## Friend of the Sea Standard

# **FOS - Wild Sustainable Fishing Requirements**



#### Friend of the Sea

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REV	DATE	REASON	VALIDATION	APPROVAL
1	18/01/2013	First issue	Paolo Bray	Tools By
2	01/07/2015	Update	Paolo Bray	Tools By
3	30/09/2016	Standards update	Paolo Bray	Tools By
3.1	18/10/2017	Definitions and guidance to standards	Paolo Bray	Tools By

#### **Foreword**

Friend of the Sea is a non-governmental organisation, which was established in 2008. Its aim is to safeguard the marine environment and its resources by incentivising a sustainable market and implementing specific conservation projects.

Friend of the Sea certification program allows 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.

<u>Essential Requirements:</u> 100% conformity to essential requirements is mandatory in order for the certification body to certify the organisation's product. Any lack of compliance with these requirements will generate a Major Non Conformity and the organisation has to undertake effective corrective actions, to be implemented within three months from the issuing of the Non Conformity. The organisation shall provide satisfactory evidence to the certification body of correction of all major non conformities. Six months are allowed exclusively for correction of requirements 2.1 and 2.2, in consideration of their more complex nature.

Important Requirements: 100% conformity to important requirements is mandatory in order for the certification body to certify the organisation's product. Any lack of compliance with these requirements is to be considered as a Minor Non Conformity and the organisation has to propose effective corrective actions (declaration of intents and implementation plan), to be submitted to the certification body within three weeks from the issuing of the non conformity. This proposal shall also include a timetable concerning the implementation of each correction measure. Each proposed corrective action shall be fully implemented within the following 12 months.

<u>Recommendations:</u> Compliance with recommendations is not mandatory for the product to be certified. However compliance with recommendations will be verified during the audit and any deficiency will be included in the Audit Report as a recommendation. The organisation shall inform the certification body, during the following audit, regarding any corrective measures implemented.

Requirements which are not applicable to the audited organisation will be marked with 'N.A.'

## **Description of the Organisation**

This document shall only be filled out by personnel of the certification body in charge of the audit. It shall be filled out in English if spoken fluently.

a) NAME OF THE ORGANISATION TO BE AUDITED:						
b) NAME OF	THE ORGAN	NISATION	N REQUES	TING THE A	UDIT:	
c) IS THE O SPECIFY TH	RGANISATION NE NAME OF	ON TO BE THE GRO	AUDITED	PART OF A	GROUP? IF MBERS:	SO, PLEASE
d) ADDRESS	6 OF THE OR	GANISAT	TION TO B	E AUDITED:		
RESPONSIB	ID CONTACT SLE FOR THE	AUDIT A	E PERSON IND CONTA	WITHIN TH ACTS WITH	E ORGANISA	ATION OR:
	Registration number	Vessel's flag	Fishing method	Capacity (MT)	Unloading	Ship owner, if different from a)
Name of the fishing	Registration	Vessel's				if different

Name of the fishing vessel	Registration number	Unloading harbour
nd/or EEZ. If available, ple		nd/or subarea and/or ICES area
	ease include a map.):	
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	mend their input. Please provide the list of all contacted stakeholders below:
) ADDITIONAL	INFORMATION:
•	

The Friend of the Sea project was introduced (If not, the auditor shall provide a short description)
The organisation 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 organisation 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) has been confirmed (in case of changes to the PIF, an updated version has to be promptly provided)

CERTIFICATION BODY:	AUDIT TEAM:	AUDIT START AND END DATE:
SIGNATURE OF AUDITOR:	NAME OF THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE ORGANISATION AND ACCOMPANYING THE AUDITOR DURING THE AUDIT:	AUDIT CODE:

#### 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 organisation 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 evidences added to the checklist or attached are appreciated.
- 8) In the present document 'organisation' is used to refer to the unit of certification.

#### 1 STOCK STATUS

No.	Requirement	Level	Parameters and information	Y/N	Comments		
1.1	The state of the stock under consideration shall be assessed by the fisheries management organisation.	Essential	The fishery shall demonstrate to collect data 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; Deep Sea Fishery (DSF) in the High Seas, FAO Programme).				
rules ; its and	The fisheries management organisation is an institution responsible for fisheries management, including the formulation of rules governing fishing activities. The fishery management organisation may also be responsible for collection of information, its analysis stock assessment, monitoring, control and surveillance.  FAO 1997: FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries.						
1.1.1	The stock under consideration shall NOT be data deficient	Essential					

1.1.2	The stock under consideration shall NOT be over-exploited.	Essential	F ≤ F <sub>msy</sub> within probability range of available stock assessments or at least F ≤ F <sub>lim</sub> (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.		
1.1.3	The stock under consideration shall NOT be over-Fished.	Essential	B ≥ B <sub>msy</sub> within probability range of available stock assessments or at least B>B <sub>lim</sub> (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.		
Up-to-d Manage Other in	requirements related to the current status, unobserved mortality, incidental mortality, incidental mortality and the stockers and or information on the stockers and or information may include generic evidence tration is not available, providing there is the ch.	ality, unreported k status is availa tional Authority, e based on simila	d catch, and catch ou able from one of the University, other in ar stocks, when spec	itside d followi depend ific info	of the unit of certification.  Ing: FAO, Regional Fisheries  Ilent research institute.  Formation on the stock under
1.1.4	The methodology of assessment of the status and trends of the stock under consideration shall be made publicly available in a timely manner.	Essential	Documental evidence		
1.2	Only applicable to small-scale and artisanal fisheries ( <i>i.e.</i> it is not applicable to large-scale fisheries and fleets)  If the organisation complies with all the requirements of the standard in the present document and does not catch more than 10% of the total catch (weight) of the stock under consideration, requirements 1.1.2., 1.1.3. do not apply.	Essential	Weight of catches by fishery with same fishing method as the one under assessment is not over 10% of total catch from the same stock.		

The auditor shall fill-in requirement 1.2 ONLY in case of negative answer to the requirement 1.1.

The aim of this requirement is to allow certification of small-scale artisanal and/or traditional fisheries targeting stocks which might have been overfished by bigger scale vessels and fisheries.

Small-scale fisheries are here intended as those using fishing crafts with size < 24 m and/or engine <375 kW.

Large-scale fisheries are intended as those using fishing crafts with size  $\geq$  24 m, engine  $\geq$ 375 kW, vessels with freezing facilities and/or factory vessels (i.e. ocean-going vessels with on-board facilities for processing and freezing).

#### **2 ECOSYSTEM and HABITAT IMPACT**

No.	Requirement	Level	Parameters and Information	Y/N	Comments
NO.			Information		
2.1	Current data and/or other information are collected and updated about the effects of the fishery under assessment on the ecosystem structure and habitats vulnerable to damage by fishing gear, also considering the role of the stock in the food web (e.g. key prey or predator species).	Important	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 local, traditional or indigenous knowledge and research, providing its validity can be objectively verified.  The methodology and results of the analysis of the most probable adverse impacts of the unit of certification on the ecosystem are made publicly available in a timely manner, respecting confidentiality where appropriate.		
2.2	The fishery or fleet complies with Marine Protected Areas regulation.	Essential	Verify compliance also by use of VMS and plotters tracking and World database www.mpaglobal.n etc		

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 www.mpaglobal.org).

2.3	The fishery or fleet shall use fishing gears that do not affect the seabed unless proven that such impact is negligible.	Essential	The seabed and benthic communities shall return to their original conditions within a maximum of 30 days from the impact of the fishing gear on the seabed.	
The au	ditor shall collect conformity evidence.			
2.4	The organisation has requested or conducted an assessment of the impact of its fishing activities on essential habitats for the stock under consideration and on habitats vulnerable to damage by the fishing gear.	Recommenda tion	Studies made available by the competent FMO can be used. These studies shall consider the impact of the fishery on the ecosystem and shall be considered when producing management advice.	

## **3 GEAR SELECTIVITY**

No.	Requirement	Level	Parameters and information	Y/N	Comments
3.1	Accidental catches (bycatch) 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.	Important	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.		
3.1.1	The organisation collects and maintains current data and/or other information about the effects of the fishery on endangered species, non-target catches and discards.	Essential	Traditional, fisher or community knowledge can be used as reference, provided its validity can be objectively verified		
effect actual www.	s of the fishery on non-target stocks. lly occurred on site at the time of unlo	The information adding. The list	on included in the standard shall also be com	list sha pared v	ught accidentally, and an assessment of the Il be compared with the accidental catches vith the database of the IUCN red list e accidentally caught species is included in
3.2	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 not for fish meal or fish oil production.		

3.3.1	The fleet or fishery shall provide a census of number of all fish aggregating devices (FADs) deployed during the previous 12 months and shall report on a yearly basis to Friend of the Sea regarding FADs deployment per vessel.  Only applicable to fisheries and	Important	Auditor shall collect the data provided by the fleet or fishery and attach it to the audit report	
	fleet targeting tuna. N/A to fisheries targeting any other species			
3.3.2	The fleet 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	Audit shall collect evidence including pictures of FADs, purchase invoices with technical specifications to prove compliance.	

## **4 LEGAL CONFORMITY**

N°	Requirement	Level	Parameters and information	Y/ N	Comments
4.1	All fishing vessels shall be officially registered.	Essential	Vessel registration and fishing license inspection.		
					number. The Auditor shall collect on s (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 (http://www.itfs eafarers.org/focregistries.cfm).		
The Audit	tor shall verify according to the web	site http://w	ww.itfseafarers.org	/foc-re	gistries.cfm.
4.3	The fleet does not include IUU (illegal, unreported, unregulated) fishing vessels.	Essential	The vessels cannot be included in the list <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:0">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:0</a> J.L .2015.199. 01.0012.01.EN G		

The aud content RFMO.	litor shall verify that the vessels are /EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L2015.1	not listed in 99.01.0012.	EU IUU vessel list( <u>h</u> 01.ENG), or in the IU	ttp://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal- JU vessel list made available by the competen
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 organisation shall be included in the Dolphin-Safe list of the Earth Island Institute:  www.dolphinsafe tuna.org	
	tor shall verify the conformity on the by shall be included in the audit repo		olphinsafetuna.org o	r else the company shall sign the EII DS Polic
4.5	The organisation complies with national and international fisheries regulations.  Compliance with the following regulations in particular has to be confirmed and verified:	Essential	Countries' fisheries laws are available on the website FAO http://www.fao. org/faolex/en/ The auditor shall specify applicable indicators.	
4.5.1	TAC (Total Allowable Catches)	Essential	Countries' fisheries laws are available on the website FAO http://www.fao. org/faolex/en/  The auditor shall specify applicable limits.	
4.5.2	Use of a logbook	Essential	Countries' fisheries laws are available on the website FAO http://www.fao. org/faolex/en/  The auditor shall specify applicable indicators.	
4.5.3	Minimum net mesh size	Essential	Countries' fisheries laws are available on the website FAO http://www.fao. org/faolex/en/  The auditor shall specify applicable	

4.5.4	Net size	Essential	Countries' fisheries laws are available on the website FAO http://www.fao. org/faolex/en/  The auditor shall specify applicable indicators.	
4.5.5	Minimum legal size of the target species	Essential	Countries' fisheries laws are available on the website FAO http://www.fao. org/faolex/en/  The auditor shall specify applicable indicators.	
4.5.6	Distance from the shore	Essential	Countries' fisheries laws are available on the website FAO http://www.fao. org/faolex/en/	
4.5.7	Measures for the reduction of accidental catches	Essential	Countries' fisheries laws are available on the website FAO http://www.fao. org/faolex/en/  The auditor shall specify applicable measures.	
4.5.8	No fishing in protected habitats	Essential	Countries' fisheries laws are available on the website FAO http://www.fao. org/faolex/en/  The auditor shall specify applicable indicators.	
4.5.9	Use of forbidden gears, chemical substances and explosives	Essential	Countries' fisheries laws are available on the website FAO http://www.fao. org/faolex/en/  The auditor shall specify	

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 <a href="http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/">http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/</a>

#### 5 - FISHERY MANAGEMENT

No.	Requirement	Level	Parameters and	Y/N	Comments
			information		
5.1.1a	A fishery management organisation, that holds a legal mandate in compliance with national and international laws, manages, by means of a Fishery Management Plan (FMP), the fishery of which the fishery or fleet under audit is a part.	Essential	The organization shall provide a copy of the FMP.  A map of existing RFMOs is available at http://www.fa o.org/figis/ge oserver/factsh eets/rfbs.html  In addition, national fishery ministries and authorities can be considered, e.g. Fisheries Management Organisations (FMO).		
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 organisation 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.  The arrangement shall ensure the rights of the small-scale fishing communities are granted.	Essential	Evidence of conformity.  In case this is not applicable, provide justification.		
5.1.1c	The fishery management organisation convenes regularly to update its management advices according to the most updated data.	Essential	Evidence of meetings frequency.		

The Auditor shall verify and describe briefly the legal and administrative structure in force and provide the evidence of compliance with local laws and regulations.

The fishing company or organisation may also be part of traditional or community system of management of the stock, provided their performance can be objectively verified.

5.1.2	The fisheries management system (FMS) under which the fishery or fleet under audit is managed shall be <b>both</b> participatory and transparent, 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.	
5.1.3	Small-scale fishing communities and deep- sea fishers shall be involved in the planning and implementation of management measures affecting their livelihood, as appropriate.	Important	Evidence of involvement of local communities.  E.g. monitoring and control of fishing activities, protected areas	
5.2.1	A precautionary approach is applied through the FMS to protect the target stock and its habitat and preserve the marine environment.	Important	Procedure and evidence of conformity.	
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.  These measures shall prompt the restoration of the stock to such levels within a reasonable timeframe.	Important	Procedure indicating target reference points and timeframe.	
5.2.3	Efficacy of management measures and their possible interactions is kept under continuous review.	Essential	Evidence of periodical reviews of the management measures shall be provided.	
	ditor shall verify if the Country the flag of ganisation shall include a precautionary ap			
5.3	The compliance with fishery regulations is achieved through monitoring, surveillance, control and enforcement.	Essential	Procedure and evidence of monitoring and control by the fishery management authority.	

.4	The fleet or fishery shall record bycatch	Essential	Procedure and				
r	The fleet or fishery shall record bycatch	Loscitiai	evidence of				
	during every fishing trip.		recording				
			during at least				
			one fishing				
			trip.				
5.5		Essential	Procedure				
3.3	The fleet or fishery shall record discards.	LSSeriuai	and evidence				
			of conformity				
5.5.1	Bycatch and discard data shall be made	Recommendatio	Procedure				
	publicly available by either the FMO or the	n	and evidence				
	organisation.		of conformity				
The s	iditor shall attack sonice of the burstell as	d diagonda vonov	to to the sudit w				
rne at	iditor shall attach copies of the bycatch ar	ia aiscaras repor	ts to the audit re	eport.			
5.6	A management system to prevent	Essential	Procedure,				
	possible accidental catch and significant		performance indicators				
	negative impacts of endangered species		and evidence				
	shall be in place.		of				
			conformity.				
5.7	The organisation implements a	Essential	Procedure,				
	management program to reduce the		performance				
	accidental catch of non-target species,		indicators, and evidence				
	including procedures for the release of		of				
	live animals under conditions that		conformity.				
	live animals under conditions that		conformity.				
	live animals under conditions that guarantee high chances of survival.		conformity.				
			conformity.				
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5.8	guarantee high chances of survival.  uditor shall provide documental evidence interest species and endangered fauna (i. stent with achieving management objective)  The fleet is equipped with measures that guarantee a quick retrieval of lost fishing gears to avoid 'ghost fishing'.  Inditor shall obtain a copy of the procedure independent observer who reports compliance with Friend of the Sea requirements. 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	e. IUCN listed). 1 es.  Essential	Procedure and evidence of conformity.  Documental evidence of employment. At least one monthly report of the on-board	on shall			

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, are defined for all management objectives related to the conservation of the stock under consideration.  Management objectives take into account the best scientific evidence available	Essential	Target reference points. e.g maximum sustainable yield (MSY, or a suitable proxy) or a lesser fishing mortality if that is applicable to the fishery.  Marine resources exploited in deep-sea fisheries in the high seas have low productivity, thus biological reference points shall be set to ensure long term sustainability.		
5.11	There are clear management objectives, outcome indicators and measures defined and periodically reviewed by means of risk assessment to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts on:	Essential	Procedure, outcome indicators, action taken and outcomes.		
5.11.1	Essential habitats for the stock of consideration, and vulnerable ecosystems, including those potentially impacted by Deep-Sea fisheries				
5.11.2	Endangered species				
5.11.3	Non-target stocks				
5.11.4	Dependent predators and/or preys				
5.11.5	Ecosystem structure and processes				
5.12	A yearly reviewed Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries is in place		Documental evidence		
5.13	Fisheries management approaches, plans and strategies are an integral part of integrated coastal management, and/or ocean management for oceanic fisheries.	Recommended	Documental evidence		

The auditor shall provide evidence of the reference values targeted and implemented. These can, in some cases, be threshold reference limits and precaution limits set by regional bodies.

The management measures implemented by the management system of the organisation shall be based on the best available scientific evidence. Any traditional or scientific knowledge can be used within the management system, given that it can be objectively verified by the auditor

## **6 WASTE MANAGEMENT**

No.	Requirement	Level	Parameters and information	Y/N	Comments
6.1	The organisation 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.		
6.2	The organisation implements measures to prevent dispersion of waste at sea (including fuels and lubricants and plastic materials)	Essential	Procedure and evidence of conformity.		
6.3	The organisation utilises 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.		
6.4	The organisation does not use CFC, HCFC, HFC or other refrigerants that cause ozone depletion.	Essential	Procedure and evidence of conformity.		
	Only applicable to large-scale vessels				

The auditor shall provide procedures complete with photographic evidence. See definition of large-scale fisheries in section 1.

## **7 ENERGY MANAGEMENT**

No.	Requirement	Level	Parameters and information	Y/N	Comments
7.1	The organisation 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.  At minimum, the register shall include the following parameters: 1. incoming energy sources (renewabl e or not) 2. energy consumption per process line (fishing, processing, transport)		
7.2	The organisation should calculate its carbon footprint per product unit and engage to reduce it every year.	Recommendat ion			

## **8 SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY**

No.	Requirement	Level	Parameters and information	Y/N	Comments
8.1	The Organisation shall respect human rights, complying with the following requirements:				
8.1.1	compliance with national regulations and ILO on child labour	Essential	Refer to ILO: http://www.ilo. org/global/stan dards/introduct ion-to- international- labour- standards/lang - -en/index.htm		
8.1.2	pay the employees adequate salaries compliant at least with minimum legal wages	Essential	Minimum wages vary depending on the country. The Auditor shall verify that the organisation knows the minimum wage.		
8.1.3	grant employees access to healthcare	Essential			
8.1.4	apply safety measures required by the law	Essential			

The auditor shall verify the compliance with the requirements through documental evidence (work contract samples) and onsite observation.

CONCLUSIONS:  The Auditor shall fill out the following fields  The fleet COMPLIES with Friend of the Sea requirements  The fleet DOES NOT COMPLY with Friend of the Sea requirements  MAJOR NON CONFORMITIES (to be corrected within 3 months)  List major non conformities
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MAJOR NON CONFORMITIES (to be corrected within 3 months)
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)
List recommendations