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:

Geofish Company LLC

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

Geofish Company LLC

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:

N/A

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

Patara Poti, Khobi, 5810,

Georgia

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

Name : Mikheil Vekua
Mobile: +995598009292
Mail: m1vekua@gmail.com
Role: Standardization Specialist

f) FLEET TO BE AUDITED:

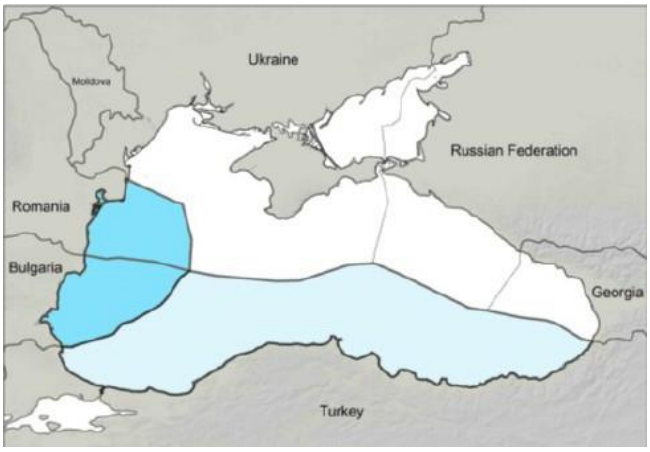
Name of the fishing vessel	*Registration number*	*Vessel's flag*	*Fishing method*	*Capacity (GT)*	*Unloading harbour*	*Ship owner, if different from a)*
GEOFISH COMPANY	4LXP2	*Georgia*	*Purse Seine*	*456 GT*	*POTI*	*GEOFISH COMPANY*

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
GEOFISH COMPANY	4LXP2	**POTI**

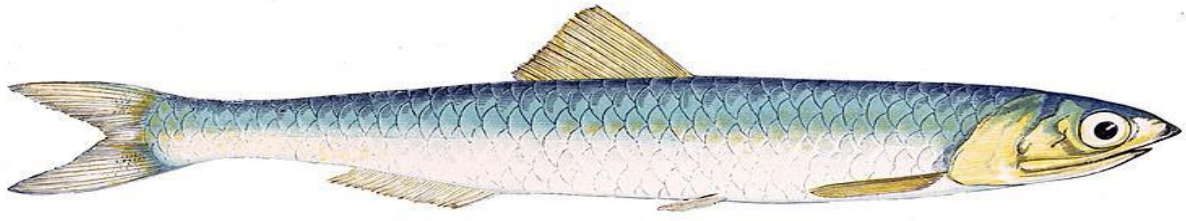
h) FISHING ZONE *(Coordinates and/or FAO area and/or subarea and/or ICES area and/or EEZ. If available, please include a map.)***:**

Black Sea EZZ Georgia "FAO 37.4.1"



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

Common Name	Scientific Name	Fishing method
European Anchovy	*Engraulis encrasicolus*	Purse seine



j) TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES: 30 fisherman

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 applicantorganisation and recommend their input. Please provide the list of all contacted stakeholders below:

- General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean – GFCM
- Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee For Fisheries (STECF)
- Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia

m) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Surveillance Audit
- On site audit

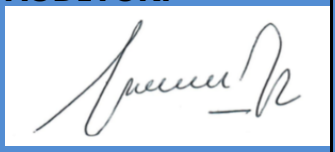
☒ **The Friend of the Sea project was introduced** *(If not, the auditor shall provide a short description).*

☒ **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: **Certi AL**	**AUDIT TEAM:** **Gani Moka**	**AUDIT START AND END DATE:** **21,22,23/03/2025**
SIGNATURE OF AUDITOR: 	**NAME OF THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE ORGANISATION AND ACCOMPANYING THE AUDITOR DURING THE AUDIT:** **Mikheil Vekua** **Standardization Specialist**	**AUDIT CODE:** **FOS0040324** **surveillance** **wild**

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 organization collected data in accordance with FAO-General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) SAC (Scientific Advisory Committee) and Sub-Committee on Stock Assessment (SCSA) -Ref: Report on the benchmark session for Black Sea anchovy in geographical subarea 29 Burgas, Bulgaria, 4–6 July 2023 -Ref: "Benchmark session for Black Sea anchovy and sprat in geographical subarea 29" 1–5 July 2024 -Resolution 423 of the Georgian government decree №423 December 31, 2013 Tbilisi Based on this study, Georgia government (National agency of environment) has given quotes for 5 companies for anchovies for 1.10.2024-1.10.2025 For Geofish company, seen the document n. 550 dt 30/09/2024 for the quantity of 12463.1 ton allowed. Total catched anchovy for 2024 qta 5474 tons. Annex 1.1.1-1.1.2-1.1.3

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	**From the last audit we have this situation:** At this stage, the most crucial concerns on the black sea anchovy stock assessment when dealing with an age-structure model application are concerning the input data, i.e. uncertainties on subspecies/stocks proportion and the use of a single ALK. Together, with the short time-series from the fishery-independent index (scientific surveys) and the fact that currently the survey index used on the stock assessment is only covering a part of the stock distribution, Turkish waters, constitutes also a source of uncertainty on the assessment. There is a notorious effort made from the different countries involved on the black sea anchovy fishery to collect, compile and review the data since the beginning of the time-series. Although, the group is aware that there is still some work to be done to improve some of the gaps identified on the data, regardless of the progresses made so far. Taking into account the mentioned fragilities on the input data, the SPiCT model constitutes a good application at this stage to assess and provide advice for this stock, at least until all the conditions to apply the age-structure model aren't gathered. In the future, when the improvements on the input data were achieved, the application of an age-structured model to this stock that enables to account also with environmental variables, should be the most advisable for the black sea anchovy stock assessment. The group made a very good work testing and applying all the modification that have been suggested to improve the models (SAM and SPiCT) to try to get a better fit and in how to deal and improve all the raised concerns. The group was aware of the concerns regarding input data quality, and they are already working to improve it, and also on the implementation of solutions that are expected to allow overcoming most of those constraints in few years. The chair of the meeting did a very good job on keeping the workload focused and on achieving agreed decisions. On the last day, the conclusions from the meeting and also a roadmap were discussed in plenary, and agreed by all the participants. $F_{current}/F_{MSY}$ | 0.57 $B_{current(2022)}/B_{MSY}$ | 1.2 $B_{current(2022)}/B_{pa}$ | 2.4 $B_{current(2022)}/B_{lim}$ | 4.01

					<table><tr><th>RefY</th><th>GSA</th><th>Species</th><th>Method</th><th>Current Levels</th><th>Reference Points</th><th>Quantitative Status</th><th>Stock Status</th></tr><tr><td>2021</td><td>29</td><td>Anchovy</td><td>SPiCT</td><td></td><td></td><td>F/Fref = 0.57, B/Bmsy = 1.2, B/Bpa = 2.4, B/Blim = 4.01</td><td>Sustainably exploited</td></tr></table> Ref: Report on the benchmark session for Black Sea anchovy in geographical subarea 29 Burgas, Bulgaria, 4–6 July 2023 **In this surveillance:** The company provided the following document: "Benchmark session for Black Sea anchovy and sprat in geographical subarea 29" 1–5 July 2024 In this study The anchovy benchmark was not finalized. The scientific advice was not to increase the fishing mortality. The situation remains the same as for 2024 Annex 1.1.1-1.1.2-1.1.3
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	Same as precedent point
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 captain confirms through interview and shows evidence on daily registers that there hasn't been any bycatch, discards, unobserved mortality, incidental mortality, unreported catch. Catched only anchovy. Basically, the purse seine fishing method generates a very low "negligible" discard and by catch due to selectivity, however all details are described through the logbook which are collected and analyzed by the authority through the fishery management system. Annex 1.1.4 - GEOFISH COMPANY Vessel
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 situation remains the same from the previous audit. Fishery reports are publicly available. FAO-General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) SAC (Scientific Advisory Committee) and Sub-Committee on Stock Assessment (SCSA) Report on the benchmark session for Black Sea anchovy in geographical subarea 29 Burgas, Bulgaria, 4–6 July 2023 This year showed this report Benchmark session for Black Sea anchovy and sprat in geographical subarea 29 Batumi, Georgia (hybrid), 1–5 July 2024 That does not officially affect the situation. See annex of 1.1.1

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.	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	Seen during the audit that the company respects the following, decided by all states that catch fish on black sea: All Black Sea states have committed to protecting endangered species, through various agreements and codes. The Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) is an agreement specifically protecting cetaceans in the Black Sea, but not all coastal states are parties to the agreement. Three subspecies of cetaceans are found in the Black Sea: the Black Sea harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena relicta*), the Black Sea common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis ponticus*) and the Black Sea bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus ponticus*).*(GFCM and FAO 2016)* Population sizes are unknown for all three species, but those of harbour porpoise and common dolphin are thought to be decreeasing in size, whereas sightings of bottlenose dolphins have increased. Sustainable annual bycatch limits for the three species were estimated at 1300, 5800 and 1700, respectively. There have been reported cases of common dolphin bycatch in the Georgian anchovy pelagic trawl fishery, as well as in the Ukrainian anchovy fishery. Bycatch by purse seines is rarer, and no incidents are recorded for purse seines aimed at small pelagic fish. It's advised that improved monitoring, control and surveillance is needed, along with improved information on cetacean dynamics and distribution *(Birkun, A. Jr et al. 2014)*. Loggerhead turtle is occasionally observed in the weastern Black Sea, in deep waters or near river mouths but there is little information on interactions. Among seabirds, the Mediterranean shearwater is classified by the IUCN as "vulnerable" and is present in the Black Sea when not breeding. Bycatch in purse seines has infrequently been reported in Mediterranean fisheries and is not thought to have a significant impact on seabird populations. In addition, purse seine may occasionally capture sharks and rays *(GFCM and FAO 2016)* Anchovy is a primary prey species for harbour porpoise and common dolphins, and of secondary importance to bottlenose dolphins, and lack of prey availability coincided with mass mortality events of all three cetaceans in the past, suggesting their health was compromised *(Birkun, A. Jr et al. 2014)*.

	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.				Measures such as banning the use of monofilaments and driftnets and encouraging the use of pinging devices have been noted by the managing countries. Reducing the bycatch of protected or endangered species is to be an objective of the GFCM management plan DISCARDS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE BLACK SEA High levels of discards reduce harvesting opportunities and have negative consequences on marine ecosystems. Overall, bottom trawlers remain responsible for the highest discard ratios, although a slight reduction since revious editions of The State of Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries has been observed. Basically, the purse seine fishing method generates a very low "negligible" discard and by catch due to selectivity, however all details are described through the logbook which are collected and analyzed by the authority through the fishery management system. *(General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) 2023) pg 11*. Seen some fishing registers that show that not any endangered species has been catched. Moreover this fishing method does not damage the seabed and ecosystem in general. Procedure of sutainability that confirm what written. FISHERY MANAGEMENT INSTRUCTIONS FOR FISHING AND APPLICATIONS WITH GIRGIR NETWORK 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	Multiple national marine protected areas are defined in the Black Sea, by each of the coastal countries, with the largest total area under Ukraine's jurisdiction (Goriup 2017). The GFCM has declared eight fisheries restricted areas (FRAs) within the Mediterranean Sea to date *(GFCM and FAO 2017)* – only one of these: a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear below 1,000m depth, applies in the Black Sea *(GFCM and FAO 2017b). No vulnerable marine ecosystem (VME) closures are in place in the Black Sea (FAO 2017; GFCM and* FAO 2017a) Annex 2.2 Vessel sample of fishing Protected area outside of this zone Permited fishing zone
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	Fishing method used is purse seine which have no impact to the seabed. For more see 2.1
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	Fishing method is selective, no turtles and seal dogs are present in the fishing zone, or other turtle species. The captain confirms through interview that there are haven't caught any endangered nor vulnerable species. In case of any doubt the whole catch is released a live to the sea. Annex 3.1 Procedure and accidental catch form
3.2	The unit of certification collects and maintains adequate, reliable and current data and/or other information about its effects on endangered species, non-target catches and discards in accordance with applicable international standards and practices. It is required the monitoring and subsequent assessment of the extent to which non-target catches and discards by the unit of certification of stocks other than the stock under consideration threaten those non-target stocks with recruitment overfishing or other impacts that are likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible.	Essential	Evidence of conformity	Y	The captain confirms through interview that there are haven't caught any endangered nor vulnerable species. All catch details "Species, zones, quantities, by-catch" are notified to the government. Competent authority representatives are always present upon landing. All intakes come with approved delivery note from the government which records all details. 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	No discard, the selective fishing method allow to avoid any untargeted stock.
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	No tuna fishing is included in the audit scope.
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	No tuna fishing is included in the audit scope.
3.4.3	Marking FADs and FAD components with ownership details, consistent with the Voluntary Guidelines for the Marking of Fishing Gear, adopted at the FAO's Committee on Fisheries (COFI 33). **Only applicable to fisheries and fleet targeting tuna. N/A to fisheries targeting any other species.**	Important	More information about Voluntary Guidelines for the Marking of Fishing Gear at this link: https://www.wcpfc.int/system/files/WCPFC_Gear%20Marking_FAO.pdf The auditor shall attach to the report at least one picture of markers as example.	N/A	No tuna fishing is included in the audit scope.

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	No tuna fishing is included in the audit scope.
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	No tuna fishing is included in the audit scope.
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	No tuna fishing is included in the audit scope.
3.4.7	Reporting of lost FADs with date, time and last known position to relevant authorities. **Only applicable to fisheries and fleet targeting tuna. N/A to fisheries targeting any other species.**	Essential	Verify the existence of a logbook where reported cases of loss and attach to the audit report at least one example.	N/A	No tuna fishing is included in the audit scope.

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	No shark finning occurs. See 3.1
3.6	Turtle excluder devices (TEDs) are in place and subjected to periodic maintenance. **Only applicable to trawler fisheries and fleets targeting shrimps.**	Important	The unit of certification shall have appointed at least one employee to monitor the functioning and maintenance of TEDs. The auditor shall collect evidence of compliance, such as purchase invoices with technical specifications and maintenance records. If possible, the auditor can include pictures of TEDs.	N/A	No shrimp fishing.
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	N/A	Only purse seine vessels are included in the scope.

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	Fishing licenses are available for all vessels in scope. Annex 4.1: Fishing Vessel
The Auditor shall request a list of all the fishing boats and the respective registration number. The Auditor shall collect on site all the documents concerning the registration of at least 10%of the audited boats (copies of photos of the documents).					
4.2	The fleet does not include vessels with a flag of convenience.	Essential	The auditor shall verify that each vessel is not registered to another Nation identified as Flag of Convenience. Please refer to: https://www.itfseafarers.org/foc-registries.cfm	Y	The vessel is under Georgian flag. Georgia is listed as flag of convenience; however the applicant owner is the same vessel owner who is based in Georgia. The whole activity is based in Georgia and the factory and vessel Owner is a Georgian citizen. https://www.itfseafarers.org/en/focs/current-registries-listed-as-focs
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	None of in-scope vessels is listed as IUU vessel. All of them have been cross-checked with IUU Combined vessel list. https://iuu-vessels.org/Home/Search
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	N/A	No tuna fishing is included in the audit scope.
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 fishery complies with national and international fisheries regulations. See below. https://www.fao.org/faolex/country-profiles/general-profile/en/?iso3=GEO
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	 DATA NOTES • Landings time series is taken from stock assessment in 2021 *(Gücü et al. 2021)*. • SSB and fishing mortality time series are GFCM assessment results *(Akkuş and Üstündağ 2022)*. • Since no reference points are in place for the stock, qualitative scores for *Management* strategy, Current and *Future Health*were assigned. • *Additional references:* (Alexandrov et al. 2017; GFCM 2021a; Dağtekin et al. 2022; GFCM 2022; GFCM 2023) *Ref: https://www.fishsource.org/fishery_page/5502* With regards to Georgian Gorvernment a total of 85000 MT is dispatched between 5 companies depending on their industrial Activity (for this company the total allow of catch is 13.000 tons) . Percentage and TAC can be amended every year. 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	Every landing details are recorded through approved delivery notes by the legal authority in the harbor. See Annex 4.5.2 Resolution in annex 3 For all points procedure as well
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.**	Y	Mesh sizes are below: 6.5x6.5 mm and more Resolution No. 423 of 2013 of Georgian Government on Fishing and on Protection of Fish Stock Resolution on Page 22 annex 1 Annex 4.5.3-4.5.4
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.**	Y	Net sizes are below and in resolution: Depth: 200 m Length: 1200 m Annex 4.5.3-4.5.4
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	In the Black Sea and Azov Sea, there are minimum catch sizes: 6.5 cm (Georgia and Ukraine), 7 cm (Romania), 8 cm (Bulgaria) and 9 cm (Turkey). In the Black Sea, minimum catch size is 10 cm (Unsal 1989). In the Mediterranean Sea, the minimum catch size set by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) is 9 cm. In some cases there are national efforts to control the fisheries (e.g., time and area closures). Fishery is managed by minimum landing size of 9 cm in Turkiye, which should represent a protection against the recruitment overfishing. However, Georgia allows catches below 9 cm while manages the fishery through TAC. Annex 4.5.5 page 7

4.5.6	Distance from the shore.	Essential	Countries' fisheries laws are available on the FAO website: http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/	Y	300 Meters from the shore. Small area 16 miles in total. Point 4 of resolution Resolution No. 423 of 2013 of Georgian Government on Fishing and on Protection of Fish Stock Annex 4.5.6
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	Article 11 of the resolution – Maximum allowable bycatch of other species: Purse seine and cone nets: up to 2% of non-target species. Purse seine fishing technique is very selective, the captain confirms through interview that the whole catch can be released a live at sea in case of doubt or in case of big quantity of untargeted catch.
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	Protected fishing areas are notified by the legal authority and mentioned through the navigation system to avoid any fishing activity inside these prohibited zones. https://map.navigatormap.org/countries/Georgia?utm_source=chatgpt.com
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	No use of any explosives nor forbidden gears. By interview of the captain never happened. Prohibited Gear and Methods (Article 6) resolution 423
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/geobserver/factsheets/rfbs.html	Y	In the Black Sea countries, anchovy fisheries are generally regulated by i) closed seasons (May April to October/November for Bulgaria and Romania, April to September for Turkey, and no closed season for Ukraine), ii) closed areas (0-24 m in Turkey, applied until 2019), iii) mesh size regulations, iv) minimum landing size (9 cm total length in general and 7 cm TL for Georgia, allowable minimum length size is not applied for the Black Sea anchovy in Ukraine). The Black Sea and Azov anchovy are treated as two different stocks in Ukraine and in the Russian Federation and the fishery is managed separately for each stock. Turkey, having the main fleet fishing the Black Sea anchovy, enforced additional measured to control the size of the fishing fleet. These include: a) fishing capacity had developed over the years and finally overcapitalized beyond profitability within the last 3 decades. The issue and its consequences on the fish stocks have been recognized in mid-1990s when a significant reduction in the stocks hit the fishing sector. However a comprehensive measure has been enforced only at the beginning of 2000's. As a first step, licensing new fishing boats has been stopped in 2002 with the aim of reducing the fishing pressure on the stocks and to maintain sustainable fisheries. Despite interruptions during 2004 and 2005, the applied policy had positive effects on control of increasing fleet capacity. Since then, new entries to the fleet are only allowed when a vessel of same size is exiting from the fleet. In summary the size of the main anchovy fishing fleet in the Black Sea is stable since 2005. b) another very substantial and promising remedy is the fishing boat buyback program launched in 2012. Given that by far greater part of the catch is landed by the industrial boats, the first phase of the program targets fishing vessels larger than 12 meters in 2012. Annex annex 5.1.1 a Resolution 423 of 2013 Page 10 of document
5.1.1b	If the stock under consideration is a transboundary fish	Essential	Evidence of conformity. In case this is not applicable,	Y	The stock under assessment is a transboundary fish stock.

	stock, straddling fish stock, highly migratory fish stock or high seas fish stock, a bilateral, sub regional or regional fisheries organization or arrangement is in place. States and entities in the arrangement shall collaborate in the management of the whole stock unit and bycaught or discarded species, over their entire area of distribution, with clear roles and responsibilities. The arrangement shall ensure the rights of the small-scale fishing communities are granted. In order to find out the potential effects of bycatch management and discard reduction measures, States shall also provide an assessment on livelihoods to ascertain the potential effects of their implementation and the support necessary to facilitate their uptake.		provide justification.		 EEZ-s exclusive economic zone in black sea All states collaborate under agreements for the stock Georgia Turkey Russia Ukraine Romania Bulgaria Migration Patterns: Anchovies in the Black Sea: Spawn in warm southern waters (e.g., off Turkey and Georgia) Overwinter and feed in northern or deeper waters These patterns vary by season and sea temperature, crossing multiple jurisdictions Management Implications Because anchovy doesn't recognize national boundaries, it requires: Coordinated stock assessments Joint management efforts between countries Shared conservation goals, especially under: The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) The Black Sea Commission (BSC)
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	Report on the benchmark session for Black Sea anchovy in geographical subarea 29 Burgas, Bulgaria, 4–6 July 2023 provides stock management and advices following stock outcomes. -Ref: "Benchmark session for Black Sea anchovy and sprat in geographical subarea 29" 1–5 July 2024 Advice not to increase fishing mortality.

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	GFCM "General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean" covers all Mediterranean country who participate to the fishery management system, furthermore all data are published through with full transparency. Resolution 423 of 2013
5.2.1	A precautionary approach shall be applied, through the FMS, taking into account the best scientific evidence available to protect the target stock and its habitat and preserve the marine environment, with special consideration for data limited fisheries.	Essential	Procedure and evidence of conformity.	Y	*All Black Sea states have committed to protecting endangered species, through various agreements and codes. The Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) is an agreement specifically protecting cetaceans in the Black Sea, but not all coastal states are parties to the agreement. Three subspecies of cetaceans are found in the Black Sea: the Black Sea harbour porpoise (Phocoena phocoena relicta), the Black Sea common dolphin (Delphinus delphis ponticus) and the Black Sea bottlenose dolphin (Tursiops truncatus ponticus).(GFCM and FAO 2016) Population sizes are unknown for all three species, but those of harbour porpoise and common dolphin are thought to be decreeasing in size, whereas sightings of bottlenose dolphins have increased. Sustainable annual bycatch limits for the three species were estimated at 1300, 5800 and 1700, respectively. There have been reported cases of common dolphin bycatch in the Georgian anchovy pelagic trawl fishery, as well as in the Ukrainian anchovy fishery. Bycatch by purse seines is rarer, and no incidents are recorded for purse seines aimed at small pelagic fish. It's advised that improved monitoring, control and surveillance is needed, along with improved information on cetacean dynamics and distribution* (Birkun, A. Jr et al. 2014). *Loggerhead turtle is occasionally observed in the weastern Black Sea, in deep waters or near river mouths but there is little information on interactions. Among seabirds, the Mediterranean shearwater is classified by the IUCN as "vulnerable" and is present in the Black Sea when not breeding. Bycatch in purse seines has infrequently been reported in Mediterranean fisheries and is not thought to have a significant impact on seabird populations. In addition, purse seine may*

					occasionally capture sharks and rays (GFCM and FAO 2016) *Anchovy is a primary prey species for harbour porpoise and common dolphins, and of secondary importance to bottlenose dolphins, and lack of prey availability coincided with mass mortality events of all three cetaceans in the past, suggesting their health was compromised* (Birkun, A. Jr et al. 2014). *Measures such as banning the use of monofilaments and driftnets and encouraging the use of pinging devices have been noted by the manging countries. Reducing the bycatch of protected or endangered species is to be an objective of the GFCM management plan which is under development* (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM). DISCARDS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE BLACK SEA High levels of discards reduce harvesting opportunities and have negative consequences on marine ecosystems. Overall, bottom trawlers remain responsible for the highest discard ratios, although a slight reduction since revious editions of The State of Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries has been observed. Basically, the purse seine fishing method generates a very low "negligible" discard and by catch due to selectivity, however all details are described through the logbook which are collected and analyzed by the authority through the fishery management system. *(General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) 2023) pg 11*. Seen some fishing registers that show that not any endangered species has been catched. Moreover this fishing method does not damage the seabed and ecosystem in general. *From the declaration of catch controlled by the national authorities and the registers of catch of the company it was verified the compliance with the requirements up.* *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	See above.

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	Continuous review is ensured through GFCM "General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean" meetings and publications.
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	Management system objective are established through and monitored during GFCM "General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean" meeting and stock assessment reports. Annex 5.3
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	All fishing activity details are declared to the legal authority and recorded through the delivery notes approved by the government. 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	The government record all fishing activity details.
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	See 5.2.1
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	Essential	Procedure, performance indicators, and evidence of conformity. Refer to: http://www.fao.org/docrep/015/ba0022t/ba0022t00.pdf , Para 4.1.4.	Y	See 5.2.1

	of survival. This shall consider the "FAO International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards", where applicable.				
The auditor shall provide documented evidence that the unit of certification collects data to assess the impact of the fishing activities on non-target species and endangered fauna (i.e. IUCN listed). The data collection shall address specific outcome indicator(s) consistent with achieving management objectives.					
5.8	The fleet is equipped with measures that guarantee a quick retrieval of lost fishing gear to avoid "*ghost fishing"*.	Essential	Procedure and evidence of conformity.	Y	The vessel captain tries to retrieve every lost fishing gear, Registration through camera during all fishing activity. The captain declared that no fishing gear has been lost In case of no possibility of retrieval, lost equipment position is notified through the navigation system. Procedure of sustainability for all points
5.8.1	Vessels shall have appropriate equipment on board to assist in the safe recovery of lost fishing gear.	Important	Evidence of conformity.	Y	Specific tools are available onboard to retrieve the lost fishing gears if necessary. Ex. Small boat in the vessel Annex 5.8.1

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	Important	Procedure and evidence of conformity. Further information about the Ghost Gear Reporter App: https://www.ghostgear.org/news/2018/7/6/g	Y	See 5.8

	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.		ggi-ghost-gear-reporter-app		
5.8.3	Vessels shall be prepared and commit to the recovery and salvage of fishing gear lost by other vessel operators and to recycle damaged or found fishing gear, where appropriate and practically possible.	Important	Procedure and evidence of conformity.	Y	Specific location in the port is used to collect all retrieved fishing gears by other vessels, all vessel's captains shows commitment to bring at the shore every retrieved fishing gear during the fishing activity. See p. 5.8.1
5.8.4	The unit of certification undertakes an annual assessment of the lost gear records (amount and reasons for loss) and, in high-risk areas or during high-risk times, implement mitigation measures to address, where appropriate and practically possible.	Important	Procedure and evidence of conformity. Such measures could include: reducing soak times, implementing gear use limits in high-risk areas or during high-risk times (e.g. inclement weather), implementing other spatial or temporal measures as needed (e.g., to avoid severe weather or crowded fishing areas) and measures to reduce gear conflict that could result in gear loss.	Y	All lost gears are retrieved, the fishing method shows a very low risk of ghost fishing. See p. 5.8.1
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.	Y	CCTV system is available onboard.
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	Last fishery assessment establishes outcomes indicators, limit reference point and all management objective to be follow up in the next evaluation. https://gfcmsitestorage.blob.core.windows.net/website/5.Data/SAFs/SmallPelagics/2021/SAF_ANE_GSA29_RefY2021.pdf The eighth meeting of the Subregional Group on Stock Assessment in the Black Sea (SGSABS) was held online from 4 to 8 July 2022.The key objectives of the meeting were to: i)review the status of the main fish stocks in the Black Sea; ii) review the existing data andassessment methods for the main stocks in the area; and iii) attempt analytical assessments for turbot (Scophthalmus maximus), red mullet (Mullus barbatus), whiting (Merlangius merlangus), horse mackerel (Trachurus mediterraneus ponticus), piked dogfish (Squalus acanthias),European sprat (Sprattus sprattus), rapa whelk (Rapana venosa) and anchovy(Engraulis encrasicolus ponticus);and iv) provide advice on stock status and research priorities to improve knowledge on the status of the stocks.Seven assessments were validated. Advice was provided on the status of seven stocks in the Black

					Sea: Black Sea turbot (Scophthalmus maximus), horse mackerel (Trachurus mediterraneus ponticus), piked dogfish (Squalus acanthias), whiting (Merlangius merlangus), red mullet (Mullus barbatus), rapa whelk (Rapana venosa) and Black Sea anchovy (Engraulis encrasicolus ponticus). Of these, qualitative precautionary advice was given for Black Sea anchovy, horse mackerel, piked dogfishand rapa whelk, as the assessments were considered indicative of trends; more comprehensive quantitative advice was provided for turbot, red mullet and whiting. No advice was provided for sprat: the finalization of the benchmark assessment and the status of the stock for the current reference year was postponed to September/October to be analyzed with the newly prepared dataset. *Ref: Report of the eighth meeting of the Subregional Group on Stock Assessment in the Black Sea (SGSABS)* *On national level Resolution 423*

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	See above Plus - Ref: Report on the benchmark session for Black Sea anchovy in geographical subarea 29 Burgas, Bulgaria, 4–6 July 2023 -Ref: "Benchmark session for Black Sea anchovy and sprat in geographical subarea 29" 1–5 July 2024
5.10.2	Marine resources exploited in deep-sea fisheries in the high seas that have low productivity. Biological reference points shall be set, in a precautionary manner and determined on a case-by-case basis, to ensure long-term sustainability. **Only applicable to deep-sea fisheries.**	Essential	Documented evidence that deep-sea stocks are harvested at levels that are sustainable in the long term.	N/A	No deep sea fisheries in scope.

5.11	There are clear management objectives[1] based on the best scientific evidence available, applicable to the unit of certification and the stock under consideration, as well as consistent with the outcome indicators and measures defined and periodically reviewed by means of risk assessment, including knowledge of the full spatial range of the relevant habitat[2], to ensure protection and/or avoid significant/severe[3] adverse impacts[4] on:	Essential	[1]Management objectives consider all the economic, social and environmental aspects for the fishery of which the unit of certification is part. In addition, it includes recruitment overfishing or other impacts likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible. [2]Consideration of the full spatial range of the relevant habitat, not just that part of the spatial range that is potentially affected by fishing. [3]Severe adverse impacts can be regarded as those that are likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible and are applicable only in relation to dependent predators. Thus, the auditor shall consider the term "severe adverse impacts"	Y	See 5.10. 1. Basic Identification Data 2. Stock identification and biological information 2.1 Stock unit 2.2 Growth and maturity. 3 Fisheries information 3.1 Description of the fleet 3.2 Historical trends 3.3 Management regulations 3.4 Reference points 4. Fisheries independent information 4.1 {NAME OF THE DIRECT METHOD} 4.1.1 Brief description of the chosen method and assumptions used 4.1.2 Spatial distribution of the resources 4.1.3 Historical trends 5. Ecological information 5.1 Protected species potentially affected by the fisheries 5.2 Environmental indexes 6. Stock Assessment 6.1 State Space Assessment Model (SAM 6.1.1 Model assumptions 6.1.2 Scripts 6.1.3 Input data and Parameters 6.1.4 Tuning data 6.1.5 Results 6.1.6 Robustness analysis 6.1.7 Retrospective analysis, comparison between model runs, sensitivity analysis, etc. .. 6.1.8 Assessment quality 6.2 Short term predictions 6.3 Medium term predictions 6.4 Long term predictions 7. Draft scientific advice
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	See 5.10. The implemented fishery management system covers the consideration of essential habitats and vulnerable marine ecosystem. Furthermore, used fishing gears is very selective and can present no harm on the habitats.
5.11.2	Endangered species.			Y	Endangered species are covered by the FMS outcomes. See 5.10

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.		only in relation to the requirement 5.11.4 and the term "significant adverse impacts" in relation to the requirements 5.11.1, 5.11.2, 5.11.3 and 5.11.5. [4]Adverse impacts are from the interaction with the unit of certification.	Y	Selective fishing method "Purse Seine" helps to avoid non targeted stock. The fishery management system covers the nontarget catches. Both fishery assessment models (SAM and SPiCT) take into consideration the non-targeted species, furthermore the updated fishery furthermore the the report states the following: Total landings time-series of Black Sea anchovy are available since 1970, but for assessment purposes. the data used is limited to the period after 1988. Romania is the only country presenting discard data and only for the period between 2008 and 2014. In general, discards could be considered negligible for this stock. Ref: see 1.1.1 (benchmarks)
5.11.4	Dependent predators resulting from fishing on the stock under consideration and/or key prey species.			Y	Selective fishing method makes possible to release a live all preys or predators.
5.11.5	Ecosystem (structure, processes and function).			Y	Ecosystem and processes are covered by the FMS outcomes indicators. Example: not fishing in marine protected areas, using purse sine method
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	Updated fishery management system reports provided all indicators status.

5.13	Fisheries management approaches, plans and strategies are an integral part of integrated coastal management, and/or ocean management for oceanic fisheries. Safeguards are in place to protect the fisheries ecosystems from adverse effects coming from other sectors.	Recommendation	Documented evidence	Y	Fisheries management approaches, plans and strategies are an integral part of integrated coastal management.
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	All fishing activities are taken into consideration in the fishery management system.
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	All solid garbage are collected onboard through selection bins and disposed on the harbour. Waste management journal is available on board to records all trash collection and disposal. Act N007 On the delivery of oil-containing water Pg FISHERY MANAGEMENT INST RUCTIONS FOR FISHING AND APPLICATIONS WITH GIRGIR NETWORK Annex 6.1 – 6.2
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	Oils are collected through dedicated bins onboard and delivered to a third-party company which provide Oil disposal certificate. Act N007 On the delivery of oil-containing water Annex 6.1 – 6.2
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 fishery uses all available nontoxic products. No use of any toxic product for the fishing activity after interview of the captain.
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 company does not use CFC, HCFC, HFC or other refrigerants that cause ozone depletion.
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	Only net used for fishing, every vessel has a space to store damaged parts of the fishing net for repairing temporary in the vessel and in the facility warehouse for long period storage.
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	Basically, the fishing net is always repaired to be used, however if the fishing net is completely damaged, a specific location in the fishing port is dedicated to the store damaged fishing gear to be collected by external company for recycling. Provedure in anexx

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	See above.
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	Bakery delivery notes are available to provide all fuel intakes details: Delivery date Quantity Supplier Vessel Name Register in the vessel Last of 2025 Annex 7.1
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	No Carbon footprint calculation.
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 minimum employment age applied by the fleet is 18 years old. Crew list has been cross-checked no below 18 years old employment. Annex 8.1.1

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	Georgian minimum wage is appliedby the fleet. All salaries are above the legal minimum wage. ***Minimum wage in Georgia https://dol.georgia.gov/minimum-wage*** Employee Total salary Extra bónus are added depending on produced quantities. Contracts are not provided as annex to this audit report for confidentiality reasons. Annex 8.1.2

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	Medical controls are available to fisherman fitness to the assigned job descriptions: Staff health insurance is available for all fishermen Contract with medical 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	Seen risk assessment and photo from the vessel Annex 8.1.4

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	All work accident are recorded through the medical system. Legal requirement. Work accident assurance policy is available to cover all fishermen injuries. See 8.1.3

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	All fishermen are free to join any collective bargaining association. Interviews have been carried out by the auditor with randomly sampled fisherman who confirm that there are no such restrictions by the employer.
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	Interviews have been carried out by the auditor with randomly sampled fisherman who confirm that there are no such activities on board.
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	No discrimination acts have been seen onboard during the audit, furthermore interviews have been carried out by the auditor with fishermen who confirm that there is no discrimination that all workers are equals. Annex 8.1.8 training

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	All work conditions onboard are adequate to the assigned jobs. Annex 8.1.9

Further comments:

- Certification Audit
- Remote Audit

CONCLUSIONS:

The Auditor shall fill out the following fields

X. The unit of certification COMPLIES with Friend of the Sea requirements

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

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

No Major deviation raised.

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

No Minor deviations raised.

RECOMMENDATIONS (to be communicated within the next inspection)

7.2 The organisation should calculate its carbon footprint per product unit and engage to reduce it every year.

- No Carbon footprint calculation.