



**FRIEND OF THE SEA**

**Sustainable Seafood**

# **FRIEND OF THE SEA CERTIFICATION CRITERIA CHECKLIST FOR WILD CATCH FISHERIES**

(Last Update 11/05/2010)

Friend of the Sea is a non-governmental organisation founded in 2007 with the purpose of conserving the marine habitat and its resources by incentivising a sustainable market and specific protection and conservation projects.

Friend of the Sea has created a certification program for products deriving from both fishing and sustainable aquaculture. Certification follows audits carried out by Independent bodies and ensures that the product conforms to the sustainability requirements.

The use of the logo is authorized by Friend of the Sea only following a positive outcome of an inspection carried out by the Assessing Entity.

For Sustainable Fishery, certification covers the following areas:

1. Stock status criteria
2. Ecosystem impact criteria
3. Selectivity criteria
4. Legal compliance criteria
5. Management
6. Waste management
7. Energy management
8. Social accountability



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Each of these areas sets out essential or important requirements, or recommendations.

**Essential requirements:** 100% conformity to essential requirements is necessary in order for the Certification body to recommend the enterprise for certification. Any shortfall with regard to these requirements is considered as a Major Nonconformity and corrective actions are necessary, to be carried out within a maximum term of three months from the date of the Nonconformity finding. The enterprise must provide the Certification body with satisfactory evidence of corrective actions for all Major Nonconformities. Solely for requirements 2.1 and 2.2, in consideration of the complexity of the information to be covered, the term allowed for assessing the nonconformity is extended to 6 months.

**Important Requirements:** 100% conformity to important requirements is necessary in order for the Certification body to recommend the enterprise for certification. Any shortfall with regard to these requirements is considered as a Minor Nonconformity and corrective actions (declaration of intent and plan of action) must be proposed to the Assessing Entity, to be submitted within a maximum term of three weeks from the date of the Nonconformity finding. The enterprise must include in their proposal a timeline for the achievement of each corrective action. The maximum term for the complete implementation of each corrective action is one year.

**Recommendations:** conformity to recommendations is not a strict requirement in order to be recommended for certification. However, as part of the assessment, all aspects relating to such requirements will be inspected and each shortfall will be indicated in the Audit report under the form of a Recommendation. The enterprise must assess any possible corrective action and, no later than the subsequent inspection, must inform the Certification body of decisions taken and corrective actions carried out.

Where a requirement is not applicable to the Organisation assessed this requirement should be marked N/A.





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**f) FISHING AREA:**

*(eg: Coordinates, FAO Area, ICES Area, EEZ, etc. Include a map when available)*

**g) FISHING METHOD:**

**h) COMMON NAME OF AUDITED SPECIES:**

**i) SCIENTIFIC NAME OF AUDITED SPECIES:**

**j) TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:**

*Optional*

**k) ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

**l) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**



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**Friend of the Sea project has been introduced**

*(If not, auditor should provide short description)*

**The Audited company has been informed that in case of approval confirmation, it can use the Friend of the Sea logo on its certified products**

**The Company has handed over a copy of the company organigram identifying the role of the staff involved in the audit**

**Audit timing has been agreed upon.**

**Data of Preliminary Information Form have been confirmed:** (In case of different info please detail)

<b>NAME OF THE CERTIFICATION BODY:</b>	<b>AUDIT TEAM:</b>	<b>AUDIT START AND END DATE:</b>
<b>SIGNATURE OF AUDITOR:</b>	<b>NAME OF PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE ORGANISATION ACCOMPANYING THE AUDITOR THROUGH THE ASSESSMENT:</b>	<b>AUDIT CODE:</b>



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## NOTES FOR THE AUDITOR

- 1) The Auditor must complete all fields of the checklist
- 2) The Auditor must read the notes in the blue boxes before filling in the fields
- 3) The Auditor must provide an explanation when qualification requirements are not applicable
- 4) The Auditor must answer Yes (Y) when the Organization is compliant with the requirement and No (N) when it is not compliant
- 5) The Auditor must provide comments and explanations for positive or negative responses. Yes, No or Not Applicable are not sufficient
- 6) Any significant documentation must be attached to the final audit report in a separate and numbered appendix
- 7) Photographs added to the checklist and/or as an annex will be helpful

## 1 - STOCK STATUS CRITERIA

No	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comments
<b>1.1</b>	Adequate data and/or information are collected and, according to the most recent stock assessment produced by one of the following: FAO, Regional Fishery Monitoring Organization, National Marine Research Authority, the stock under consideration is NOT			
1.1.1	Data Deficient	Essential		
1.1.2	Overexploited ( $F > F_{msy}$ )	Essential		
1.1.3	Overfished ( $B < B_{msy}$ )	Essential		
<i>The Auditor must consider only the most updated official stock status conclusions. These conclusions can be provided by the audited fishery or company, by Friend of the Sea, by other stakeholders and by the auditor. The Auditor must report, with clear reference to the documents and websites, evidence of stock status conclusions.</i>				
<b>1.2</b>	An exception to requirement 1.1 is made for those fisheries that:			
1.2.1	respect all other criteria	Essential		
1.2.2	are not responsible for the overexploitation of the stock and represent no more than 10% of the total catch of the "stock under consideration"	Essential		
<i>The Auditor must fill in these fields ONLY in case of negative answer to requirement 1.1</i>				

## 2 – ECOSYSTEM IMPACT CRITERIA

No	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comments
<b>2.1</b>	The Fleet does not operate in Marine Protected Areas	Essential		
<i>The Auditor must be allowed to verify, on a random sampling basis, by viewing on board vessels VMS or by valid alternative evidence, that no fishing occurs in Marine Protected Areas (MPA). In alternative, an official statement from the related Control Authority, that no fishing has occurred in MPA must be produced. A list of MPA must be produced by the auditor also consulting <a href="http://www.mpaglobal.org">www.mpaglobal.org</a></i>				
<b>2.2</b>	The Fishery must use gears that do not impact the seabed unless evidence is provided that this impact is negligible.	Essential		
<b>2.3</b>	The Organization must provide the evidence that the fishery does not negatively impact spawning and nursery grounds.	Essential		
<i>The Auditor must collect evidence of compliance.</i>				



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<b>2.4</b>	The role of the “stock under consideration” in the foodweb is considered. (See Art.31.2 FAO 2009 Guidelines).	Recommendation		
<i>The Auditor must collect any study available and it must ask the organization if any related study has been developed. If no study has yet been developed, the Auditor must recommend in its audit report to start such a study in the next 12 months.</i>				

## 3 – SELECTIVITY CRITERIA

No	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comments
<b>3.1</b>	The target species cannot be fished by gears that have discard levels higher than 8% in weight terms, considered by FAO 2005 to be the average discard level worldwide. (FAO 2005 “Discard in the World’s marine Fisheries. An Update”).	Essential		
<i>The Auditor must obtain a list of normally bycaught species. This list must be obtained from the organization under audit and from available studies. The information must be compared to the bycatch verified on site at time of unloading. The list must be compared to the database of the IUCN Redlist <a href="http://www.redlist.org">www.redlist.org</a> . The Auditor must produce a final list indicating if any of the bycaught species is among those normally bycaught species.</i>				
<b>3.2</b>	The normally by-caught species must not be included in the IUCN Redlist of endangered species (assessed maximum 10 years before and listed as Vulnerable or higher risk category).	Essential		

## 4 – LEGAL COMPLIANCE CRITERIA

No	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comments
<b>4.1</b>	All Fishing Vessels must be officially registered.	Essential		
<i>The Auditor must request the list of fishing vessels with registration number. On site the Auditor must collect registration documents of at least 10% total number of audited vessels (photos or copies of the documents).</i>				
<b>4.2</b>	The Fleet does not include FOC (Flag Of Convenience) fishing vessels.	Essential		
<i>The Auditor must check with the list available on Friend of the Sea website.</i>				
<b>4.3</b>	The Fleet does not include IUU (Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated) fishing vessels and does not operate where regulations and management plans are seriously undermined.	Essential		
<i>The Auditor must check with the list available on Friend of the Sea website.</i>				
<b>4.4</b>	In case fishery is targeting tuna the fleet must be approved Dolphin-Safe by the Earth Island Institute.	Essential		
<i>The Auditor must check conformity from list <a href="http://www.dolphinsafetuna.org">www.dolphinsafetuna.org</a></i>				
<b>4.5</b>	The Fishery respects national and international legislation, in particular legislation related to the reduction of the environmental impact of the fishery such as, but not limited to:	Essential		
4.5.1	TAC (Total Allowable Catches)	Essential		
4.5.2	use of logbook	Essential		
4.5.3	mesh size	Essential		
4.5.4	net size	Essential		
4.5.5	minimum size	Essential		
4.5.6.	distance from the coast	Essential		
4.5.7	by-catch reduction measures	Essential		



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4.5.8	no fishing on protected habitat	Essential		
4.5.9	verify onboard equipment and absence of banned fishing gears and methods, chemical substances, explosive	Essential		
4.5.10	Other	Essential		
<i>The Auditor must verify, according to the national and international regulations, if the above legal requirements are in place and provide a full description with reference to the law. Where possible the Auditor must provide documental and photographic evidence.</i>				

## 5 – MANAGEMENT

No	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comments
5.1	An effective legal and administrative framework at the local, national or regional level, as appropriate, is established for the Fishery (Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, Article 7.7.1).	Essential		
<i>The Auditor must verify and shortly describe the current legal and administrative framework.</i>				
5.2	In accordance with the Code of Conduct (Art 7.5) a precautionary approach is implemented to protect the “stock under consideration” and to preserve the aquatic environment.	Essential		
<i>The Auditor must verify if the Fishery’s flag Country has ratified the Code of Conduct. If not the Organization must include in its procedures a precautionary approach.</i>				
5.3	Compliance to point 5.1 and 5.2 is obtained through effective mechanism for monitoring, surveillance, control and enforcement. (Code of Conduct for responsible Fishery Art.7.7.1).	Essential		
<i>The Auditor must describe shortly the methodology for monitoring, surveillance, control and enforcement.</i>				
5.4	The Fishery has a by-catch reporting methodology that is accountable.	Essential		
5.5	The Fishery has a discard reporting methodology that is accountable.	Essential		
<i>The Auditor must provide evidence (photos or copies) of the by-catch and discard reports.</i>				
5.6	A management system must be in place to prevent any accidental by-catch of endangered species.	Essential		
5.7	The Fleet has a management plan which ensures that any live animals that are caught accidentally are returned to the sea promptly and in a condition which affords a high chance of survival.	Essential		
5.8	The Fleet includes measures to minimize the loss, and ensure prompt recovery where possible, of fishing gear to avoid ‘ghost fishing’.	Essential		
<i>The Auditor must obtain copies of the above procedures.</i>				
5.9	The Fishery respects ‘Threshold reference points’, or ‘precautionary limits’ for both the biomass and fishing rate are in place.	Important		
<i>The Auditor must verify if “Reference points” and “Precautionary limits” are set by Regional Fishery Bodies and compliance.</i>				

## 6- WASTE MANAGEMENT

No	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comments
6.1	The Fishery recycles, reuses or reprocesses all materials used in fishing, storage and transport of fish to point of sale, including packaging, where possible.	Essential		
6.2	The Fishery implements measures to prevent the dispersion of wastes (including fuel and engine lubricants,	Essential		



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	and plastics) in the sea.			
<b>6.3</b>	The Fishery uses all available non-toxic chemical alternatives to minimize the use of toxic, persistent, or bio-accumulative substances.	Essential		
<b>6.4</b>	The Fishery does not use CFCs, HCFCs, HFCs or other ozone depleting refrigerants.	Essential		

*The Auditor must provide procedures and photographic evidence.*

## 7 - ENERGY MANAGEMENT

No	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comments
<b>7.1</b>	The Organisation must maintain a record of energy consumption updated at least annually.	Important		
<b>7.2</b>	The Organisation should calculate its Carbon Footprint per unit of product and undertake to reduce it annually .	Recommendation		

*The Auditor must obtain copies of the records.*

## 8 - SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

No	Requirements	Level	Y/N	Comments
<b>8.1</b>	The Organisation must respect human rights by conforming to the following requirements :			
8.1.1	compliance with international and ILO directives regarding child labour	Essential		
8.1.2	remunerating workers with salaries conforming at least to the legal minimum	Essential		
8.1.3	assuring workers' access to medical care	Essential		
8.1.4	applying safety measures in accordance with legal requirements	Essential		
<b>8.2</b>	The organisation should be SA8000 certified.	Recommendation		

*The Auditor must check conformity to requirements via documented evidence (examples of labour contracts) and on site observations.*



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**Additional Comments:**

**CONCLUSIONS:**

It is important that the Auditor also completes the following fields

**The Fleet CONFORMS to Friend of the Sea requirements.**

**The Fleet DOES NOT CONFORM to Friend of the Sea requirements.**

The Auditor has found the following nonconformities:

**MAJOR NONCONFORMITY (to conform within 3 months)**

Specify

**MINOR NONCONFORMITY (proposal within 3 weeks and conformity within 1 year)**

Specify

**RECOMMENDATIONS (notification before the subsequent inspection)**