



The pathway from NEATFish to ISO 14001

The NEATFish standard is a world's first environmental standard for fishing tournaments that is easy to understand and use. However, organizers of 5 star tournaments may wish to seek an even more robust certification under an internationally recognized environmental standard. To do so, an explanation of the recommended pathway from NEATFish to ISO 14001 is included here and is also outlined in Appendix 3 of the NEATFish standard.

What is ISO 14001?

ISO 14001:2004 *Environmental Management Systems – Requirements with guidance for use* sets out the requirements for an organisation that wishes to put in place an environmental management system that takes into account significant environmental aspects of its operations and legal and other requirements. It applies to the environmental aspects that the organisation can control or influence, but does not itself state specific environmental performance criteria.

ISO 14001:2004 is applicable to any organisation that wishes to put in place, maintain and improve its environmental system and conformity can be demonstrated by:

- self-determination and self-declaration;
- seeking confirmation by an outside organisation such as a interested party or a regulator; or
- by obtaining certification from a third party certification body such as one accredited by JAS-ANZ.

A possible pathway to ISO 14001

1. First achieve a 5 star NEATFish rating.

2. Conduct a gap analysis, comparing your policies, procedures and activities against the requirements of the international standard. To assist you in this, Table 1 identifies broad areas of technical correspondence between the NEATFish standard and AS/NZS ISO 14001. The objective of the comparison is to demonstrate how both standards can be used together and to indicate the gaps that must be addressed if an organisation wants to progress to the ISO standard. It must be stressed that Table 1 may not accurately reflect the situation of your own organisation, because of its own individual sphere and style of operation and its specific environmental aspects. It indicates where there may in practice be similarity between the two standards. There may, conversely, be cross-connections that are not shown in Table 1. You may wish to seek the services of a JAS-ANZ accredited certification body to conduct the gap analysis for you. Several of them have checklists that you can use to gauge the completeness and maturity of your system.

3. It is likely that the principal areas that require attention will be a formal environmental policy and the documented and monitored procedures for maintaining and continually improving an environmental management system. The necessary policies and procedures should be developed and put in place progressively, building on your existing systems and experiences. There is no need to start again with a blank sheet of paper.

4. Do what is right for your own organisation. The standard is written in a way that provides lots of flexibility. Many organisations ignore that flexibility and try to



transplant into their own business overly bureaucratic systems that may work for someone else but add little value to their own operations.

5. Consult and involve your staff. They are the people who are familiar with the existing processes, and if they are committed to environmental improvement they may have the best suggestions. After all they are the ones who will have to make it work, and if they do not understand the new initiatives and support them, the system is bound to fail.

6. Focus on effective systems, not on gaining third-party certification as quickly as possible. Do not get caught up in the goal of achieving certification. The environmental policies and procedures and the environmental management system as a whole must work for you. Keep the system simple, avoid complicated processes and minimize paperwork (which is in itself a commendable environmental goal).

Table 1 is over the page

Table 1. Comparison of procedures and activities of the NEATFish Standard against the requirements of the international standard and AS/NZS ISO 14001

Standard for NEATFish	Section	Section	ISO 14001:2004
Scope	1.2	iv & 1	Introduction & Scope
Purpose of the Standard	1.3	iv & 1	Introduction & Scope
Who should apply the Standard	1.4	iv & 1	Introduction & Scope
Compatibility with other standards	1.5	iv	Introduction
Duration of certification	1.6		<i>(not addressed)</i>
Revision of the Standard	1.7		<i>(not addressed here, but normal ISO/AS practice is 5-yearly)</i>
How to use the Standard	2	iv & Annex A	Introduction & Guidance on the use of this International Standard
<i>(not addressed)</i>		3	Terms and definitions
<i>(not addressed)</i>		4.1	General requirements
<i>(not addressed)</i>		4.2	Environmental policy
Impacts on the environment	3.2	4.3	Planning
Environmental Assessment	3	4.3.1	Environmental aspects
Impacts on fish stocks	3.1		
Impacts on the environment	3.2		
Contribution to fisheries research and management	3.3	4.3.2	Legal and other requirements
Education	3.4.1; 3.5.1 & 3.6.1		
Gear regulations	3.4.2; 3.5.2 & 3.6.2		
Social amenity	4.1		
Impacts on the environment	3.2	4.3.3	Objectives, targets and programme(s)
Reducing impacts on fish stocks	3.5.3 3.6.3		
<i>(not addressed)</i>		4.4.1	Resources, roles, responsibility and authority
Education	3.4.1; 3.5.1 & 3.6.1	4.4.2	Competence, training and awareness
Social amenity	4.1	4.4.3	Communication
Social interaction	4.2		
Economic amenity	5.1		
Public safety	6.1		<i>(not addressed)</i>
Fulfilling evidence requirements	7.1	4.4.4	Documentation
Fulfilling evidence requirements	7.1	4.4.5	Control of documents
Impacts on fish stocks	3.1	4.4.6	Operational control
Impacts on the environment	3.2		
Contribution to fisheries research and management	3.3		
Catch and release tournaments	3.4		
Catch and retain tournaments	3.5		
Spearfishing tournaments	3.6		
Risk Management	6.1	4.4.7	Emergency preparedness and response
Fulfilling evidence requirements	7.1	4.5.1	Monitoring and measurement
Scoring and determination of NEATFish rating	8		
Scoring and determination of NEATFish rating	8	4.5.2	Evaluation of compliance
Complaints and appeals	App. 6	4.5.3	Nonconformity, corrective action and preventive action
Record keeping	7	4.5.4	Control of records
Fulfilling evidence requirements, scoring and determination of NEATFish rating	7.1 8	4.5.5	Internal audit
<i>(not addressed)</i>		4.6	Management review