

# Friend of the Sea Turtle Safe Standard



## Friend of the Sea non Seafood Standard

Friend of the Sea  
[www.friendofthesea.org](http://www.friendofthesea.org)

REV	DATE	REASON	Issued by	APPROVAL
1	20/11/2019	First issue	Mario Passoni	

## 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 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. The unit of certification shall provide the CB with satisfactory evidence of correction of all major non-conformities, if necessary, with additional audits.

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:**

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

**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:**

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

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

**f) FLEET TO BE AUDITED:**

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

**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

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

**i) COMMON AND SCIENTIFIC NAME OF THE SPECIES FISHED BY THE UNIT OF CERTIFICATION, WITH THE RESPECTIVE FISHING METHODS:**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Fishing method

**j) TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:**

**k) ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATIONS AND AWARDS:**

**l) COMMON AND SCIENTIFIC NAME OF SEA TURTLES PRESENT IN THE FISHING ACTIVITY AREA:**

**m) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

- The Turtle Safe 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 Turtle Safe 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).

<b>CERTIFICATION BODY:</b>	<b>AUDIT TEAM:</b>	<b>AUDIT START AND END DATE:</b>
<b>SIGNATURE OF AUDITOR:</b>	<b>NAME OF THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE UNIT OF CERTIFICATION AND ACCOMPANYING THE AUDITOR DURING THE AUDIT:</b>	<b>AUDIT CODE:</b>
		<b>TYPE OF AUDIT:</b>

## **NOTES TO THE AUDITOR**

- 1)** The auditor shall fill out all fields in the checklist.
- 2)** The Auditor shall provide an explanation when requirements are not applicable.
- 3)** The Auditor shall write YES when the unit of certification complies with a requirement and NO when it does not.
- 4)** The Auditor shall comment and explain the positive or negative answers. Simple "YES," "NO," or "N.A." are insufficient.
- 5)** Each relevant document shall be added to the final audit report in a separate and numbered attachment.
- 6)** Photographic evidence added to the checklist or attached are appreciated.
- 7)** The application process is NOT discriminatory on size, scale, management, minimum number of operators and number of vessels involved.

No.	Requirement	Level	Y/N/ N.A.	Comments
1	The unit of certification subjects its employees to a course, taught by experts on how to manage the release of turtles captured accidentally. The course must include general notions on the biology of the sea turtles present in that marine area.	Essential		
2	The unit of certification uses TEDs (Turtle Excluder Devices), where applicable.	Essential		
3	The unit of certification uses circle hooks, where applicable.	Essential		
4	The unit of certification exclusively uses pots to replace gillnets during periods with a high presence of sea turtles.	Essential		
5	The unit of certification uses bollards (UV LEDs) on gillnets during periods with a high presence of sea turtles.	Essential		
6	The unit of certification is in contact with rescue centers specialized in the care of sea turtles, to which it relies if there is a need to treat one or more injured turtles. The crew must be instructed on how to manage these emergencies.	Essential		



<b>7</b>	The unit of certification keeps a register of accidental catches (by-catch) of sea turtles, by reporting where the catch has taken place, the sea turtle species, whether the specimen is an adult or juvenile, its sex (when possible) and the damage reported.	Essential		
<b>8</b>	The unit of certification informs the Port Authority and the nearest rescue center in case of accidental sea turtle catches.	Essential		
<b>9</b>	The unit of certification must be equipped with devices for the rescue of the sea turtles (landing net where necessary) and for the first aid of the same (mattress, blankets, etc.).	Essential		
<b>10</b>	The unit of certification recycles, reuses or reprocesses all materials used in fishing, storing and transporting the fish to the point of sale, including packaging.	Recommendation		
<b>11</b>	The unit of certification implements measures to prevent the littering of waste at sea (including fuels, lubricants and plastics).	Recommendation		
<b>12</b>	The crew on board recovers all lost fishing nets they find at sea.	Essential		

<p><b>13</b></p>	<p>Fishing vessels must have storage facilities for damaged or end-of-life fishing gear.</p>	<p>Essential</p>		
<p><b>14</b></p>	<p>The equipment must be properly disposed of in port. If adequate disposal facilities are not available, the unit of certification strives to work with port operators to provide adequate, low cost and accessible disposal facilities.</p>	<p>Recommendation</p>		

Further comments:

**CONCLUSIONS:**

The Auditor shall fill out the following fields

- The unit of certification COMPLIES with Turtle Safe requirements**
  
- The unit of certification DOES NOT COMPLY with Turtle Safe requirements**

**ESSENTIAL NON-CONFORMITIES (to be corrected within 3 months)**

*List essential non-conformities*

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

*List recommendations*