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: BERTRAND PRODUITS EXPORT

(B.P.E.)

b) NAME OF THE UNIT OF CERTIFICATION REQUESTING THE AUDIT: Nero di Sole SRL

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: none

d) ADDRESS OF THE UNIT OF CERTIFICATION TO BE AUDITED: BP 34 CIDEX 02 ABIDJAN 08, Abidjan, Ivory Coast

e) NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS OF THE PERSON AT THE UNIT OF CERTIFICATION RESPONSIBLE FOR THE AUDIT AND CONTACTS WITH THE AUDITOR: Dr. Matteo Bonomo email: matteobo nomo@nerodisole.it per Nero di Sole Per B.P.E. Diomandé Djeneba Tel : (+225) 0544569772 Mail: ddiomand e@bpe-ci.com Se assente: Olivier Bango Tel : (+225) 0574418418 / (+225) 0777314151 mail: fbango@bpe-ci.com

f) FLEET TO BE AUDITED: please see the attached document INFOS EMBARCATION

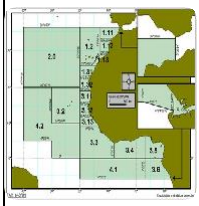
Name of the fishing vessel	*Registration number*	*Vessel's flag*	*Fishing method*	*Capacity (MT)*	*Unloading harbour*	*Ship owner, if different from "a)"*

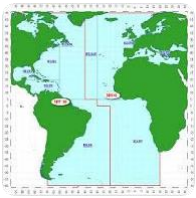
g) VESSELS AUDITED ON SITE (the auditor shall list the vessels which have actually been audited on site as a sample representing the fleet)**:**

Name of the fishing vessel	Registration number	Unloading harbour
PELIKAN n°2	ABJ 1071	IVORY COAST - LOCODJRO
MAGNUM	AN 1573	IVORY COAST - LOCODJRO
MEDHI	AN 1558	IVORY COAST

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

ATLANTIC, EASTERN CENTRAL (Major Fishing Area 34).
http://www.fao.org/fishery/area/Area34/en.
as a concern the ICCAT fishing area and competence area the classification is
the follow: for the YFT-A Statistical area ATE and SA code YF03
for the SWO Stock code SWO-N North Atlantic Area and Sa code
under review. Please refer to the ICCAT geographical definitions MAP.
https://www.iccat.int/Data/ICCAT_maps.pdf.





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	LINES AND CANE and PALANGRE
Sword fish	Xiphias gladius	LINES AND CANE and PALANGRE

j) TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:
143

k) ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATIONS AND AWARDS:

none

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:*

Information and consultation of relevant Stakeholders is integral part of the preliminary audit phase. Numerous Stakeholder have been contacted and informed. for complete list please refer to the dedicate folder (l) STAKEHOLDERS INPUT) in the UoC Audit Dossier (name when available, role, e-mail and Organization):

- NGO Sea Shepherd Conservation Society global Africa;
- CECAF on behalf the FAO Regional Office for Africa;
- NGO Coalition for fair fisheries arrangements (Brussels office);
- Greenpeace Africa.
- The Environmental Justice Foundation NGOs.

(no comments were found as concern our request).

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

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

☐ **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.**

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

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

☐ **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).

CERTIFICATION BODY: London Associati Ltd	**AUDIT TEAM:** Pierluigi Monticini	**AUDIT START AND END DATE:** 20 May 2021 10 Aug 2021
SIGNATURE OF AUDITOR:	**NAME OF THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE UNIT OF CERTIFICATION AND ACCOMPANYING THE AUDITOR DURING THE AUDIT:** Matteo Bonomo, matteobonomo@nerodisole.it	**AUDIT CODE:** 000023 **TYPE OF AUDIT:** Initial (remote)

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 INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION for the CONSERVATION of ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) is an inter-governmental fishery organization responsible for the conservation of tunas and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and its adjacent seas. The ICCAT was established after the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, at its Thirteenth Session held in Rome in November and December 1965, authorized the Director-General of that Organization to call a Conference of Plenipotentiaries to prepare and adopt a Convention for the purpose of establishing a Commission for the conservation of tuna and tuna-like fishes in the Atlantic Ocean. The area to which this Convention shall apply, here in after referred to as the "Convention area", shall be all waters of the Atlantic Ocean, including the adjacent Seas. The ICCAT Scientific Committee (SCRS) undertook in 2015 a comprehensive revision of the ICCAT Sampling Areas (SA), aiming to simplify (eliminate gear dependencies on tropical species, etc.) and standardize the nomenclature, contributing this way to the improvement of the submission of fisheries statistics. This ongoing task will be completed during 2016 The maps by species (or

					species groups) are present next (only for the species under Audit): YFT (Thunnus albacares) Name (UK):Yellowfin tuna Stocks: 1 Stat. areas: 2 SA's number: 16 SA codes by Stock and Statistical area Stock code: YFT-A Stat. area: ATE SA code: YF01 YF02 YF03 YF04 YF05 YF06 YF07 YF20 SWO (Xiphias gladius) Name (UK): Swordfish Stocks: 3 Stat. areas: n/a SA's: 9 (under review) Stock code: SWO-N SA code: BIL91 BIL92 BIL93 BIL94A BIL94B BIL94C. Data are assessed with analysis document from this link: https://www.iccat.int/en/assess.html named Stock Assessments and Executive Summaries by species, latest report and Assessment model(s) used for advice. The files posted below present the current stock status and management advice for stocks of interest to the ICCAT , for which assessments have been conducted. Each file has a similar layout, providing the latest information on stock status and management advice, research recommendations, useful references and links to previous stock assessment documents: - YFT – YELLOWFIN TUNA (Summary) https://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/ExecSum/YFT_ENG.pdf; - REPORT OF THE 2019 ICCAT YELLOWFIN TUNA STOCK ASSESSMENT MEETING (Grand-Bassam, Cote d'Ivoire, 8-16 July 2019) - Detailed.https://www.icc

					at.int/Documents/SCRS/DetRep/YFT_SA_ENG.pdf . - SWO - SWORD FISH (Summary) https://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/ExecSum/SWO_ATL_ENG.pdf; -REPORT OF THE 2017 ICCAT ATLANTIC SWORDFISH STOCK ASSESSMENT SESSION (Madrid, Spain 3-7 July, 2017) - Detailed. https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Meetings/Docs/2017_ATL_SWO_ASS_REP_ENG.pdf. FAO Guidelines for the routine collection of capture fishery data, FAO Fisheries Technical Paper No. 38 is used as a reference point. (annex FOS - Nero di Soler srl Stock assessment and some documentation).
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 stocks for the species in consideration is NOT overexploited - An overexploited stock is a stock subjected to overfishing, i.e. to a level of fishing effort or fishing mortality (F) higher than the maximum rate of fishing mortality that allows for the maintenance of the population size at its reproductive capacity (maximum sustainable yield of fishing mortality, FMSY). The terms "overfishing" and "maximum sustainable yield" are defined in the Section 1.4 – Definition and Abbreviations. Additional relevant content called "The development and diversity of reference points" is available at: http://www.fao.org/docrep/003/v8400e/V8400E02.htm)

					For a non-overexploited stock, the following condition shall be verified: F ≤ FMSY or F/ FMSY ≤ 1. The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas is responsible for the conservation of tunas and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas (Convention Area). The ICCAT Scientific Committee (SCRS) undertook in 2015 a comprehensive revision of the ICCAT Sampling Areas (SA), aiming to simplify (eliminate gear dependencies on tropical species, etc.) and standardize the nomenclature, contributing this way to the improvement of the submission of fisheries statistics. This ongoing task will be completed during 2016. The number of SA's by species Stock/Stat Area as concern the Yellowfin Tuna as a follow: YFT (Thunnus albacares) Stock code: YFT-A Stat. area: ATE SA code: YF03 (close to ATLANTIC, EASTERN CENTRAL, Major Fishing Area 34); SWO (Xiphias gladius) Stock code: SWO-N (North Atlantic stock) SA code: Under revision. YFT YELLOWFIN TUNA - (Thunnus albacares) Last / Next assessment: 2019 / 2023 Assessment model(s) used for advice: Stock Synthesis (V3.30.13.09), JABBA (v1.5 Beta) and mpb (FLR). YFT-3. STATE OF THE STOCK: A full stock assessment was conducted for yellowfin tuna in 2019, applying two production models (JABBA, MPB) and one age-structured model (Stock Synthesis) to the available catch

					data through 2018. The four Stock Synthesis model runs, were regarded as representing alternative recruitment, and steepness hypotheses. Likewise, the JABBA runs addressed different hypotheses about initial priors for r, and about which indices of abundance were representing the population. Finally, the base case selected for MPB estimated biomass and fishing mortality trends that varied somewhat from JABBA. The Group decided that, in order to capture this uncertainty in the population dynamics for developing the management advice, it was best to incorporate results from all of the accepted model runs. Estimates of historical fishing mortality (relative to FMSY) show similar trends for all models. For most model runs, fishing mortality increased progressively until the early 1980s, it varied in level until the mid-1990s, after which it declined gradually until the mid-2000s. Since the mid-2000s, the fishing mortality has had a generally increasing trend with fluctuations until 2018. Overall the models estimate that the fishing mortality in 2018 was near the fishing mortality that would produce MSY. Again, for all models there are large uncertainties in the value of fishing mortality at any point in the history, including 2018. YFT-4. OUTLOOK Combined catch projections from 9 runs (JABBA (Base Case, S2, S3, and S5), MPB, Stock Synthesis (runs 1, 2, 3 and 4) were provided at constant catches ranging 0 t and from 60,000 to

					150,000 t. The method used to combine the projection results is described in section 4.4 of the detailed report (SCRS/2019/011). In the projection results from the Stock Synthesis and JABBA models, some iterations were predicted with exceptionally small biomass ratios and extremely high F ratios indicating the potential for stock collapse. Thus, probability of biomass being less than 20% of the biomass that supports MSY was calculated for each projection year and catch scenario (YFT-Table 2). The probability increased with higher catch levels and in later projected years. The probabilities more than 1% or 10% were observed with the constant catch more than 110,000 t or 140,000 t, respectively. The highest probability was 23.3% with 150,000 t constant catch in 2033. It should be noted that the reference chosen, 20% of biomass that supports MSY, was selected for informational purposes and has not been adopted formally by the SCRS for tropical tunas. The combined projections show that 120,000 t constant catch will maintain more than 50% probability of being in green quadrant through 2033. ATLANTIC YELLOWFIN TUNA SUMMARY: Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY):121,298 t (90,428 - 267,350 t) Relative Fishing Mortality: F2018/FMSY: 0.96 (0.56 - 1.50) 2018 Total Biomass: 729,436 t Stock status Overexploited: NO. Ref. pag. 28 of the ICCAT YFT stock assessment Report. SWO SWORDFISH (Xiphias

					gladius). swordfish stocks was assessed in 2017, by means of applying statistical modelling to the available data up to 2015. Complete information on the data availability and assessment can be found in the Report of the 2017 ICCAT Atlantic swordfish data preparatory meeting (Anon. 2017e) and the Report the 2017 ICCAT Atlantic swordfish stock assessment session (Anon. 2017f). Other information relevant to Atlantic swordfish is presented in the Report of the Sub-committee on Statistics. NORTH ATLANTIC area situation: For the past decade, the North Atlantic estimated catch (landings plus dead discards) has averaged about 11,245 t per year. The catch in 2018 (8,858 t) represents a 56.2% decrease since the 1987 peak in North Atlantic landings (20,238 t). These reduced landings have been attributed to ICCAT regulatory recommendations and shifts in fleet distributions, including the movement of some vessels in certain years to the South Atlantic or out of the Atlantic. In addition, some fleets, including at least the United States, EU-Spain and EU-Portugal have changed operating procedures to opportunistically target tuna and/or sharks, taking advantage of market conditions and higher relative catch rates of these species previously considered as by-catch in some fleets. Recently, socio-economic factors may have also contributed to the decline in catch. Available catch per unit

					effort (CPUE) series were evaluated by the Committee and certain indices were identified as suitable for use in the assessment models (Canada, EU-Portugal, EU-Spain, Japan, Morocco, and USA). Trends in standardized CPUE series by fleets contributing to the stock assessment models are shown in SWO-ATL-Figure 4 of the report. Most of the series have an increasing trend since the late 1990s, but show a decrease in the more recent years. There have been some recent changes in United States regulations that may have impacted catch rates. SWO-ATL-3. STATE OF THE STOCK Three stock assessment platforms were used to provide estimates of stock status for the North Atlantic swordfish stock, a Surplus Production Model (ASPIC - A Stock Production Model Incorporating Covariates), a Bayesian Surplus Production Model with process error (BSP2 - Bayesian Surplus Production 2) and an Integrated Age Structured Model (SS - Stock Synthesis). Stock status was determined from the Integrated Age Structured and Bayesian Surplus Production models, while the Surplus Production Model was used mainly to provide continuity with the previous assessments. The final base case Age Structured model estimated that B2015 was above BMSY (median = 1.13, 95% CIs = 0.81-1.45) and F2015 was lower than FMSY (median = 0.75, 95% CIs = 0.57-0.92) (SWO-ATL-Figure 7). The final base case Bayesian Surplus

					Production model estimated that current biomass (B2015) was near BMSY (median = 0.99, 95% CIs = 0.77-1.24) and current F2015 was lower than FMSY (median = 0.81, 95% CIs = 0.61-1.10) (SWO-ATL-Figure 8). Both models agreed that overfishing is not occurring and that biomass is either higher or very close to BMSY (SWO-ATL-Figure 9). The estimate of stock status in 2017 is slightly more pessimistic than the estimated status in the previous 2009 and 2013 assessments, and suggests that in 2015 there was a 61% probability that the stock is at or above MSY reference levels. The results obtained in this evaluation are not strictly comparable with those obtained in the last assessments due to the incorporation of more data sources, and using joint probabilities from two base case models, and updated catch and CPUE information. The most recent estimates of stock productivity are lower than the previous estimates. Compared with the previous 2009 and 2013 Surplus Production base case models, the trajectory of biomass are similar until the late 1990s, thereafter the current model predicted considerable lower relative biomass. It is particularly noteworthy that the CPUE series have been decreasing since 2012, causing biomass trends to adjust to a lower minimum compared to the previous assessments. The Committee noted that the 2017 assessment represents a significant improvement in the understanding of current

					stock status for North Atlantic swordfish using updated information and integration of the new data sources. The Committee therefore recommends that management advice for North Atlantic swordfish, including stock status and projections, should be based on Bayesian Surplus Production and Age Structured models. SWO-ATL-4. OUTLOOK OF North Atlantic Area. Results from the previous 2013 assessment indicated that there was a greater than 90% probability that the northern swordfish stock had rebuilt to or above BMSY. However, given the new estimates of biomass and lower productivity, the stock status now shows a 61% probability of being above BMSY. Based on the currently available information to the Committee, both the Bayesian Production and Age Structured base models were projected to the year 2028 under constant TAC scenarios of 8 to 19 thousand tons. Projections used reported catch as of July, 2017 for 2016. For those CPCs whose reported catch was not available, their catch was assumed to be the average of the last three years (2013-2015), giving a total catch of 11,296 t. For the final base case Bayesian Production Model, projections incorporated process error and the predicted trajectories are therefore more realistic of the future uncertainty in the stock status. MSY is estimated to be around 13,400 t, and taking into account current stock status and process error catches around 13,000 t are expected to allow the

					population to remain at or above BMSY throughout the projected time period (SWO-ATL-Figure 14). For the final base case Integrated Age Structured model, projections of stock status at various levels of future catch are shown in SWO-ATL-Figure 14. Given the current status of the stock being quite close to the MSY benchmarks, values of catches around 13,000 t are also projected to maintain biomass above BMSY during the projected time frame. ATLANTIC SWORDFISH SUMMARY (North Atlantic): Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY): 13,059 (11,840-14,970); Relative Fishing Mortality: F2018/FMSY: 0.78 (0.62-1.01); Stock status Overexploited: NO. Ref. pag. 169 of the ICCAT SWO stock assessment Report and also visit the following link: https://www.iccat.int/en/assess.html. (annex 1.1.2-1.1.3)
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 stocks for the species in consideration is NOT overfished. A stock is considered overfished when exploited beyond an explicit limit beyond which its abundance is considered too low to ensure reproduction, i.e. when biomass is estimated to be below a limit biological reference point. For a non-overfished stock, the following condition shall be verified: B ≥ BMSY or B/BMSY ≥ 1,

					or SB ≥ SBMSY or SB/SBMSY ≥ 1, Definition and Abbreviations. Additional relevant content called "The development and diversity of reference points" is available at: (FAO http://www.fao.org/docrep/003/v8400e/V8400E02.htm). The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas is responsible for the conservation of tunas and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas (Convention Area). The ICCAT Scientific Committee (SCRS) undertook in 2015 a comprehensive revision of the ICCAT Sampling Areas (SA), aiming to simplify (eliminate gear dependencies on tropical species, etc.) and standardize the nomenclature, contributing this way to the improvement of the submission of fisheries statistics. This ongoing task will be completed during 2016. The number of SA's by species Stock/Stat Area as concern the Yellowfin Tuna as a follow: YFT (Thunnus albacares) Stock code: YFT-A Stat. area: ATE SA code: YF03 (close to ATLANTIC, EASTERN CENTRAL, Major Fishing Area 34); SWO (Xiphias

					gladius) Stock code: SWO-N (North Atlantic stock) SA code: Under revision. YFT YELLOWFIN TUNA - (Thunnus albacares) Last / Next assessment: 2019 / 2023 Assessment model(s) used for advice: Stock Synthesis (V3.30.13.09), JABBA (v1.5 Beta) and mpb (FLR). YFT-3. STATE OF THE STOCK: A full stock assessment was conducted for yellowfin tuna in 2019, applying two production models (JABBA, MPB) and one age-structured model (Stock Synthesis) to the available catch data through 2018. The four Stock Synthesis model runs, were regarded as representing alternative recruitment, and steepness hypotheses. Likewise, the JABBA runs addressed different hypotheses about initial priors for r, and about which indices of abundance were representing the population. Finally, the base case selected for MPB estimated biomass and fishing mortality trends that varied somewhat from JABBA. The Group decided that, in order to capture this uncertainty in the population dynamics for developing the management advice, it was best to incorporate results from all of the

					accepted model runs. The trend in the estimated biomass (relative to BMSY) for all models shows a general continuous decline through time. Stock Synthesis runs suggest a few periods of large increases in spawning biomass associated with episodes of high recruitment. The model estimates that such very high recruitments have happened three times in the period 1960 to 2017. Production models show much less pronounced increases in total biomass at the equivalent times. Note, however, that for all models there are large uncertainties in the value of biomass at any point in the history, including 2018. Most model runs lead to biomasses at the end of 2018 above the level that produces MSY (YFT- Figure 8). YFT-4. OUTLOOK Combined catch projections from 9 runs (JABBA (Base Case, S2, S3, and S5), MPB, Stock Synthesis (runs 1, 2, 3 and 4) were provided at constant catches ranging 0 t and from 60,000 to 150,000 t. The method used to combine the projection results is described in section 4.4 of the detailed report (SCRS/2019/011). In the projection results from the Stock Synthesis and JABBA models, some

					iterations were predicted with exceptionally small biomass ratios and extremely high F ratios indicating the potential for stock collapse. Thus, probability of biomass being less than 20% of the biomass that supports MSY was calculated for each projection year and catch scenario (YFT-Table 2). The probability increased with higher catch levels and in later projected years. The probabilities more than 1% or 10% were observed with the constant catch more than 110,000 t or 140,000 t, respectively. The highest probability was 23.3% with 150,000 t constant catch in 2033. It should be noted that the reference chosen, 20% of biomass that supports MSY, was selected for informational purposes and has not been adopted formally by the SCRS for tropical tunas. The combined projections show that 120,000 t constant catch will maintain more than 50% probability of being in green quadrant through 2033. ATLANTIC YELLOWFIN TUNA SUMMARY: Relative Biomass: B2018/ BMSY 1.17 (0,75-1.62) Stock Status 2018: overfished NO Ref. pag. 28 of the ICCAT YFT stock assessment Report. SWO

					SWORDFISH (Xiphias gladius). swordfish stocks was assessed in 2017, by means of applying statistical modelling to the available data up to 2015. Complete information on the data availability and assessment can be found in the Report of the 2017 ICCAT Atlantic swordfish data preparatory meeting (Anon. 2017e) and the Report the 2017 ICCAT Atlantic swordfish stock assessment session (Anon. 2017f). Other information relevant to Atlantic swordfish is presented in the Report of the Sub-committee on Statistics, NORTH ATLANTIC area situation: For the past decade, the North Atlantic estimated catch (landings plus dead discards) has averaged about 11,245 t per year. The catch in 2018 (8,858 t) represents a 56.2% decrease since the 1987 peak in North Atlantic landings (20,238 t). These reduced landings have been attributed to ICCAT regulatory recommendations and shifts in fleet distributions, including the movement of some vessels in certain years to the South Atlantic or out of the Atlantic. In addition, some fleets, including at least the United States, EU-Spain

					and EU-Portugal have changed operating procedures to opportunistically target tuna and/or sharks, taking advantage of market conditions and higher relative catch rates of these species previously considered as by-catch in some fleets. Recently, socio-economic factors may have also contributed to the decline in catch. Available catch per unit effort (CPUE) series were evaluated by the Committee and certain indices were identified as suitable for use in the assessment models (Canada, EU-Portugal, EU-Spain, Japan, Morocco, and USA). Trends in standardized CPUE series by fleets contributing to the stock assessment models are shown in SWO-ATL-Figure 4 of the report. Most of the series have an increasing trend since the late 1990s, but show a decrease in the more recent years. There have been some recent changes in United States regulations that may have impacted catch rates. SWO-ATL-3. STATE OF THE STOCK Three stock assessment platforms were used to provide estimates of stock status for the North Atlantic swordfish stock, a Surplus Production

					Model (ASPIC - A Stock Production Model Incorporating Covariates), a Bayesian Surplus Production Model with process error (BSP2 - Bayesian Surplus Production 2) and an Integrated Age Structured Model (SS - Stock Synthesis). Stock status was determined from the Integrated Age Structured and Bayesian Surplus Production models, while the Surplus Production Model was used mainly to provide continuity with the previous assessments. The final base case Age Structured model estimated that B2015 was above BMSY (median = 1.13, 95% CIs = 0.81-1.45) and F2015 was lower than FMSY (median = 0.75, 95% CIs = 0.57-0.92) (SWO-ATL-Figure 7). The final base case Bayesian Surplus Production model estimated that current biomass (B2015) was near BMSY (median = 0.99, 95% CIs = 0.77-1.24) and current F2015 was lower than FMSY (median = 0.81, 95% CIs = 0.61-1.10) (SWO-ATL-Figure 8). Both models agreed that overfishing is not occurring and that biomass is either higher or very close to BMSY (SWO-ATL-Figure 9). The estimate of stock status in 2017 is slightly more pessimistic than the

					estimated status in the previous 2009 and 2013 assessments, and suggests that in 2015 there was a 61% probability that the stock is at or above MSY reference levels. The results obtained in this evaluation are not strictly comparable with those obtained in the last assessments due to the incorporation of more data sources, and using joint probabilities from two base case models, and updated catch and CPUE information. The most recent estimates of stock productivity are lower than the previous estimates. Compared with the previous 2009 and 2013 Surplus Production base case models, the trajectory of biomass are similar until the late 1990s, thereafter the current model predicted considerable lower relative biomass. It is particularly noteworthy that the CPUE series have been decreasing since 2012, causing biomass trends to adjust to a lower minimum compared to the previous assessments. The Committee noted that the 2017 assessment represents a significant improvement in the understanding of current stock status for North Atlantic swordfish using updated information and integration of the new

					data sources. The Committee therefore recommends that management advice for North Atlantic swordfish, including stock status and projections, should be based on Bayesian Surplus Production and Age Structured models. SWO-ATL-4. OUTLOOK OF North Atlantic Area. Results from the previous 2013 assessment indicated that there was a greater than 90% probability that the northern swordfish stock had rebuilt to or above BMSY. However, given the new estimates of biomass and lower productivity, the stock status now shows a 61% probability of being above BMSY. Based on the currently available information to the Committee, both the Bayesian Production and Age Structured base models were projected to the year 2028 under constant TAC scenarios of 8 to 19 thousand tons. Projections used reported catch as of July, 2017 for 2016. For those CPCs whose reported catch was not available, their catch was assumed to be the average of the last three years (2013-2015), giving a total catch of 11,296 t. For the final base case Bayesian Production Model, projections incorporated process

					error and the predicted trajectories are therefore more realistic of the future uncertainty in the stock status. MSY is estimated to be around 13,400 t, and taking into account current stock status and process error catches around 13,000 t are expected to allow the population to remain at or above BMSY throughout the projected time period (SWO-ATL-Figure 14). For the final base case Integrated Age Structured model, projections of stock status at various levels of future catch are shown in SWO-ATL-Figure 14. Given the current status of the stock being quite close to the MSY benchmarks, values of catches around 13,000 t are also projected to maintain biomass above BMSY during the projected time frame. ATLANTIC SWORDFISH SUMMARY (North Atlantic): Relative Biomass (B2015/BMSY): 1,04 (0,82-1,39); Stock Status 2015: overfished NO Ref. pag. 169 of the ICCAT SWO stock assessment Report and also visit the following link: https://www.iccat.int/en/assess.html. (annex 1.1.2-1.1.3)
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 overarching management of the fisheries in the region is underpinned by UNCLOS and the UN Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA 1995) In this case the structure of the Management measures is as follows: 1. At Global / regional level: the ICCAT is a large pelagic tuna Regional Fishery Management Organization (RFMO) within the entire Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas; 2. At Regional level the consolidation of, or subset of ICCAT member states comprising within the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) which s a regional fisheries Organization with a membership of six West African countries: Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo. The Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) was established in 2007. This is to facilitate cooperation in fisheries management between the member countries. The countries have several shared fish stocks and identified a need for cooperation and shared management of these resources.; 3. At National level the individual countries comprising the members of the ICCAT and FCWC.

					There are many management measures and recommendation in place, mostly implemented through the ICCAT; FCWC countries also have developed fisheries policies, a Fisheries Act (or similar instrument) and regulations underpinning the national legislation. Examples of MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS are available on the following link: https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Recs/COMPENDIUM_ACTIVE_ENG.pdf Each year, the ICCAT Secretariat produces a "Compendium of the Management Recommendations and Resolutions adopted by ICCAT for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and Tuna-Like Species". The Compendium generally includes the Recommendation and Resolutions that are currently in force (even if only part of a particular measure is still in effect), as well as those that while they may no longer be in force, but have a direct bearing on a current measure. To facilitate the use of this information, the measures are assigned a reference number. The two-digit year code corresponds to the year

					of adoption by the Commission) (e.g. 94-01, 97-07, 99-11, etc). In 2003, the Secretariat made a thorough review of all past reports of Commission Meetings to compile a complete historical Compendium of all Recommendations, Resolutions and other major decisions adopted by ICCAT. This has been updated in 2020 to include the measures adopted in 2019 and the deletion of measures that have been superseded. The Compendium is now published in two formats. The printed version of the Compendium contains only those decisions considered currently in force. An interactive version of the full ICCAT Compendium of management decisions is now available on the ICCAT web page that may be consulted on: https://www.iccat.int/en/RecRes.asp This version allows users to access Recommendations and Resolutions by category, by year, by status (in force or inactive) or by number. The Compendium is classified according to major subjects as follows: Fish Species: TRO – BET (Bigeye tuna), YFT (Yellowfin tuna), SKJ (Skipjack tuna) SWO (Swordfish) - YFT Under Audit. ALB (Albacore)

					BFT (Bluefin tuna) BIL (Billfishes) - Under audit BYC (By-catch species) Monitoring and Compliance: GEN (General issues) SANC (Sanctions, trade-related measures) SDP (Statistical Document Programs) Other: TOR (Terms of Reference) MISC (Miscellaneous). (annex 1.1.4.)
1.1.5	The methodology, the results and the trends of the stock status assessment under consideration shall be made publicly available in a timely manner and based on the best scientific evidence available, respecting confidentiality where appropriate.	Essential	Documented evidence	Y	The INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION for the CONSERVATION of ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) is an inter-governmental fishery organization responsible for the Stock Status assessment: Data are assessed with the analysis document from this link: https://www.iccat.int/en/assess.html. in details: - YFT – YELLOWFIN TUNA (Summary) https://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/ExecSum/YFT_ENG.pdf; - REPORT OF THE 2019 ICCAT YELLOWFIN TUNA STOCK ASSESSMENT MEETING (Grand-Bassam, Cote d'Ivoire, 8-16 July 2019) - (Detailed). https://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/DetRep/YFT_SA_ENG.pdf. - SWO - SWORD FISH (Summary) https://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/ExecSum

					/SWO_ATL_ENG.pdf; -REPORT OF THE 2017 ICCAT ATLANTIC SWORDFISH STOCK ASSESSMENT SESSION (Madrid, Spain 3-7 July, 2017) - (Detailed). https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Meetings/Docs/2017_ATL_SWO_ASS_REP_ENG.pdf. (annex 1.1.5.)

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	An Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is a concept adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (1982), whereby a coastal State assumes jurisdiction over the exploration and exploitation of marine resources in its adjacent section of the continental shelf, taken to be a band extending 200 miles from the shore. The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) comprises an area which extends either from the coast, or in federal systems from the seaward boundaries of the constituent states (3 to 12 nautical miles, in most cases) to 200 nautical miles (370 kilometers) off the coast. Within this area, nations claim and exercise sovereign rights and exclusive fishery management authority over all fish and all Continental Shelf fishery resources. (Review of Fisheries in OECD Countries: Glossary, February 1998). https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.a

					sp?ID=884. The UoC brings on its fishing activities in the EEZs as a Part of Ivory Coast (Nation) in a maximum range of 50 miles from the shore. This means that the habitat under consideration is pelagic and demersal, that is anyway not affected directly by the fishing activities of the UoC taking also in consideration the fishing gear used. https://www.marineregions.org/gazetteer.php?p=details&id=8473. The section of North Atlantic Ocean according the Marineregions.org, comprise part of Gulf of Guinea as ecosystem in place assessment of the effects of the unit of certification on the ecosystem structure, function, processes and essential habitats for the stock under consideration. The Gulf of Guinea Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) lies between the Bijagos Islands (Guinea-Bissau) and Cape Lopez (Gabon). It is generally defined as the area influenced by the flow of the Guinea Current. The

					coastal area is characteristically low lying and interspersed with marshes, lagoons and mangrove swamps. The region has a monsoon climate with high precipitation and almost constant monthly temperatures. Many rivers flow into the Gulf of Guinea, giving warm, low salinity coastal waters, except during the upwelling seasons in the central part of the Gulf. Mangroves are found around the major river mouths in the Gulf of Guinea, especially in the Niger Delta. Some corals are present in coastal and offshore areas, but true reefs are absent. Turtles, marine mammals and seabirds are also present. A number of fish communities are present in coastal and offshore waters. The Gulf of Guinea is the most densely settled coastal area in Africa and is highly impacted by human activities. Mangroves, which constitute an important resource for coastal populations, are damaged by over-

					exploitation and pollution of water bodies from urban run-off. Forest clearance in rural areas is another major problem, causing topsoil erosion. Artisanal and industrial fisheries and aquaculture are an important source of employment and food in the region and shallow coastal waters appear fully or over exploited. Other anthropogenic activities include onshore and offshore oil production, damming of major rivers, port development and landfill. Such activities have serious effects on marine and coastal environments and can contribute to coastal erosion. A number of protected areas now exist and some environmental legislation is in place. However, enforcement is difficult, mainly due to constraints on financial, physical and human resources. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/288317507_The_Gulf_of_Guinea_Large_Marine_Ecosystem.

					Based on the definitions provided by FOS in its Audit Guidance v. 2 page 12, below is shown the list of major ETP species that can be affected by the UoC and in general by the fishing operations. The Field Guide to the Commercial Marine Resources of the Gulf of Guinea by FAO is used as a reference publication, http://www.fao.org/3/t0438e/t0438e00.htm for the identification of the species: - Carcharhinus falciformis (Bibron in Müller & Henle, 1839)IUCN Status: Near threatened NT http://www.iucn.it/scheda.php?id=-603438721 included in the CITES annex II; - Prionace glauca (Linnaeus, 1758) IUCN status:Near threatened NT https://www.researchgate.net/publication/350810574_Prionace_glauca-Blue_Shark_The_IUCN_Red_List_of_Threatened_Species_2019. Cites status - Not Evaluated; - Marine turtle (different species): IUCN Status:

					Endangered EN or Critically Endangered CR https://www.iucnredlist.org/search?query=Sea%20Turtles&searchType=species all species are included in the CITES annex I; - Giant manta (Mobula birostris):IUCN Status: Endangered EN https://www.iucnredlist.org/ja/species/198921/68632946 included in the CITES annex II; - Dasyatis pastinaca (Linnaeus, 1758) IUCN Status: Data Deficent. https://www.iucnredlist.org/ja/species/161453/5427586 Cites status - Not Evaluated; - Seabird (unidentified): Various ETP species: IUCN Status N/A https://www.iccat.int/Documents/CVSP/CV066_2011/n_5/CV066052153.pdf CITES n/a data. The COMPENDIUM MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY ICCAT FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS AND TUNA-LIKE SPECIES is the official document

					issued by the ICCAT and this prove that the FMS has made an assessment on ETP species, in particular: - [03-10] Resolution by ICCAT on the shark fishery; - [07-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on Reducing Incidental By-Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries; - [10-09] Recommendation by ICCAT on the By-catch of Sea Turtles in ICCAT Fisheries; - [11-08] Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of Silky Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries; The already cited Resolutions Recommendation are available in the folder (annex 2.1.). The methodology and results of the likelihood and magnitude of adverse impacts of the unit of certification on the ecosystem are made publicly available in a timely manner, as soon as there are new updates: - RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION

					FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NORTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH, REC. 16-03; - RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON A MULTI-ANNUAL CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME FOR TROPICAL TUNAS (entered into force 2017). (annex 2.1.)
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	Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) involve the protective management of natural areas according to pre-defined management objectives. MPAs can be conserved for a number of reasons including economic resources, biodiversity

					conservation, and species protection. They are created by delineating zones with permitted and non- permitted uses within that zone. https://www.iucn.org/theme/marine-and-polar/our-work/marine-protected-areas The UoC is in compliance with the MPAs regulation. Available the Ocean Health Index in the following link as concern IVORY COAST http://www.oceanhealthindex.org/region-scores/scores/ivory-coast
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 UoC doesn't use fishing gear affecting seabed. The used fishing gear are hook and long line. 
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 Fishing operations are carried out with small scale vessels, and not involve accidental catches (by-catch) as it is carried out by hi-selectivity hooks as a fishing gear. There are no logbooks on the boat but the a landing catch certificates are filled in and signed by the local authority upon landing according the national legislation. - No By-catch species are included in the IUCN rest of endangered species as a Vulnerable or higher risk. - occasionally Seriola dumerili (Risso, 1810) can be caught, that is listed as LC with a very low risk target (personal communication with the auditor). http://www.iucn.it/scheda.php?id=797632646 - Epinephelus caninus - https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/132796/100463319 DD Data Deficent - DATE ASSESSED 17 November 2016; - Epinephelus aeneus - https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/132722/100459597 NT Near Threatened - DATE ASSESSED 18 November 2016; - Sepia officials hierreda - https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/162664/939991 LC Least and Concern - DATE ASSESSED 15 March 2009. Avaialable the FICHE DE PRODUCTION ET DE TRACABILITIES DES PRODUITS. (annex 3.1.)
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	Essential	Evidence of conformity	Y	The UoC follows the ICCAT recommendation and the National Rules by the Ivory Coast Government. The National Authorities are as well as collects all relevant data and information that will help to maintain all good fishing practices in particular for the landing phase. The Fisheries is a small-artisanal scale enterprise, and the fishing trip lasts only 2 or three hours a day, with the physical presence of the fisherman who throws the hook at the right moment. Also, the Captain and crew members (two or three person maximum for each fishing vessel) are aware of the conservation and Recommendation, to protect the endangered species. As an example, in attach a sample of the Report submitted to the authorities after the landing - Certificato De Salubrity by the Ministere Des Ressources Animales Et Halieutiques.

	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.				accidental catches are also used for domestic consumption or in case of a minor fish size are released at sea lives. (annex 3.2.)
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	Considering the size of the fisheries and the fact that the catches are recorded only in the landing phase, the level of discards is not well determinable. It can be assumed that, considering the high selectivity of fishing gear and the Policies (internal Ethic Code against shark finning), apply by fisheries, the level of discards is always less than 8 percent and could be less around 0,5%.

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.	Not applicable The UoC doesn't use FADs
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.	Not applicable The UoC doesn't use FADs
3.4.3	Marking FADs and FAD components	Important	More information about Voluntary Guidelines	N.A.	Not applicable The UoC doesn't use FADs

	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.**		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.		
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.	Not applicable The UoC doesn't use FADs

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.	N.A.	Not applicable The UoC doesn't use FADs
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.	Not applicable The UoC doesn't use FADs
3.4.7	Reporting of lost FADs with date, time and last known	Essential	Verify the existence of a logbook where reported cases of loss and	N.A.	Not applicable The UoC doesn't use FADs

	position to relevant authorities. **Only applicable to fisheries and fleet targeting tuna. N/A to fisheries targeting any other species.**		attach to the audit report at least one example.		
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	Shark finning: is defined by Cambridge English Dictionary as the practice of cutting off sharks' fins (= the thin vertical parts sticking out from their bodies), and throwing their bodies back in the sea. Shark finning is prohibited by the actors involved in the management of the Fishing, are ICCAT and FCWC, the UoC has also its Code of Ethic - in particular: - La BPE s´engage a ne nouer relation commerciale avec des fournisseurs de métiers premieries dont les bateaux pratiquant le shark finning. part.3 available the UoC ethical code. (annex 3.5)
3.6	Turtle excluder devices (TEDs) are in place and subjected to periodic	Important	The unit of certification shall have appointed at least one employee to monitor the	N.A.	Not applicable The UoC doesn't target shrimp.

	maintenance. **Only applicable to trawler fisheries and fleets targeting shrimps.**		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.		
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 ICCAT provide a Resolution on circle Hooks - THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS RESOLVES THAT: 1 All Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities (CPCs) are encouraged to undertake research trials of appropriate-size circle hooks in commercial pelagic longline fisheries. 2 CPCs should also encourage research and trials on the use of circle hooks in recreational and artisanal fisheries. 3 CPCs are encouraged to exchange ideas regarding fishing methods and technological gear changes that improve the safe handling and release of incidentally caught species including, but not limited to, the use of de-hookers, line cutters, and scoop nets. 4 When feasible and appropriate, SCRS should present the Commission with an assessment of the impact of circle hooks on the dead discard levels in ICCAT pelagic longline fisheries. ref. [05-08] Resolution by ICCAT on circle hooks. https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Recs/COMPENDIUM_ACTIVE_ENG.pdf. The UoC uses circle hooks. (annex 3.7.)  

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 the fishing vessels are officially registered. Available the complete list of the fishing vessels with all the fishing licenses and the number of registrations. Please see also letter f) with all the fishing vessel information. (annex 4.1.)
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	A flag of convenience ship is one that flies the flag of a country other than the country of ownership. For workers onboard, this can mean: - very low wages; - poor on-board conditions; - inadequate food and clean drinking water; - long periods of work without proper rest, leading to stress and fatigue. The UoC Fleet not includes vessel with a Flag of convenience - all the vessel are small scale artisanal fishing vessel. https://www.itfglobal.org/en/sector/seafarers/flags-of-convenience. (annex 4.2.)

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	Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing is a broad term that captures a wide variety of fishing activity. IUU fishing is found in all types and dimensions of fisheries; it occurs both on the high seas and in areas within national jurisdiction. It concerns all aspects and stages of the capture and utilization of fish, and it may sometimes be associated with organized crime. The IUU score of the Cote d'Ivoire is 2,24 The UoC fleet not includes IUU fishing vessels - all the vessel are small scale artisanal fishing vessel. Available the complete IUU fishing index country profile. Furthermore the ICCAT Rec. 16-1 deals the issue in pag. 9 as a follow: Identification IUU activity: 35. The Executive Secretary shall, without delay, verify that any vessel identified or reported in the context of this Multi-annual Programme is on the ICCAT record of authorized vessels and not out of compliance with the provisions of paragraphs 13 and 14. If a possible violation is detected, the Executive Secretary shall, without delay, notify the flag CPC. The flag CPC shall immediately investigate the situation and, if the vessel is fishing in relation to objects that could affect

					fish aggregation, including FADs, request the vessel to stop fishing and, if necessary, leave the area without delay. The flag CPC shall, without delay, report to the Executive Secretary the results of its investigation and the corresponding measures taken. 36. The Executive Secretary shall report to the Compliance Committee at each annual meeting of the Commission on any issue related to identification of unauthorized vessels, the implementation of the VMS, the observer provisions, and the results of the relevant investigation made as well as any relevant measures taken by the flag CPCs concerned. 37. The Executive Secretary shall propose to include any vessels identified in accordance with paragraph 36, or vessels for which the flag CPC has not carried out the required investigation and taken, if necessary, adequate measures in accordance with paragraph 35, on the provisional IUU list. Furthermore, as established by the "Recommendation by ICCAT on Establishing a List of Vessels presumed to have Carried out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities" [Rec. 18-08],

					the ICCAT Secretariat ensures publicity of the IUU vessels list adopted by ICCAT at its annual meeting by placing it on the ICCAT web site. https://www.iccat.int/en/IUUlist.html Finally the ICCAT has set the Recommendation 03-16 RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO ADOPT ADDITiONAL MEASURES AGAINST ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING: Consistent with their rights and obligations under international law, Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) take the necessary measures to prohibit landings from fishing vessels, placing in cages for farming and/or the transshipment within their jurisdiction of tunas or tuna-like species caught by IUU fishing activities. (annex 4.3.)
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 Dolphin Safe policy is available and signed by the UoC. (annex 4.4)
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 Unit of Certification follow the legislation at the different level Below the most important National Legislation on Fisheries form the FAO Legislation Country Profile: - Loi n° 2016-554 du 26 juillet 2016 relative à la pêche et à l'aquaculture.Date of text: 26 July 2016; - Council Regulation (EC) No. 242/2008 on the conclusion of the Fisheries Partnership - Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.Date of text: 17 March 2008; - Loi n°2005-556 du 2 décembre 2005 instituant le régime d'entreprise franche de transformation des produits halieutiques.Date of text: 24 November 2005; - Council Regulation (EC) No. 953/2005 relating to the conclusion of the Protocol setting out, for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2007, the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire on fishing off the coast of Côte d'Ivoire.Date of text: 21 June 2005; - Arrêté 033/MIRAH/CAB du 08

					septembre 2017 portant interdiction provisoire d'importation et de commercialisation de toute espèce de tilapia sauvage et/ ou d'élevage et produits dérivés de tilapia en provenance de la Colombie, l'Equateur, l'Egypte, Israël et la Thaïlande.Date of text: 08 September 2017. and follow. http://www.fao.org/faolex/country-profiles/general-profile/en/?iso3=CIV. As a concern the fishing activities for tuna and Tuna related species, the UoC follows the ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions aimed at maintaining the populations of ICCAT species at levels which will permit maximum sustainable catch. Normally, Recommendations and Resolutions are drafted by already-established auxiliary bodies (such as the 4 species-group Panels, or the Compliance Committee), and are presented to the Commission for adoption. These Recommendations and Resolutions, both active and historical, can be searched below by different search criteria. The Compendium of management recommendations and resolutions, adopted by ICCAT for the conservation of Atlantic tunas and tuna-like species, provides a

					complete set of currently active ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions. https://www.iccat.int/en/RecRes.asp.
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	The status of the North Atlantic swordfish stocks was assessed in 2017, by means of applying statistical modelling to the available data up to 2015. Complete information on the data availability and assessment can be found in the Report of the 2017 ICCAT Atlantic swordfish data preparatory meeting and the Report the 2017 ICCAT Atlantic swordfish stock assessment session. Other information relevant to Atlantic swordfish is presented in the Report of the Sub-committee on Statistics. The total allowable catch in the North Atlantic during the 2007 to 2009 period was 14,000 t per year. The reported catch during that period averaged 11,811 t and did not exceed the TAC in any year. In 2010, the TAC was reduced to 13,700 t and in 2018 it was reduced to 13,200 t. The reported catch since 2010 averaged 11,197 t and exceeded the TAC in one year (2012, 13,868 t).

					As concern the Yellow fin tuna total allowable catch is in place the RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON A MULTI-ANNUAL CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR BIGEYE AND YELLOWFIN TUNAS in which the TAC are set 110,000 t (since Rec. 11-01). in fact, according point 16 of Rec. 11-01 for yellowfin tuna the annual TAC for 2012 and subsequent years of the Multi-annual program is 110,000 t for yellowfin tuna and shall remain in place until changed based on scientific advice. If the total catch in any year exceeds the TAC for yellowfin tuna, the Commission shall review the relevant conservation and management measures in place. Outlook: - Sword fish North Atlantic are set 14,000 t; - Yellow fin tuna 110,000 t. The UoC holds an ICCAT - TAC for swordfish (125t for the north Atlantic Ocean stock) (annex 4.5.1.)

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 UoC doesn't use logbook but register the catch only in the phase of landing, being small scale fishing boats. The use of Logbook in general refer to the RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON A MULTI-ANNUAL CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME FOR TROPICAL TUNAS Rec. 16-1: Requirements for Catch Recording Minimum specification for paper or electronic logbooks: 1. The logbook must be numbered by sheets; 2. The logbook must be filled in every day (midnight) or before port arrival; 3. One copy of the sheets must remain attached to the logbook; 4. Logbooks must be kept on board to cover a period of one-trip operation. Minimum standard information for logbooks: 1. Master name and address; 2. Dates and ports of departure, Dates and ports of arrival; 3. Vessel name, registry number, ICCAT number and IMO number (if available); 4. Fishing gear: (a) Type FAO code (b) Dimension (length, mesh size, number of hooks...) 5. Operations at sea with one line (minimum) per day of trip, providing:

					(a) Activity (fishing, steaming...); (b) Position: Exact daily positions (in degree and minutes), recorded for each fishing operation or at noon when no fishing has been conducted during this day (c) Record of catches 6. Species identification: (a) By FAO code (b) Round (RWT) weight in t per set (c) Fishing mode (FAD, free school, etc.) 7. Master signature; 8. Observer signature, if applicable; 9. Means of weight measure: estimation, weighing on board and counting 10. The logbook is kept in equivalent live weight of fish and mentions the conversion factors used in the evaluation. Minimum information in case of landing, transshipments: 1. Dates and port of landing /transshipments 2. Products: number of fish and quantity in kg 3. Signature of the Master or Vessel Agent. Ref. ICCAT Ref. 16-1. pag.12,13. (annex 4.5.2.)
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 UoC doesn't use net as a fishing gear

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 UoC doesn't use net as a fishing gear
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	Minimum size limits for the Swordfish: There are two minimum size options that are applied to the entire Atlantic: 125 cm LJFL with a 15%tolerance, or 119 cm LJFL with zero tolerance and evaluation of the discards. In 2017, the Committee provided information on the effectiveness of existing minimum size regulations. Since the implementation of the minimum landing sizes in 2000, the estimate of percentage of swordfish less than 125 cm LJFL reported landed (in number) has been generally decreasing in the North Atlantic and stable in the South. In the North Atlantic, the estimate was 33% in 2000 and decreased to 23% in 2015. In the South Atlantic the estimate was 18% in 2000, had a maximum of 19% in 2006 and decreased to 13% in 2015. The Committee notes that these estimations have

					high levels of substitutions for a significant portion of the total catch and are highly unreliable and biased unless CPCs fully report size samples from the entire catch. The Committee also noted high values of hooking mortality (ranging between 78-88%) on small swordfish (<125 cm LJFL) in some surface longline fisheries targeting swordfish, with the post-release mortality of specimens discarded alive unknown. Recommending and evaluating other strategies to protect juvenile swordfish will require completeness of datasets on fishing effort and size data over the entire Atlantic and should take into account the effects on other species. In view of the Commission objective to protect small swordfish, the Committee therefore recommends that future work should be carried out to determine more precisely the spatial distribution and magnitude of fishing effort, size and sex distribution of undersized swordfish in the Atlantic, using high resolution observer data. No Minimum size limit for the Yellowfin Tuna. - The UoC practices an internal regulation that provides for the acceptance of the species as follows: Thunnus albacares> = 5 kg / Xiphias gladius> = 20 kg.

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 UoC brings on its fishing activities in the EEZs as a Part of Ivory Coast (Nation) in a maximum range of 50 miles from the shore. available a screen shot of the GPS position. (annex 4.5.6.- 4,5.8)
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 ICCAT, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas is in place to regulate these aspects. The UoC is in compliance with this point applying both the rules established by ICCAT and an internal procedure regarding the minimum measures of the target species. The UoC practices an internal regulation that provides for the acceptance of the species as follows: Thunnus albacares> = 5 kg / Xiphias gladius> = 20 kg. - this allows a major selectivity in catches. The following Recommendation are in force and regulate the unwanted catch and discards: (as a sample - not complete) - [17-01] Recommendation by ICCAT on Prohibition of Discards of Tropical Tunas Caught by Purse Seiners; - [19-02] Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 16-01 by ICCAT on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas; - [19-03]

					Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 17-02 by ICCAT for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish; - [95-02] Resolution by ICCAT on cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) with regard to study on the status of stocks and by-catches of shark species; - [07-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on Reducing Incidental By-Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries; - [09-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of Thresher Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries in the ICCAT Convention Area; - [10-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of Oceanic Whitetip Sharks caught in Association with fisheries in the ICCAT Convention Area; - [10-08] Recommendation by ICCAT on Hammerhead Sharks (family Sphyrnidae) caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT; - [11-09] Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT on Reducing Incidental By-Catch of Seabirds in ICCAT Longline Fisheries; - [11-10] Recommendation by ICCAT on Information Collection

					and Harmonization of Data on By-catch and Discards in ICCAT Fisheries; (annex 4.5.7.)
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 UoC doesn't operate in the Marine protected habitat - The UoC brings on its fishing activities in the EEZs as a Part of Ivory Coast (Nation) in a maximum range of 50 miles from the shore. available a screen shot of the coordinate by GPS position. (annex 4.5.6.- 4.5.8).
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 UoC doesn't use forbidden fishing gear, chemical substances and explosive

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 Management System is defined as the framework of processes and procedures used to ensure that an organization can fulfil all tasks required to achieve its objectives. Element used to refer to a Management System domain element. It contains the domain elements such as Management authority, Jurisdiction, Fishery Management Unit, which altogether enable positive Referencing of a Management System. Includes, but is not restricted to, agencies or entities involved in the management of the fishery, the legislative framework within which the fishery is undertaken, the management measures implemented and the processes and procedures that enable the collective functioning of the various components. The UoC is active part and operates in the following framework of National Fisheries Authority, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) concerning the Management strategy

					evaluation (MSE). By definition a Management strategy evaluation (MSE). is a formal or informal arrangement between a fishery management authority and interested parties which identifies the partners in the fishery and their respective roles, details the agreed objectives for the fishery and specifies the management rules and regulations which apply to it and provides other details about the fishery which are relevant to the task of the management authority. Management strategy evaluation (MSE) is a collaborative process between Scientists and decision-makers that involves using computer simulation to compare the relative ability to achieve a set of management objectives using alternative Management Strategies, defined as different combinations of data collection schemes, methods of analysis, harvest control rules and subsequent processes leading to management actions. MSE is currently being pursued at all of the Tuna Regional Management Fisheries

					Organizations (t-RMFOs). Through the Kobe process, the t-RMFOs have a working group that amongst other things does the following activities: reviews the literature and experiences of t-RFMOs in relation to MSE in order to investigate the feasibility of its application to different tunas; provides guidance for developing MSE and operational models (OM) for tuna biology/ecology/fisheries in relation to the main sources of uncertainty arising from tuna assessments; and to the extent possible, provides and develop the modelling framework to apply the OM/MSE to tuna assessments by t-RFMOs. More information about the t-RMFOs working group can be found here including a glossary of terms for harvest strategies, management procedures and management strategy evaluation and the 2018 MSE meeting report. In 2019 the Commission adopted a new roadmap for the ICCAT MSE processes, which is currently under revision by the SCRS. At ICCAT, Rec. [15-07] defines MSE as "an

					inclusive, interactive and iterative process for evaluating, inter alia, the performance of proposed harvest control rules and reference points in relation to management objectives, including the risk associated with not achieving those objectives". Rec. [15-07] also notes that one of the main goals of the SCRS Science Strategic Plan 2015-2020 is to evaluate precautionary management reference points and robust harvest control rules (HCRs) through management strategy evaluations. In the 2018 Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (Appendix 16), the SCRS defined a MSE Roadmap for several stocks describing the plan to complete key parts required for the MSE processes of northern albacore, Atlantic bluefin tuna, swordfish (Atlantic), and tropical tunas. https://www.iccat.int/mse/en/index.asp. (annex 5.1.1a)
5.1.1b	If the stock under consideration is a transboundary fish stock, straddling fish stock, highly migratory fish stock or high seas fish stock, a bilateral, sub regional or regional fisheries organization or arrangement is in place.	Essential	Evidence of conformity. In case this is not applicable, provide justification.	Y	The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea was adopted on December 1982 and 32 came into force on November 1994, by 138 Member Parties (Bianchi et al., 2008; Garcia et al.,

	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.				2003; Valdimarson et al., 2003). The Convention establishes the basic legal agreement that oversees all aspects of the oceans and seas. UNCLOS (or LOSC) also establishes a framework for conservation, management and development measures regarding living marine resources. It also provides the responsibility of coastal States and the management of the fishery resources in their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ). The main goal of this right is to preserve the fish stock, including breeding area close to EEZ and different types of fish species (highly migratory species, marine mammals, anadromous and catadromous species). However, the living resources of the high seas are managed and protected (HLPE Steering Committee members & FAO, 2014). As regards to this work, the most relevant article is the following: Article 64. Highly migratory species; (1) The coastal State and other States whose nationals' fish in the region for the highly migratory species listed

					in Annex I shall cooperate directly or through appropriate international organizations with a view to ensuring conservation and promoting the objective of optimum utilization of such species throughout the region, both within and beyond the exclusive economic zone. UNCLOS - ANNEX I. HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES: among the others, Big-eye tuna: Thunnus obesus, Skipjack tuna: Katsuwonus pelamis, Yellow-fin tuna: Thunnus albacares. The tuna - like species included in Annex 1 of UNCLOS also have an extensive geographical distribution. These are: Marlins, of which there are eight species (Tetrapturus angustirostris, T. belone, T. pfluegeri, T. albidus, T. audax, T. georgei, Makaira indica, M. nigricans), with one or more species found in every Ocean. It is noted that presently, species of the genus Tetrapturus are referred to as spearfishes. It is also noted that the blue marlin species (Makaira nigricans and M. mazara) have been recently consolidated in one single species

					named Makaira nigricans (Buonaccorsi et al., 1999; Graves and McDowell, 1995). Changes have been already implemented in the FAO capture database and species list - Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Information System (ASFIS) and accepted by all members of the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP) (L. Garibaldi, personal communication, 2006). Swordfish (Xiphias gladius) found in the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans, the Mediterranean Sea, the Sea of Marmara, the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. http://www.fao.org/3/a0653e/a0653e05.htm The other one International agreement is the UN Fish Stock Agreement was adopted at a global level on September 5, 1995 and came into force on 11 December 2001. The FSA provides a higher level of details compared to the Convention (UNCLOS). The main goal of ICCAT is to promote and strengthen the management and conservation of highly migratory fish stocks. Furthermore, UN Fish Stock Agreement has a strong long-term vision

					through the implementation of the articles of UNCLOS. The terms "conservation" and "sustainable" are at the core of this agreement, in order "to avoid negative effects on the marine environment and preserve bio-diversity". Its main points are: • Precautionary approach; • Protection and conservation of biodiversity; • Sustainable use of marine resources; • Adopt an Ecosystem Approach. As concern this point the PART III - MECHANISMS FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION CONCERNING STRADDLING FISH STOCKS AND HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS and in particular the Article 8 is in place, and focus on Cooperation for conservation and management. This unit of certification is subject to international cooperation for management of the stock. Hence, as well as the legal mandate for establishing fisheries management measures, there is expected to be an

					international institution or arrangement established between the IVORY Coast is to be responsible for the coordination of fishery management activities over the entire area of distribution of the stock. Activities of the international institution include consultation between parties involved, formulation of fishery regulations and their implementation, collection of information, stock assessment. The UoC under National legislation and International framework is as a part of the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) and The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). https://www.iccat.int/en/; https://fcwc-fish.org/.

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 FMO received the best scientific evidence and responds in a timely manner as concern the stock status, with special emphasis to deep-sea fisheries, and negative and adverse impact on vulnerable marine ecosystem, bycatch and discards. For achieving these goals Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) and The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) conducts meeting to establishing the pathway for the management measures and to the enforcement of the regulation: hhttps://www.iccat.int/en/Meetings.html; https://fcwc-fish.org/projects/strategic-plan#
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	A participatory approach requires that all major stakeholders have been identified and that the functions, roles and responsibilities of the key Organizations involved in the management process are explicitly defined and well understood. Participatory management. Any form of management involving a degree of stakeholder participation. ICCAT website is transparent and demonstrate that there is a clear evidence of a participatory approach. Different management scenarios were developed and evaluated using simulations. ICCAT was considered the main stakeholder, particularly the ICCAT Scientific Commission. Apart from ICCAT, fishers and local managers in some member parties were involved in a series of interactive meetings to discuss scenario objectives, uncertainties and discuss results. Preliminary results of management strategy evaluations were presented and discussed in some ICCAT Scientific Commission meetings.

					Additionally, popularized presentations were given in three meetings with fishers. The feedback from both types of meetings facilitated the final development of scenarios, the incorporation of uncertainties and the definition of risks. The ICCAT stakeholders involved assessed the participatory approach and the contribution of some projects to scenario evaluations by filling in questionnaires. Fishers and local managers received a slightly modified version of the original questionnaire: questions dealing with technical specifications of the models were omitted. Also, one questionnaire was prepared and distributed to the stakeholders after the completion of the modelling work (management scenario evaluations) asking them to review and evaluate the accomplished work. https://www.iccat.int/en/meetingsFunds.html https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308597X12000462
5.2.1	A precautionary approach shall be applied, through the FMS, taking into account the best scientific evidence	Essential	Procedure and evidence of conformity.	Y	The precautionary approach was first stated by Principle 15 of

	available to protect the target stock and its habitat and preserve the marine environment, with special consideration for data limited fisheries.				Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in 1992. "In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environment degradation" (www.pprinciple.net). This principle is part of a larger group of terms, concepts, principles and issues, which define the wider idea of Sustainability (Weybrecht, 2014; VanderZwaag D.L & Chao G. 2012; De Young, 2008; Garcia, 2003 &1994). Its application to Fisheries management is particularly important. In fact Fishery planning and management are frequently surrounded by uncertainty and ignorance of the potentially irreversible damages caused by unscrupulous decisions. Therefore, higher the level of risk, higher should be the degree of precaution employed in decision making. Although Fisheries

					management still suffers from lack of scientific certainties of potential consequences, making the precautionary Principle often hard to apply, FAO offers some precious guidelines through its Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. Article 6.5 of General Principles, and 7.5 of Fisheries Management, in particular, stress again on the need of never postponing conservation in case of absence of sufficient scientific information. If these guidelines were applied on both target and non-target species, through an international reinforcement of pre-existing regulations, there would be many beneficial consequences for biodiversity and environment conservation. ICCAT implements some Recommendation measures such as FAD closure season as one of the precautionary approaches to preserve marine environment. In addition to this, waste management also was enforced to manage all waste product on every fishing trip. The Precautionary

					approach is also a Key issue of ICCAT, by the RESOLUTION BY ICCAT CONCERNING THE USE OF A PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH IN IMPLEMENTING ICCAT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES. (annex 5.2.1)
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 here intended as specific controls applied in a fishery to contribute to achieving the objectives such as management objectives, including fishing effort limitations, catch quotas, gear regulations, closed areas and time closures, access and use rights. The ICCAT has established a system of frequent meetings and assessments in order to constantly update its management measures to adapt for example the target reference points (e.g. MSY) to the current status of the stock under consideration. (please refer Point 5.1.1c to have an idea of the frequency of the meetings - https://www.iccat.int/en/Meetings.html). This ensures to constantly adapt the management measures, in the case the status of the stock

					under consideration 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 are always taken based on the best scientific evidence available. The unit of certification works on base of the ICCAT Recommendations and Resolution. These Recommendations and Resolutions, both active and historical, can be found below by different search criteria. The Compendium of management recommendations and resolutions, adopted by ICCAT for the conservation of Atlantic tunas and tuna-like species, provides a complete set of currently active ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions. https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Recs/COMPENDIUM_ACTIVE_ENG.pdf.

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 ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions carried out by the numerous actors involved, are in continual review in order to implement the Ecosystem and the fishery activities. As the references please consult the ICCAT page on the Ecosystem and by-catch at the following link: https://www.iccat.int/en/bycatch.html, and the complete list of Recommendations and Resolutions in the Compendium of management recommendations and resolutions for the conservation of Atlantic tunas and tuna-like species. By the way, there are also in place a Scientific monitoring projects such as ICCAT tagging programs aimed at collecting data on different tuna and tuna-like species in different regions of the Atlantic for the sustainable management of highly migratory fish stock in the Atlantic Ocean. Tunas and billfishes are tagged to obtain information about their movements, migrations, stock structure, growth, population size, mortality, schooling

					behaviour, and physiology and to investigate the effects of various patterns of fishing on the fish and the fisheries. Tunas and billfishes are currently being tagged by many different organisations in all parts of the world where they occur, and fishermen and fish handlers of many nations have the opportunity of encountering tagged fish. ICCAT has developed an international cooperative tagging program in the Atlantic Ocean and its adjacent seas. A number of member countries are now participating in the program and releasing many tunas, billfishes and tuna-like fishes tagged with either "conventional" tags, or electronic tags of various types (acoustic transmitters, archival tags, pop-up archival tags). To make a tagging program successful, it is essential to secure the cooperation of both sport fishermen and industry in recovering these tags. Many of the tags that have been returned have been accompanied by incomplete data, or no data at all, so obviously there is a need for better systems for

					collection of the required information for the tagged fish that are recaptured. There may be substantial rewards associated with the recovery of a tagged fish, especially if the tag is an electronic one. These rewards are paid by the research agency involved in the tagging campaign. https://www.iccat.int/en/tag-desc.html
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 purpose of the ICCAT is to pursue the vision through the operation of best practice service in order to fulfill the global obligations. ICCAT carried out this through his Scheme of International Inspection: https://www.iccat.int/en/Inspection.html. The Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 18-02 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean [Rec. 19-04] stipulates, in the framework of the multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna, that each CPC agrees to apply the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International

					Inspection (Annex 7 of Rec. 19-04). The Recommendation by ICCAT replacing the Recommendation [13-04] and establishing a multi-annual recovery plan for Mediterranean swordfish [Rec. 16-05] also stipulates that in the framework of the Multi-annual Recovery plan for the Mediterranean swordfish, each CPC agrees to apply the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection (Annex 1 of Rec. 16-05). Inspections shall be carried out by inspectors designated by the Contracting Governments. The names of the authorized government agencies and individual inspectors designated for that purpose by their respective governments shall be notified to the ICCAT Commission. Ships carrying out international boarding and inspection duties shall fly a special flag or pennant approved by the ICCAT Commission. The names of the ships so used shall be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat in advance of the commencement of inspection activities. For the list of the designated inspection vessels please click

					here. Inspectors draw up a report of the inspection in a form approved by the ICCAT Commission. Inspection forms are available in numbered carbon-copy format, together with translations into the most frequent languages used in the east Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery and in the Mediterranean swordfish fishery. These translations are attached to the inspection form for guidance. The Contracting Parties participating in the plan should inform the Secretariat of the number of forms required and the official language (English/French/Spanish) in which the form is to be completed. Copies of this inspection report shall be given to the master of the vessel and to the government of the inspection party. This government shall transmit copies to the appropriate authorities of the flag State of the inspected vessel and to the ICCAT Commission. The sustainable monitoring, surveillance, control and enforcement is carried out through different observer and

					monitoring programs: - Regional Observer Programs; - Regional Observer Programs for transshipments; - Emergency Action Plan (EAP); - ICCAT joint scheme of International Inspection; - Voluntary Exchange of Inspections personnel; - Port of Inspection. Please also refer to the GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA FOR GRANTING OBSERVER STATUS AT ICCAT MEETINGS - Resolution 5-12
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 UoC has very low By-catch and has no discard. The UoC is a very small scale artisanal fishery and also used a very selective fishing gear with an artisanal fishing method. According the national regulation the catches are recorded only at the landing phase. There are no legal provisions in force in the Ivory Coast that require the use of a Logbook on board for small scale fishing vessels. - No By-catch

					species are included in the IUCN rest of endangered species as a Vulnerable or higher risk. - occasionally Seriola dumerili (Risso, 1810) can be caught, that is listed as LC with a very low risk target (personal communication with the auditor). http://www.iucn.it/scheda.php?id=797632646 - Epinephelus caninus - https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/132796/100463319 DD Data Deficent - DATE ASSESSED 17 November 2016; - Epinephelus aeneus - https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/132722/100459597 NT Near Threatened - DATE ASSESSED 18 November 2016; - Sepia officials hierreda - https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/162664/939991 LC Least and Concern - DATE ASSESSED 15 March 2009. Avaialable the FICHE DE PRODUCTION ET DE TRACABILITIES DES PRODUITS. (annex 5.4.)

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 made publicly available by the ICCAT. The 1995 Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) calls for the sustainable use of aquatic ecosystems and requires that fishing be conducted with due regard for the environment. The Code also promotes the maintenance, safeguarding and conservation of biodiversity of ecosystems by minimizing fisheries impacts on non-target species and the ecosystem in general. A great deal of concern has been expressed by fishery managers and conservation/environmental groups that by-catch and discards may be contributing to biological overfishing and altering the structure of marine ecosystems. Such claims are frequently based on observations of large numbers of discards and high discard ratios or rates, but infrequently on detailed population assessments of impacted stocks. This is perhaps because comprehensive and

					historical datasets involving discards have generally been unavailable to demonstrate such claims, although a growing body of literature does support the conclusion that for some species and regions of the world, biological and ecological impacts are discernible. For this reason, there has been increasing interest in addressing by-catch issues, and a joint meeting of the tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (tRFMOs) in Brisbane 2010 as part of the KOBE process, specifically focused on this topic. By-catch issues have become particularly important for long-lived marine megafauna such as sharks, sea turtles, seabirds, and marine mammals. Individual fishers often underestimate the cumulative effect of all fishing activities because by-catch of these species may be a relatively rare event and represents a small fraction of the total by-catch biomass. However, given the life history characteristics of most marine megafauna (slow growth, low

					reproductive rates, high adult survival), relatively low levels of by-catch can have a large effect on population viability. Many of these species are threatened (sensu International Union for Conservation of Nature, IUCN), having suffered declines as a result of excessive incidental mortality caused by fisheries. In order to improve the knowledge on by-catch species the SCRS recommended that a short-term by-catch coordination study be conducted with the objectives of: (a) creating a meta-database of reports and publications providing information about by-catch species from tuna and related fisheries; (b) developing a database for unprocessed and aggregated by-catch data for priority species such as marine mammals, turtles, sea birds, and many sharks, rays and teleost fish that are not subjected to stock assessment by ICCAT; (c) establishing interaction with scientists leading national observer programmes to obtain previously unreported data and to make an inventory of past and current observer

					programmes; and (d) developing forms and protocols for the collection of more and higher quality by-catch data in the future. The study was completed in 2010. In 2012, the ICCAT Secretariat hired a By-catch Coordinator to harmonise and analyse fishery datasets related to by- catch species of tuna fisheries in the ICCAT area. As part of his tasks, The By-catch Coordinator is in charge of updating and maintaining the ICCAT by-catch meta-database. Available the ICCAT By-catch Co-ordination Study https://www.iccat.int/en/bycatch.html.
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	ICCAT enforce its Recommendations and Resolutions to all Endangered Species. By-catch in tuna fisheries is the collateral damage that is caused by fishing gear to non-target species such as seabirds, sea turtles, marine mammals and sharks. In many cases these species are already severely threatened from a variety of activities, creating an urgent need to manage and mitigate impacts from fishing.

					A documented management approach is in place to prevent possible accidental catch, reduction of discards and significant negative impacts of endangered species. The active and most recent Recommendations and Resolutions are the official documents issued by the ICCAT and this prove that the FMS has made an assessment on the Endangered species: - [93-08] Resolution by ICCAT on cooperation with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); - [93-09] Resolution by ICCAT concerning the composition of the delegations of ICCAT Contracting Parties to CITES; - [95-02] Resolution by ICCAT on cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) with regard to study on the status of stocks and by-catches of shark species; - [04-10] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed

					by ICCAT; - [07-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on Reducing Incidental By-Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries; - [10-06] Recommendation by ICCAT on Atlantic Shortfin Mako Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries; The ICCAT has also in place the Information on By-Catch of Tuna Fisheries platform at the following link: https://www.iccat.int/en/bycatch.html and the relative the Final Report to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, Madrid. (annex 5.6.)
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	According the FAO International Guidelines on Bycatch management and Reduction of discards, the unit of certification (UoC) fleet exert its effort to release all unintentional encircled live animals under conditions. All the vessel crew and captains are well informed on several Recommendations and Resolutions that will minimize and protect endangered species and reduce discards. The references document in place are: BYC - BY-CATCH SPECIES:

					- [95-02] Resolution by ICCAT on cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) with regard to study on the status of stocks and by-catches of shark species; - [03-10] Resolution by ICCAT on the shark fishery; - [04-10] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT; - [07-06] Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Sharks; - [07-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on Reducing Incidental By-Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries; - [09-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of Thresher Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries in the ICCAT Convention Area; - [10-06] Recommendation by ICCAT on Atlantic Shortfin Mako Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries; - [10-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on the

					Conservation of Oceanic Whitetip Sharks caught in Association with fisheries in the ICCAT Convention Area; - [10-08] Recommendation by ICCAT on Hammerhead Sharks (family Sphyrnidae) caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT; - [10-09] Recommendation by ICCAT on the By-catch of Sea Turtles in ICCAT Fisheries; - [11-08] Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of Silky Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries; - [11-09] Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT on Reducing Incidental By-Catch of Seabirds in ICCAT Longline Fisheries; - [11-10] Recommendation by ICCAT on Information Collection and Harmonization of Data on By-catch and Discards in ICCAT Fisheries; - [13-10] Recommendation by ICCAT on Biological Sampling of Prohibited Shark Species by Scientific Observers; - [13-11] Recommendation by

					ICCAT Amending Recommendation 10-09 on the By-Catch of Sea Turtles in ICCAT Fisheries; - [14-06] Recommendation by ICCAT on Short fin Mako Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries; - [15-06] Recommendation by ICCAT on Porbeagle Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries; - [18-06] Recommendation by ICCAT to Replace Recommendation 16-13 on Improvement of Compliance Review of Conservation and Management Measures Regarding Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries; - [19-06] Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of North Atlantic stock of shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries; - [19-07] Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 16-12 on management measures for the conservation of the North Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries; - [19-08] Recommendation by ICCAT on management

					measures for the conservation of South Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries; (annex 5.6.-5.7.)
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. According FOS Guidelines and definitions "Ghost fishing" refers to abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear and has detrimental effects on fish stocks, endangered species and benthic environments. In this case due to the very low size of the fishing vessel is not possible recover any abandoned fishing gear on board, in particular for the large size fishing net.

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 please see the requirement 5.8
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 UoC is not currently aware about a local relevant authority that collects data about lost fishing gear. When that happens, the UoC always records the position on our plotter and inform the vessels around about the fact. The UoC can although also use the Ghost Gear Reporter App that can be installed on mobile devices and they will use it. The report will be done when the vessel arrives the port and they have an internet connection. (annex 5.8.2)
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 please see the requirement 5.8

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 please see the requirement 5.8 furthermore in this case the lost by the UoC is irrelevant due to the fishing gear used
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 UoC is a small-scale artisanal fisheries. Please see the folder with the complete fishing vessel data.
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	The Unit of Certification follows three different grades of authorities: The National Fisheries Authorities, The Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) as a regional fisheries Organization and the ICCAT, The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas as an inter-governmental fishery organization responsible for the conservation of tunas and related species. The overarching authorities the ICCAT oversees all the active Recommendations and Resolutions in place. https://www.iccat.int/en/RecRes.asp. in particular: - [16-01] Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Program for Tropical Tunas; - [16-05] Recommendation by ICCAT replacing the Recommendation [13-04] and Establishing a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Mediterranean Swordfish; As per Yellowfin Tuna: Based on the 2019 stock assessment, the Atlantic yellowfin tuna stock biomass was estimated to be above

					the biomass that can support MSY on a continuing basis (not overfished; 1.17 B/BMSY in 2018), and that the current fishing mortality was at or near the overfishing threshold (0.96 F/FMSY in 2018). The Group noted that catch reports for 2018 were incomplete, with 42% of the estimated total catch being estimated using the average from the previous three years by CPC and gear type. Furthermore, no size data for 2018 were available at the time of the assessment. This may add uncertainty to the terminal year stock status estimates for 2018, and the Group recommends that final SCRS advice take into consideration any difference between these current estimates and the reported 2018 catches available for the Plenary meeting. Projections results indicated that catch levels at or below the 120,000 t were expected to maintain healthy stock biomass through 2033. However, the Group noted that the most recent catch estimates suggest that overall catches have exceeded 120,000 t every year since 2015, the Group expressed strong

					concern that such overages are expected to further degrade the condition of the yellowfin stock if they continue. Furthermore, given that significant overages continue to occur, existing conservation and management measures appear to be insufficient, and the Committee recommends that the Commission strengthen such measures. The Commission should also be aware that increased harvests on small yellowfin, and the increased catches of bigeye tuna if such harvests are taken on FADs, could have negative consequences to both long-term sustainable yield and stock status. Should the Commission wish to increase long-term sustainable yield, the Committee continues to recommend that effective measures be found to reduce fishing mortality on small yellowfin and bigeye tuna (e.g. FAD-related and other fishing mortality of small yellowfin tuna). Furthermore - The Group recommended that the potential impact associated with discards in the joint longline index be

					further investigated and revisions made as were done for the BET stock assessment; - The Group recommended that the MSE workplan be revised and requests funding to continue the process; - The Group recommended increasing the sampling and ageing of small (≤ 65 SFL, particularly < 30 cm SFL) yellowfin using daily ring counts and otolith weight to better understand the dynamics of growth for earlier years, and the apparent slow initial growth/two-stanza pattern. As per Swordfish (only North Atlantic Stock): New catch regulations were implemented on the basis of Rec. 06-02, which entered into effect in 2007 (Rec. 08-02 extended the provisions of Rec. 06-02 to include 2009). Rec. 09-02 came into effect in 2010 and extended most of the provisions of Rec. 06-02 for one year only. Rec. 10-02 came into effect in 2011, and again extended those provisions for one year only, but with a slight reduction in total allowable catch (TAC). For the North and South Atlantic, the most recent

					recommendations can be found in Recs. 17-02 and 17-03. The total allowable catch in the North Atlantic during the 2007 to 2009 period was 14,000 t per year. The reported catch during that period averaged 11,811 t and did not exceed the TAC in any year. In 2010, the TAC was reduced to 13,700 t and in 2018 it was reduced to 13,200 t. The reported catch since 2010 averaged 11,197 t and exceeded the TAC in one year (2012, 13,868 t). SWO-ATL-Tables 2, 3 and 4 show, respectively, the probabilities of maintaining the stock in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot, maintaining B>BMSY and maintaining F<FMSY, over a range of TAC options for North Atlantic swordfish over a period of 10 years. The current TAC of 13,700 t has a 36% probability of maintaining the North Atlantic swordfish stock in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot by 2028, whereas a TAC of 13,200 t would have a 50% probability, and would also result in the biomass being above BMSY with a probability greater than 50%, consistent with Rec. 16-03 (SWO-ATL-Table 3).

					The Committee also recognizes that the above advice does not account for removals associated with the actual mortality of unreported dead and live discards, quota carryovers (15% in the North Atlantic), quota transfers across the North and South stock management boundaries nor the total cumulative quota, which includes that allocated to "other CPCs" and would fall above the TAC if achieved. The Committee emphasizes the importance of this uncertainty particularly given that the current (2015) estimated biomass is close to BMSY. Noting the progress done towards North Atlantic SWO MSE, the Committee recommends that the Commission continues to support this process. It was determined that future catches around or above 12,900 t would likely result in a decrease in biomass. The group agreed to review this estimate once the combined Kobe matrix is produced. Ref. SWO-ATL – ATLANTIC SWORDFISH - 2019 Report. (annex 5.10-5.10.1)

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 Unit of Certification follows the clear target referent points as established by the ICCAT during the Regular session od the Meeting: https://www.iccat.int/en/Meetings.asp; Some Recommendations are in place: - [16-01] Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Program for Tropical Tunas; - [16-05] Recommendation by ICCAT replacing the Recommendation [13-04] and Establishing a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Mediterranean Swordfish; Data concerning the stock status available: ATLANTIC YELLOWFIN TUNA SUMMARY: Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY):121,298 t (90,428 - 267,350 t) Relative Fishing Mortality: F2018/FMSY: 0.96 (0.56 - 1.50) 2018 Total Biomass: 729,436 t Stock status Overexploited: NO. Ref. pag. 28 of the ICCAT YFT stock assessment Report. ATLANTIC SWORDFISH SUMMARY (North Atlantic): Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY): 13,059 (11,840-14,970); Relative Fishing

					Mortality: F2018/FMSY: 0.78 (0.62-1.01); Stock status Overexploited: NO. Ref. pag. 169 of the ICCAT SWO stock assessment Report and also visit the following link: https://www.iccat.int/en/assess.html. YFT. Management recommendations The Group expressed strong concern that catches above 120,000 t are expected to further degrade the condition of the yellowfin stock if they continue. Furthermore, given that significant overages are frequent, existing conservation and management measures appear to be insufficient, and the Committee recommends that the Commission strengthen such measures. The Commission should also be aware that increased harvests on small yellowfin tuna has had negative consequences to both long-term sustainable yield and stock status, and that continued increases in the harvest of small yellowfin tuna will continue to reduce the long-term sustainable yield the stock can produce. Should the Commission wish to increase long-term sustainable yield, the

					Committee continues to recommend that effective measures be found to reduce fishing mortality on small yellowfin tuna. SWO-ATL-6. Management recommendations (North Atlantic) SWO-ATL-Tables 2, 3 and 4 show, respectively, the probabilities of maintaining the stock in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot, maintaining B>BMSY and maintaining F<FMSY, over a range of TAC options for North Atlantic swordfish over a period of 10 years. The current TAC of 13,700 t has a 36% probability of maintaining the North Atlantic swordfish stock in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot by 2028, whereas a TAC of 13,200 t would have a 50% probability, and would also result in the biomass being above BMSY with a probability greater than 50%, consistent with Rec. 16-03 (SWO-ATL-Table 3). The Committee also recognizes that the above advice does not account for removals associated with the actual mortality of unreported dead and live discards, quota carryovers (15% in the North Atlantic), quota

					transfers across the North and South stock management boundaries nor the total cumulative quota, which includes that allocated to "other CPCs" and would fall above the TAC if achieved. The Committee emphasizes the importance of this uncertainty particularly given that the current (2015) estimated biomass is close to BMSY. Noting the progress done towards North Atlantic SWO MSE, the Committee recommends that the Commission continues to support this process. (annex 5.10-5.10.1)
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.	Y	The unit of certification (UoC) is not a deep sea fishery.
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]	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	Y	The UoC operates in accordance with the ICCAT and Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) as a Contracting Parties made into MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS. In this specific case, there are clear management

	on:		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.		objectives with special regards to the requirements 5.11.4. For the other requirements (5.11.1, 5.11.2, 5.11.3, 5.11.5) there are sufficient elements and data provided by the ICCAT. To clarify the legal implications of the range of decisions that the ICCAT may take, the Recommendations and Resolutions adopted by the Commission require the submission of information from Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs), either through their annual reports, or through specific procedures by deadlines set by the Commission: https://www.iccat.int/en/SubmitCOMP.html. Please note that requests for information may not be exhaustive, as certain Recommendations and Resolutions may require specific actions by individual Contracting Parties or non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities. For a full set of ICCAT management Recommendations and Resolutions currently in force, please see the section on Resolutions,

					Recommendations and other Decisions. https://www.iccat.int/en/RecRes.asp.
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	According the used fishing gear by the Unit of Certification does not affect serious or irreversibly the habitat or the ecosystem structure according to the basis of the area covered by the Regional body in authority for the Management of Fisheries in the area where the Unit of Certification operates. The water in the area of consideration, is close to 50 nautical miles from the shore, contrariwise the fishing gear used operate in very low deep. For this reason, there is no possibility that the UoC affects demersal habitats. Moreover, there aren't any scientific evidences that there are other potential adverse interactions with the pelagic habitats.
5.11.2	Endangered species.			Y	The Unit of Certification has in place a management strategy to mitigate the effect on mortality of Endangered species, based on what required by the ICCAT. This includes an Internal Policy concerning the shark finning and the observation of the indications provided by

					ICCAT. The research is periodically reviewed and the Resolutions, Recommendations and other Decisions are presented and managed through the ICCAT Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) and through the ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee. Many Resolutions, Recommendations and other Decisions have been in force in order to achieve the safeguard of the Endangered species, minimizing their interactions with the UoC. However, there are currently no quantitative analyzes on the impact of fishing activities on endangered species. The Unit of Certification follows these active Resolutions, Recommendations and other Decisions to protect endangered species in particular: https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Recs/COMPENDIUM_ACTIVE_ENG.pdf - [10-06] Recommendation by ICCAT on Atlantic Shortfin Mako Sharks Caught in Association

					with ICCAT Fisheries; - [10-08] Recommendation by ICCAT on Hammerhead Sharks (family Sphyrnidae) caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT; - [10-09] Recommendation by ICCAT on the By-catch of Sea Turtles in ICCAT Fisheries; - [11-08] Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of Silky Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries; - [13-11] Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 10-09 on the By-Catch of Sea Turtles in ICCAT Fisheries; For the complete active Resolutions, Recommendations and other Decisions list please refer to the annex. (annex 5.11.2)
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 non-target catches and discards are defined as a species not consider as a target stock - all catch species other than Tuna or related fish species such as Swordfish. They are species out of the scope of the certification. Their definition does not include species under the Washington

					Convention or listed under IUCN as endangered, threatened, near-threatened or protected. The catch profile confirmed that the following species are caught in a percentage that can range from 1 to 2 percent. In order to improve the knowledge on by-catch species the SCRS recommended that a short-term by-catch coordination study be conducted with the objectives of: (a) creating a meta-database of reports and publications providing information about by-catch species from tuna and related fisheries; (b) developing a database for unprocessed and aggregated by-catch data for priority species such as marine mammals, turtles, sea birds, and many sharks, rays and teleost fish that are not subjected to stock assessment by ICCAT; (c) establishing interaction with scientists leading national observer programmes to obtain previously unreported data and to make an inventory of past and current observer programmes; and (d) developing forms and protocols for the

					collection of more and higher quality by-catch data in the future. The study was completed in 2010.
5.11.4	Dependent predators resulting from fishing on the stock under consideration and/or key prey species.			Y	Many species managed by ICCAT in this fishing area ATLANTIC, EASTERN CENTRAL (Major Fishing Area 34), these have been divided into broad ecological groupings, they are: Group 1 (Principal tuna species): YELLOWFIN TUNA, albacore tuna, bigeye tuna, bluefin tuna and skipjack tuna; Group 2 (Swordfish and billfishes): SWORDFISH, blue marlin, white marlin and sailfish; Group 3 (Small tunas): wahoo, blackfin tuna, Atlantic black skipjack tuna (Little Tunny) and dolphinfish; Group 4 (Sharks): shortfin mako, blue shark, porbeagle, bigeye thresher and basking shark. For each species, information is provided on ecology and habitat use in relation to oceanographic parameters such as water temperature, depth preference and

					dissolved oxygen. In addition, movement and migration patterns are discussed in relation to conventional tag-recapture results and more recent PSAT (Pop-up Satellite Archival Tag) tagging. YELLOWFIN TUNA (Thunnus albacares): The yellowfin tuna is a gregarious species, tending to form schools, either free-swimming or associated with FADs, underwater ridges and different marine animals. For example, the fishery for this species is associated with dolphins in the Pacific Ocean. Adults generally form shoals of specimens of the same size. This behaviour also predominates in the juveniles which form shoals with specimens that do not necessarily come from the same breeding group in specific migration periods. Free-swimming schools of yellowfin (i.e. not associated with FADs) tend to be made up of large individuals and to be monospecific. Yellowfin are found across a broad thermal range (18 – 31°C) and vertical distribution is determined by the thermal structure of the water column (Collette and Nauen,1983). In

					general, yellowfin limit their incursions into depths in which the water temperature does not fall more than 8o C with respect to the temperature of the surface layer. It spends more than 90% of its time in waters with a uniform temperature of around 22 Celsius degree. Although it is known to dive to depths of 350 m, adult and juvenile yellowfin spend most of their time in the surface layer, above 100 m. There are generally insignificant differences in depth distribution between day and night. The level of dissolved oxygen is a limiting factor for the depth distribution of yellowfin, as a concentration of 3.5 ml/l appears to limit their depth distribution. Yellowfin tuna is the species of tropical tuna that is considered to make the largest migrations, i.e. periodic and regular movements of a large part of the population. As migratory behaviour varies with size (age), it is necessary to examine the migratory patterns of three size – age categories: juveniles (50-65 cm), pre- adults (66-110 cm) and adults (111-170 cm) - in order to better understand the dynamics of this

					species in the Atlantic Ocean. Juveniles (up to 50 cm FL) typically remain in coastal waters and undertake only modest movements. With increase in size, yellowfin movements become more extensive and by the time they reach sexual maturity, trans-Atlantic migrations take place. In general, adults make trophic migrations northwards in the summer months and then return to their spawning grounds in the winter months. SWORDFISH (Xiphius gladius): Swordfish are distributed throughout the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea. They spawn mostly in the warm tropical and subtropical waters of the western Atlantic throughout the year but are found in the colder temperate waters during summer and fall months. Although swordfish is an oceanic species, it is sometimes found in coastal waters, generally above the thermocline. The swordfish is the species of billfish with the greatest tolerance to temperature (5° to 27°C), but is usually found in surface waters at temperatures above 13°C. Adult swordfish are generally solitary

					and are not known to form schools in the open ocean. Acoustic tagging had earlier shown that swordfish stay near the surface at night, but return to depths of up to 600 m during the day and are presumed to be feeding in the deep scattering layer. A PSAT tag deployed on a small swordfish (59 kg) in the northwest Atlantic provided compelling evidence of this diurnal vertical migration behavior. Throughout the monitoring period, this fish made regular dives to 700– 800 m depth during daylight hours while during nocturnal hours, mean depth was much shallower with brief, regular periods spent at the surface. This fish moved northward through the Sargasso Sea covering a distance of 2,629 km in 62 days. The importance of Sargassum as essential fish habitat for these HIGH MIGRATORY FISH species is discussed and is linked to the feeding habits of tunas and other pelagic predators. FLYINGFISHES (cheilopogon melanurus) is an important PREY SPECIES in the diet of tunas and billfishes and, as they are largely

					dependent on Sargassum mats as spawning habitat, the Sargasso Sea plays a fundamental role in the trophic web of these highly migratory, pelagic species. Recent findings from PSAT tagging of several pelagic shark species has revealed the importance of the Sargasso Sea in their life cycles. https://www.fishbase.se/summary/cheilopogon-melanurus.html LARGE SWORDFISHES are the top-ranked KEY PREDATOR followed by WHITE MARLIN. Small swordfish and two other species - blue marlin and bigeye tuna - follow with the same. Finally, squids are shown to be an important element of this food web in the role of both predator and prey. References: http://www.sargassoseacommission.org/storage/Luckhurst_SCRS_132_2014_-_Fish_ecology.pdf. - A PRELIMINARY FOOD WEB OF THE PELAGIC ENVIRONMENT OF THE SARGASSO SEA WITH A FOCUS ON THE FISH SPECIES OF INTEREST TO ICCAT. Management objectives, outcome indicators and limit reference points are defined. Please refer to

					requirements 1.1.2 and 1.1.3. of this Audit Report. The ICCAT has defined a set of documents by the Conservation and management for Sharks that provides clear indications about how to manage sharks. https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Recs/COMPENDIUM_ACTIVE_ENG.pdf.
5.11.5	Ecosystem (structure, processes and function).			Y	The Unit of Certification does not cause serious or irreversible threats to the key elements of marine ecosystem structure and function, as it is small scale fishing vessels with the use of very selective fishing gear. These are often define as the features of an ecosystem considered as being most crucial to giving the ecosystem its characteristic nature and dynamics, also include tropic structure and function, composition of community, primary and secondary productivity (e.g. upwelling or downwelling) and key issue characteristics of biodiversity. The coastal area is characteristically low lying and interspersed with marshes, lagoons and mangrove swamps. The region has a monsoon climate with high precipitation and

					almost constant monthly temperatures. Many rivers flow into the Gulf of Guinea, giving warm, low salinity coastal waters, except during the upwelling seasons in the central part of the Gulf. The ecosystem is highly resilient to the top-down influence such as the UoC fishing method used.
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	Both ICCAT the INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION for the CONSERVATION of ATLANTIC TUNA and the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) studies with have then used to come up with conservation and management measures such as a complete set of currently active ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions and a clear Management strategy evaluation (MSE). The FCWC also apply the FCWC's Strategic Plan 2011-2020 Projects. The objective of these integrated measures is the application of the Precautionary Approach and an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries management (EAF), this to ensure a long-term conservation and sustainable use of fishing Resources.

					The complete List of current Recommendations and Resolutions of the ICCAT is the complete set of currently active ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions. https://www.iccat.int/en/RecRes.asp. Further References: Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (2011) - Cambridge University Press by Villy Christensen and Jay Maclean; FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries 4 - The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries; FAO Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, CABi Publisher by Gabriella Bianchi et all.
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 Unit of Certification follow the ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions at International's level and follow the FCWC at the regional level for several shared fish stocks for cooperation and integrated management of fisheries resources.
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 UoC is as a part of traditional community knowledge, they are as part of the management system at whole, furthermore one of the overarching FCWC goal is to ensure the sustainable development of the fisheries resources in

					the Convention Area in particular Goal 3: - Develop the capacity of Members' Small-scale fishers and other operators to create sustainable livelihoods for their people from the sustainable harvest, processing and marketing of their fisheries resources; https://fcwc-fish.org/about-us/goals-objectives; https://fcwc-fish.org/our-news/fcwc-participates-in-atlafco-workshop-to-unlock-small-scale-fisheries-potential-in- region.
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 UoC uses only hooks and longlines for fisheries. no fishing martial is discarded at sea, however damaged material is stored in a specific warehouse used for this purpose. Fishing gear purchase invoice available. (annex 6.1)
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 UoC implements measures to prevent dispersion at sea of waste: - use of garbage bags on board to contain waste - at the port of landing, a person in charge of the collection of waste will provide to their disposal. format available. (annex 6.2.- 6.7.)
6.3	The unit of certification utilizes all the chemical non-toxic alternatives available in order to reduce the use of toxic, persistent or bio-accumulating substances.	Essential	Procedure and evidence of conformity.	Y	The UoC uses only fuel, petrol and motor oil. invoice available (annex 6.3.)
6.4	The unit of certification does not use CFC, HCFC, HFC or other refrigerants that cause ozone depletion.	Essential	Procedure and evidence of conformity.	Y	The UoC does not use refrigerants or other gas that cause ozone depletion. Only ice is used for the refrigeration of fishery products, no gas machine is used on board vessels
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	The fleet consists of small and artisanal fishing vessel. Artisanal fishing gear are used. However, storage facilities are provided for end-of-life fishing gear.
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	Cooperation and advocacy with port authorities for proper waste management are used. Available the PROCÉDURE DE GESTION DES DÉCHETS. (annex 6.6.)
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	A person in charge of this take charge of end-of-life fishing gear for recycling them

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 register for the year 2020 is under construction. In previous years, energy consumption has been assessed simply by comparing the purchase invoices for energy sources.
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 UoC doesn't calculate the carbon footprint.
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:				
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 UoC is in compliance with the ILO on child labour. https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/child-labour/lang--en/index.htm. All the crew members employed by BPE and their suppliers are of legal age. (annex 8.1.1.-8.1.2.-8.1.7.-8.1.8.)
8.1.2	Pay the employees adequate salaries compliant at least with the minimum legal wages according to the international legal framework.	Essential	The minimum wages vary depending on the country. The Auditor shall verify that the unit of certification is aware of the minimum wages of the countries in which it operates.	Y	The UoC pays employees an adequate salary in line with the minimum legal wage of the Country. The minimum wage values set by the Ivorian Labour SMIG are respected. (annex 8.1.1.-8.1.2.-8.1.7.-8.1.8.)

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 UoC grants a health care underwriting an insurance policy for all employees. Available the UoC Police Assurance. (annex 8.1.3.)
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 UoC applies safety measures required by law: -compliance with security measures -drinking water supply. Available the UoC PLAN DE MAÎ TRISE SANITAIRE and medical certificate. (annex 8.1.4.and 8.1.4a)
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	The UoC keeps records of accidents or injuries in the register of medical examinations. Available some Certification de salubrity (annex 8.1.5.)

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	Workers are free to form organizations to bargain collectively, advocate for and protect their rights (as reported in company policy). Available the UoC Politique de enterprise. (annex 8.1.6.-8.1.8.)
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	Where, for particular business needs, workers are required to work extra hours, these additional hours are recognised in their pay slips. Workers are free to accept or decline the employer's request for additional hours. (annex 8.1.1.-8.1.2.-8.1.7.-8.1.8.)
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	BPE, as stated in its UoC policy, does not discriminate on the base of race, color, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction or social origin. Physical, verbal or sexual abuse, bullying or harassment are prohibited during working hours and in company premises. Available the UoC Politique de enterprise. (annex 8.1.1.-8.1.2.-8.1.7.-8.1.8.)

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	BPE, as stated in its UoC policy, does not discriminate on the base of race, color, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction or social origin. Physical, verbal or sexual abuse, bullying or harassment are prohibited during working hours and in company premises. Available the FICHE ENTREE/SORTIE EMBARCATIONS Ver. 1 du 01.07.2021. (annex 8.1.9).

Further comments:

CONCLUSIONS:

The Auditor shall fill out the following fields

☐ **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

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

List minor Non-conformities

RECOMMENDATIONS (to be communicated within the next inspection)

7.2. The UoC not calculate the Carbon foot print;