following documents: -CMFRI Stock Assessment

	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.				Reports: Assessment of marine fish stocks within India's Exclusive Economic Zone: Status report 2022. -Fish Stock Assessment and Management, issued by CMFRI and ICAR. -Marine Fisheries Information Service Technical & Extension Series, issued by CMFRI and ICAR. -Compendium of Active Conservation and Management Measures for the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), edition 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 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 auditor viewed the document, which includes the following topics, which includes the following topics, relating to fisheries management in relation to habitats: -Scientific Assessment & Advice (CMFRI's role). -Conservation & Management Measures (Implemented by Govt. with CMFRI inputs). -Ecosystem & Habitat Protection. -Monitoring, Control & Surveillance (MCS). -International & National Frameworks.

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 complies with the regulations on the Marines Protected Areas. The auditor has verified that the area is compliant (website: India Marine Protection | Marine Protection Atlas). Since the vessels are not equipped with AIS, surveillance of the MPA is guaranteed by forestry officials: If the MPA is declared under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (like Marine National Parks or Marine Sanctuaries), then the State Forest Department is the primary enforcement agency. Forest officials (wildlife wardens, rangers, guards) patrol and ensure no illegal fishing or extraction happens. Coast Guard & Marine Police The Indian Coast Guard and State Marine Police support enforcement, especially at sea. They check fishing vessels, monitor restricted zones, and take action if vessels enter no-fishing areas. The auditor viewed the list of Legal Basis for MPAs in India and Marine Protected Area and restriction.

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	The FAO states the following: POLE AND LINE: Fish are attracted by the bait. In small-scale professional or sport fisheries the pole is swung so to reach the line, a moulinet has to be used when the line is much longer than the pole; the small fish is, then, taken from the hook by hand. On board tuna pole and lines vessels, the hooked fish tuna are swung on board, by hands (by two to three fishermen if the tuna is very big) or with an automatic swinging system; the tuna normally release themselves from the barbless hook when they touch the deck of the vessel. Pole and lines are operated in a very wide range of depths, either in inland and sea waters. For commercial fishing for large pelagic fish/tuna only fish swimming very close to the surface are caught. In general, the use of this method has not potential negative impact. Pole and Lines - Fishing gear type The auditor viewed the following documents: -Marine Fishery Legislation in the Maritime States of India. -Marine Fisheries Information Service Technical & Extension Series. -Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute | Home: Latest Research Findings.
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	The auditor has viewed the following documents: -Bycatch in Longline Fisheries for Tuna and Tuna-like Species: a Global Review of Status and Mitigation Measures ((PDF) Bycatch in Longline Fisheries for Tuna and Tuna-like Species: a Global Review of Status and Mitigation Measures) -In pole-and-line fishing, tuna are caught one-by-one using a hook attached to a line and pole (Pole and Line - International Seafood Sustainability Foundation). -BEST PRACTICES BYCATCH FOR REDUCING IN LONGLINE TUNA FISHERIES. -Bycatch mitigation of protected and threatened species in tuna purse seine and longline fisheries. CMFRI reports list threatened species (IUCN Red-List) (e.g. Gymnura poecilura, Telatrygon crozieri) and point out their bycatch status and declines. IUCN 2021 Gymnura poecilura, Longtail Butterfly Ray.pdf The documents discuss bycatch of threatened species, protection under wildlife laws, and proposals to mitigate capture of all bycatch of IUCN Threatened (Vulnerable or worse) species. Regulatory documents may exist but not be publicly part of CMFRI's "research / assessment" PDF library. The auditor viewed the measures taken to manage incidental catches with pole and lines/longlines.
3.2	The unit of certification collects and maintains adequate, reliable and current data	Essential	Evidence of conformity	Y	The auditor viewed the Data Collection of Endangered Species document, which includes: -Vessel and landing records (logbooks / landing declarations). -Port sampling & landing monitoring. -On-board observers and national observer

	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.				schemes. -Vessel Monitoring & electronic reporting. -Scientific institutions and national plans. -International standards & reporting.
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	The auditor viewed the document "How Discard Data is Collected in Indian Fisheries," which outlines a set of measurements used to monitor total catch, discards, and bycatch.

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.	N.A.	The requirement is not applicable because the organization uses longline / pole and line. Currently, the use of FADs is only in the experimental phase (as stated by CMFRI). Floating FADs (dFADs) are not used on Indian tuna vessels. Tuna fishing in India is small-scale, artisanal, or semi-mechanized (pole-and-line, handline, longline), not industrial, using circle nets. India's tuna fishery is still in developing / small-scale stage. Government and research agencies promote anchored FADs to boost artisanal catches, reduce search time, and improve safety. Use of drifting FADs is avoided because of ecological concerns and international regulations (IOTC rules on dFAD limits, bycatch issues, ghost gear).
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.	N.A.	The requirement is not applicable because the organization uses longline / pole and line. Currently, the use of FADs is only in the experimental phase (as stated by CMFRI). Floating FADs (dFADs) are not used on Indian tuna vessels. Tuna fishing in India is small-scale, artisanal, or semi-mechanized (pole-and-line, handline, longline), not industrial, using circle nets. India's tuna fishery is still in developing / small-scale stage. Government and research agencies promote anchored FADs to boost artisanal catches, reduce search time, and improve safety. Use of drifting FADs is avoided because of ecological concerns and international regulations (IOTC rules on dFAD limits, bycatch issues, ghost gear).
3.4.3	Marking FADs and FAD components with ownership details, consistent with the Voluntary Guidelines for the	Important	More information about Voluntary Guidelines for the Marking of Fishing Gear at this link: https://www.wc	N.A.	The requirement is not applicable because the organization uses longline / pole and line. Currently, the use of FADs is only in the experimental phase (as stated by CMFRI). Floating FADs (dFADs) are not used on

	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.**		pfc.int/system/files/WCPFC_Gear%20Marking_FAO.pdf The auditor shall attach to the report at least one picture of markers as example.		Indian tuna vessels. Tuna fishing in India is small-scale, artisanal, or semi-mechanized (pole-and-line, handline, longline), not industrial, using circle nets. India's tuna fishery is still in developing / small-scale stage. Government and research agencies promote anchored FADs to boost artisanal catches, reduce search time, and improve safety. Use of drifting FADs is avoided because of ecological concerns and international regulations (IOTC rules on dFAD limits, bycatch issues, ghost gear).
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 with technical specifications and maintenance records. If possible, the auditor can include pictures of tracking devices.	N.A.	The requirement is not applicable because the organization uses longline / pole and line. Currently, the use of FADs is only in the experimental phase (as stated by CMFRI). Floating FADs (dFADs) are not used on Indian tuna vessels. Tuna fishing in India is small-scale, artisanal, or semi-mechanized (pole-and-line, handline, longline), not industrial, using circle nets. India's tuna fishery is still in developing / small-scale stage. Government and research agencies promote anchored FADs to boost artisanal catches, reduce search time, and improve safety. Use of drifting FADs is avoided because of ecological concerns and international regulations (IOTC rules on dFAD limits, bycatch issues, ghost gear).
3.4.5	Recovering all deployed FADs and avoiding their deliberate abandonment. **Only applicable to fisheries and fleet targeting tuna. N/A to**	Important	Evidence of recovering all deployed FADs, e.g. logbook.	N.A.	The requirement is not applicable because the organization uses longline / pole and line. Currently, the use of FADs is only in the experimental phase (as stated by CMFRI). Floating FADs (dFADs) are not used on Indian tuna vessels. Tuna fishing in India is small-scale, artisanal, or semi-mechanized (pole-and-line, handline, longline), not industrial, using circle nets. India's tuna fishery is still in developing / small-scale stage. Government and research agencies promote anchored FADs

	fisheries targeting any other species.				to boost artisanal catches, reduce search time, and improve safety. Use of drifting FADs is avoided because of ecological concerns and international regulations (IOTC rules on dFAD limits, bycatch issues, ghost gear).
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.	N.A.	The requirement is not applicable because the organization uses longline / pole and line. Currently, the use of FADs is only in the experimental phase (as stated by CMFRI). Floating FADs (dFADs) are not used on Indian tuna vessels. Tuna fishing in India is small-scale, artisanal, or semi-mechanized (pole-and-line, handline, longline), not industrial, using circle nets. India's tuna fishery is still in developing / small-scale stage. Government and research agencies promote anchored FADs to boost artisanal catches, reduce search time, and improve safety. Use of drifting FADs is avoided because of ecological concerns and international regulations (IOTC rules on dFAD limits, bycatch issues, ghost gear).
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**	Essential	Verify the existence of a logbook where reported cases of loss and attach to the audit report at least one example.	N.A.	The requirement is not applicable because the organization uses longline / pole and line. Currently, the use of FADs is only in the experimental phase (as stated by CMFRI). Floating FADs (dFADs) are not used on Indian tuna vessels. Tuna fishing in India is small-scale, artisanal, or semi-mechanized (pole-and-line, handline, longline), not industrial, using circle nets. India's tuna fishery is still in developing / small-scale stage. Government and research agencies promote anchored FADs

	other species.				to boost artisanal catches, reduce search time, and improve safety. Use of drifting FADs is avoided because of ecological concerns and international regulations (IOTC rules on dFAD limits, bycatch issues, ghost gear).
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 auditor viewed the document which includes the list of documents stating that shark finning is prohibited in India: -Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) Notification: It specifically banned shark finning by prohibiting the removal of fins at sea and discarding the body. -Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Notification (2015): Export of shark fins (of all species) was completely banned from February 2015. -CMFRI/FSI Guidelines: "finning of sharks at sea is prohibited.
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, such as purchase invoices with technical specifications and maintenance records. If possible, the auditor can include pictures of TEDs.	N.A.	The requirement does not apply because the organization does not fish for shrimp.
3.7	The unit of certification shall use circle hooks. **Only applicable to fisheries and fleet using pole and line and long**	Recommendation	Evidence of conformity	Y	The auditor viewed India's Position on Circle Hooks, which includes a list of measures and documents that outline how circle hook fishing should be conducted and Compendium of Active Conservation and Management Measures for the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, edition 2025 - RESOLUTION 12/04 ON THE

	line fishing methods.				CONSERVATION OF MARINE TURTLES.

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 shall be officially registered. The auditor viewed the following fishing licenses: TN14MFB-275: no. IND-TN-14-MM-16 REGOBOTH MFB: no. IND-TN-14-MM-1589 KADAL MATHA 3: no. IND-TN-15-MM-6761
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	The fleet does not include flag of convenience vessels. The vessel has the flag of Peru and is not included in the vessels flying flags of convenience (FOCs), as per the list on the website https://www.itfseafarers.org/en/focs/current-registries-listed-as-focs The auditor viewed the following documents: -Coastal States must register all fishing vessels, says Union Minister George Kurian (Coastal States must register all fishing vessels, says Union Minister George Kurian - The Hindu). -Operation of foreign flag

					vessels along Indian coast without a valid licence issued under M.S. Act, 1958 (Operation of foreign flag vessels along Indian coast without a valid licence issued under M.S. Act, 1958 – reg). -Govt set to scrap licensing need for local entities hiring foreign flag ships to operate outside India waters (Govt set to scrap licensing need for local entities hiring foreign flag ships to operate outside India waters - India Seatrade News). -Norms relaxed for foreign flag vessels engaged in coastal carriage of certain commodities (Norms relaxed for foreign flag vessels engaged in coastal carriage by sea of agricultural, fisheries, animal husbandry & horticultural commodities). -India tightens rules for foreign ships to ply on local routes (India tightens rules for foreign ships to ply on local routes - The Hindu BusinessLine). -Related legal / policy areas: India's new Coastal Shipping Bill gets Rajya Sabha nod (https://infra.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/ports-shipping/indias-new-coastal-shipping-bill-gets-rajya-sabha-nod/123167384?utm_source=chatgpt.com). -Legal Framework. -Role of State Fisheries Departments

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 organization does not include illegal, unreported, unregulated fishing vessels (INN List), as per the website https://iuu-vessels.org/Home/Search The auditor viewed the document which includes the measures established in India that fishing fleets must comply with: -Legal & Institutional Framework. -Monitoring & Control Mechanisms. International Dimension.
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 is DS certified.
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 auditor reviewed the document Enforce and verify compliance of fishing vessels, which includes: -Legal and Regulatory Framework. -Systems to Ensure Compliance. -Verification Based on Best Scientific Evidence. -Sanctions & Corrective Measures.
				Y	The auditor viewed the

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.**		document which includes the measures established in India for the management of TAC: -No TAC in Indian Marine Fisheries. -Current Management Measures Instead of TAC. -India's fisheries are multispecies and multi-gear, making TAC implementation very complex. -The National Marine Fisheries Policy (2017) and the Draft Indian Marine Fisheries Bill (2021) mention a move towards science-based management (including possible TAC in future). Currently, India does not enforce Total Allowable Catch (TAC) regulations. Instead, it relies on seasonal bans, gear restrictions, area closures, and licensing as management measures. TAC may come in the future as data collection and monitoring improve.
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	The auditor viewed the document which includes the measures established in India regarding the use of logbooks: -Indian Marine Fishing Regulation Acts (IMFRAs)– Each coastal state has its own IMFR Act, but logbook use is not mandatory for small scale/artisanal vessels. -Vessels licensed under Deep Sea Fishing Guidelines are required to maintain a logbook of

					fishing operations. -Logbook use is mandatory for Indian tuna vessels operating in high seas under the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and ICCAT requirements. -Pilot projects of Electronic Logbooks (E-logbooks / VMS-linked apps) are being tested in tuna fisheries under DoF and FSI. The auditor viewed the logbooks: -TN14MFB-275 -REGOBOTH MFB -KADAL MATHA 3
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.	The requirement is not applicable because the organization does not use purse seine.
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.	The requirement is not applicable because the organization does not use purse seine.
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/	Y	The auditor viewed the Minimum Legal Size (MLS) in Indian Fisheries, but MLS is not yet standardized at the national level.

			The auditor shall specify applicable indicators.		
4.5.6	Distance from the shore.	Essential	Countries' fisheries laws are available on the FAO website: http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/	Y	The auditor viewed the "How India Controls Distance of Fishing Boats from Shore" document, which reports the distances from the coast established by the Indian government, based on the fishing zone.
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	The auditor viewed Measures to Minimize Unwanted Catch & Discards document, which includes management measures relating to: -Gear Regulations. -Spatial & Temporal Measures. -Species-Specific Protections. -Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRDs) & Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs). -Fleet & Effort Control. -Monitoring, Control & Awareness.
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	The auditor viewed the "How the Indian Government Controls Fishing in Protected Habitats", which includes management measures relating to: -Wildlife. -Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notifications (under Environment Protection Act, 1986). -Marine Fishing Regulation Acts (MFRAs) of States. -Species-Specific Protections. -Seasonal Fishing Bans in Sensitive Areas. -Licensing & Monitoring.
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**	Y	The auditor viewed Controls The Use of Forbidden Gears, Chemicals & Explosives document.

			specify applicable indicators.		

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 auditor viewed the Control of Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) document, which outlines management measures related to fishing activity.
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	The auditor viewed the document "How India Controls Management of Transboundary & Migratory Fish Stocks", which outlines management measures related to the transboundary and migration of the targeted fish species.

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	The auditor viewed the document Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in India," which outlines management measures related to fishing activities, the marine ecosystem, bycatch, and discard reduction.
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 auditor viewed the document which includes: -Overall Fisheries Management System (FMS) in India. -Participatory Elements. -Transparency Mechanisms.

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 auditor viewed the Fishery Management System Based on Scientific Evidence document, which reports the implemented measures relating to the management of the fishing activity carried out.
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 auditor viewed the document which includes the following management measures: -How India detects a depleted/declining deep-sea stock (the trigger). -Policy & legal basis for restoration / rebuilding. -Practical restoration / rebuilding measures India actually uses. -Typical decision pathway (practical example). -Limitations & reality checks. -National Fisheries Policy, 2020 document.
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 auditor viewed the document which includes: -Continuous Data Collection & Scientific Monitoring. -Review & Advisory Mechanisms. -International Peer Review & Compliance. -Mechanisms for Adjustments. -Transparency in Review.
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	The auditor viewed India's Compliance with Fishery Regulations – Monitoring, Surveillance, Control & Enforcement (MCS), which includes the following management measures related to vessel monitoring during fishing activities.
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	The auditor viewed the document Records Bycatch & Discards During Fishing Trips, which includes management measures related to the control of bycatch and discards.

5.5	Bycatch and discard data shall be made publicly available by the fisheries management system.	Recommendation	Procedure and evidence of conformity.	Y	The auditor viewed the document "How Bycatch & Discard Data Are Made Public in India," which includes management measures related to the control of bycatches and discards.
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	The auditor viewed the Fisheries Management System to Prevent Accidental Catch, Reduce Discards and Protect Endangered Species document, which includes management measures related to accidental catches, discards and the protection of 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	The auditor viewed the document which includes: -Type of Management Program in India. -Monitoring, Surveillance, Control & Enforcement (MCS). -Bycatch Management Objectives. -Procedures for Release of Live Animals. -Consistency with International Standards.
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	The auditor viewed the Status of Lost Gear Management in Indian Fisheries document, which includes management measures related to lost fishing gear 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	The auditor viewed the Status of Lost Gear Management in Indian Fisheries document, which includes management measures related to lost fishing gear at sea. Normally if a net or rope snags, crews attempt to free it using grapnels, hooks or by hauling/working it free with the winch. This is the most common first response for artisanal and mechanized vessels. If the gear can't be recovered quickly (deep snag, dangerous seabed), crews sometimes attach a float, a surface marker and return later to retrieve it. If that's not possible they may cut the gear loose to avoid damaging the vessel and crew For high-value gear in shallow water, divers or small recovery teams are used to free and bring nets up.

					The organization is engaged in the following activities: **(a) Immediate physical retrieval** If the gear is just snagged nearby, fishers **use grapnels or iron hooks** attached to ropes to pull it up. They often **circle the location** to try to disentangle nets. Mechanised boats may **use winches** to pull up heavy nets or trawl doors stuck on the bottom. **(b) Marking and delayed recovery** If retrieval isn't possible immediately, the crew **ties a floating buoy, empty plastic can, or bamboo pole** to mark the spot. The **GPS position is saved** on the vessel's navigation unit or noted manually. They return later when the sea is calmer or with more help to recover it. **(c) Diver or manual recovery** In some coastal areas (like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Goa), **divers** help retrieve nets stuck on reefs or rocks. Divers cut and free valuable nets for reuse, especially in **shallow waters (<30 m)**. **(d) Community assistance** Fishers **alert nearby**

					boats or harbor groups through mobile phones or VHF radio if gear is drifting. Sometimes other fishers help recover or report floating nets. **(e) When gear cannot be recovered** If it's too dangerous or deeply snagged, fishers cut and usually mark the position for others to avoid that area.
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 auditor viewed the Status of Lost Gear Management in Indian Fisheries document, which includes management measures related to lost fishing gear at sea. There is no official policy document or government website indicating that an Indian authority has formally integrated the Ghost Gear Reporter App or GGGI's reporting system as part of their operational reporting mechanism. However, organizations like WWF are active in raising awareness among fishing communities and promoting gear-management practices to reduce "ghost gear." The organization uses the following reporting channels: many fishermen use networks of local fishermen's associations, WhatsApp groups, or direct

					radio/telephone communications to report lost gear to other fishermen or to NGOs/government officials. This is an informal but effective system at the local level.
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 auditor viewed the Status of Lost Gear Management in Indian Fisheries document, which includes management measures related to lost fishing gear at sea. There is no national law yet that obligates vessels to carry recovery devices or guarantees gear retrieval. But the organization is engaged in the following activities: **(a) Immediate physical retrieval** If the gear is just snagged nearby, fishers **use grapnels or iron hooks** attached to ropes to pull it up. They often **circle the location** to try to disentangle nets. Mechanised boats may **use winches** to pull up heavy nets or trawl doors stuck on the bottom. **(b) Marking and delayed recovery** If retrieval isn't possible immediately, the crew **ties a floating buoy, empty plastic can, or bamboo pole** to mark the spot.

					The **GPS position is saved** on the vessel's navigation unit or noted manually. They return later when the sea is calmer or with more help to recover it. **(c) Diver or manual recovery** In some coastal areas (like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Goa), **divers** help retrieve nets stuck on reefs or rocks. Divers cut and free valuable nets for reuse, especially in **shallow waters (<30 m)**. **(d) Community assistance** Fishers **alert nearby boats or harbor groups** through mobile phones or VHF radio if gear is drifting. Sometimes other fishers help recover or report floating nets. **(e) When gear cannot be recovered** If it's too dangerous or deeply snagged, fishers cut and usually mark the position for others to avoid that area.

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	The auditor viewed the Status of Lost Gear Management in Indian Fisheries document, which includes management measures related to lost fishing gear at sea. There is no national law yet that obligates vessels to carry recovery devices or guarantees gear retrieval. The auditor viewed a document that reports the measures implemented regarding "ghost fishing", specifically regarding the analysis conducted on fishing gear lost at sea or found at sea (point 2. Analysis & use of records) and includes mitigation measures for this phenomenon (point 3. Mitigation measures implemented (in high-risk areas / times).
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.	The requirement is not applicable because fleets perform small-scale activities.
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	Stock status is monitored by the designated organization IOTC, which annually produces reports on the stock status of the species in question: -EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: YELLOWFIN TUNA (2024). -EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: SWORDFISH (2024).

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	The stock status reports for the species in question state the following: -EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: YELLOWFIN TUNA (2024): **MSY recent: 421** (416-430) -EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: SWORDFISH (2024): **MSY recent: 30** (26-33) Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY): estimate for the Indian Ocean is 29,856 t (years 2023-2028).
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.	N.A.	The requirement does not apply because the organization does not conduct deep-sea fishing.
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	Y	The auditor viewed India's Policy Framework on Sustainable Fisheries & Habitat Protection.
5.11.1	Essential habitats and vulnerable marine ecosystems (with special			Y	The auditor viewed India's Policy

	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.		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.		Framework on Sustainable Fisheries & Habitat Protection.
5.11.2	Endangered species.			Y	The auditor viewed the document "How Fishing Vessels Control the Catching of Endangered Species," which includes management measures for endangered species during fishing activities.
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	The auditor viewed the document which includes: -Major information gaps (why more research is needed. -Practical additional research / monitoring needed (priorities).
5.11.4	Dependent predators resulting from fishing on the stock under consideration and/or key prey species.			Y	The auditor viewed the document which includes: -Principal dependent predators in Indian waters. -How fishing causes effects on dependent predators (mechanisms). -What the Indian evidence base shows (concise).
5.11.5	Ecosystem (structure, processes and function).			Y	The auditor viewed the Controls Marine Ecosystem Structure, Processes & Functions document, which includes the management measures

					implemented to respect the ecosystem in which fishing activities take place.
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 auditor viewed the document which includes: -Control of Fishery Management Plans (FMPs). -Controls Marine Ecosystem Structure, Processes & Function.
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	The auditor viewed the document Safeguards to Protect Fisheries Ecosystems from Other Sectors, which includes ecosystem protection measures.
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	The auditor viewed the Use & Verification of Traditional / Fisher / Community Knowledge in Fisheries Management document, which includes how crew knowledge and training activities are managed.
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	The auditor viewed the document which includes: -Fishing gear and onboard material use. -Conservation and cold-chain transport. -Packaging at landing centers and exports.
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	The auditor viewed the document Legal Standards for Toxic Substances & Safer Alternatives in Fishing Vessels, which reports point 3 - Fuel, Oils, and Cleaning Chemicals and point 5 - Solid Waste & Plastics: MARPOL Annexes (adopted under Merchant Shipping Act) apply to Indian vessels: -Control the discharge of oil, noxious liquid substances, garbage, and sewage. -Fishing vessels above certain tonnage must maintain Oil Record Books and use approved, less harmful cleaning agents. -DG Shipping circulars require the use of approved detergents and dispersants (must be non-toxic, biodegradable). -Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 (amended 2022) prohibit single-use plastics, including fishing vessels. -Fishing vessels are being encouraged to use biodegradable fish boxes, ropes, and gear alternatives. -Ghost gear management programs under PMMSY promote non-toxic, biodegradable gear components. The auditor viewed the document which includes: -Legal & Regulatory Framework. -Onboard & Harbour-Level Systems. -Monitoring, Surveillance & Enforcement.
6.3	The unit of certification utilizes all the chemical non-toxic alternatives available in order to reduce the use of	Essential	Procedure and evidence of conformity.	Y	The auditor viewed the document Legal Standards for Toxic Substances & Safer Alternatives in Fishing Vessels, which reports the management of toxic

	toxic, persistent or bio-accumulating substances.				substances in accordance with the MARPOL Annex.
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.	The requirement is not applicable because the vessels do not have a refrigeration system.
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	N.A.	The requirement is not applicable because damaged fishing gear is kept on deck and disposed of appropriately ashore for recycling
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	Damaged gears are disposed at shore for re cycling.
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	End of life gears are disposed at shore and later handed over to recyling units
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 auditor viewed the Diesel Register of the REGOBOTH vessel from April to July 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 hasn't calculated its carbon footprint. RECOMMENDATION: The organization could carry out the carbon footprint study and evaluate how it could reduce it each year.
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 is in compliance with the national regulation and ILO on child labor. https://www.ilo.org/global/standards/subjects-covered-by-international-labour-standards/child-labour/lang-en/index.htm Refer to ILO: http://www.ilo.org/global/standards/lang--en/index.htm
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 auditor viewed the document confirming that workers under 14 are not permitted, and for certain commitments, they must not be under 18. Furthermore, the document outlines the rights the organization commits to respecting its employees.
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	Y	The auditor viewed the document System for Enforcing Minimum Legal Wages on Fishing Vessels, which states that the minimum wage is being adhered to, as set out in the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

			which it operates.		
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	The auditor viewed the document System to Grant Employees Access to Health Care on Fishing Vessels, which states that employees are provided with health care as per the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 and the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).
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	The auditor viewed the document Safety Measures Required by Law on Indian Fishing Vessels, which states that it includes measures related to occupational safety for crew on board the vessels.
8.1.5	Keep records of accidents or injuries.	Important	These records shall be used to take corrective measures and	Y	Accidents and injuries are not recording on board. Minor injuries are treated using first aid kit. Injuries which need medical

			identify the causes of the incidents, preventing future occurrences.		attention are directly reporting or taking to nearest hospital or primary health centers at shore. Auditor note: In the next audit, it will be asked to review the accident log. It is recommended that you create a separate accident record form for each vessel.
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	The auditor viewed the document Regulation of Freedom of Association & Collective Bargaining in Fishing Vessels, which states that employees can freely participate in collective associations, as per the Trade Union Act, 1926.
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	The auditor viewed the document Regulation of Forced or Compulsory Labor in Fishing Vessels, which states that employees are not subjected to forced labor and that working and rest hours are respected.
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	The auditor viewed the Discrimination in Fishing Vessels document, which states that acts of discrimination are not permitted, as stated in Constitutional Safeguards.

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	The auditor viewed the document "Regulation of Fishers' Rights on Board Indian Fishing Vessels," which states that crew rights on board are respected, as established in the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 (Part XV-A & Rules for Indian Fishing Boats).

Further comments:

8.1.5: In the next audit, it will be asked to review the accident log. It is recommended that you create a separate accident record form for each vessel.

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

7.2: The organization has not calculated its carbon footprint.

The organization could carry out the carbon footprint study and evaluate how it could reduce it each year.