

Fisheries Guidelines

Why does ABN AMRO have fisheries guidelines?

The bank believes that clients who responsibly manage the Environmental, Social and Ethical (ESE) aspects of their business are more successful in the longer term. Therefore, it is the bank's policy to closely manage the ESE impacts associated with the fisheries sector through thorough identification, mitigation, management and monitoring, governed by sustainability risk management and decision-making processes.

ABN AMRO recognizes that the fisheries sector faces several sustainability issues, including:

- *Overfishing (including by-catch)*: This has led to the breakdown of some sea ecosystems and several fishing industries whose catch has been greatly diminished.
- *Ecological disruption*: Fishing may disrupt food webs by targeting specific, in-demand species.
- *Destructive fishing methods*: Inappropriate gear may be used in the wrong habitat, such as bottom trawls in sea grass, macro algae or coral beds.
- *Social issues*: Employees may face health and safety issues (e.g. dangerous labour conditions and exposure to dangerous goods).
- *Local communities*: Fisheries can have adverse effects on local communities and protected areas, affecting the needs and rights of indigenous sustainable economic participation.

What is the purpose and scope of these guidelines?

These guidelines apply to all clients in the fisheries sector. They also apply to ABN AMRO as a whole, its subsidiaries world-wide and any outsourcing or joint venture that the bank enters into.

What standards does ABN AMRO apply to this sector?

ABN AMRO requires that the ESE risks associated with fisheries are adequately addressed through a risk management process of identification, mitigation, management and monitoring.

Under ABN AMRO's [Exclusion List](#), the bank will not engage with transactions or products linked to, amongst other activities:

- Trade in wildlife or wildlife products regulated under [CITES](#);
- Activities resulting in significant conversion or degradation of a critical habitat.

The bank has integrated sustainability issues into its lending operations for the fisheries sector. For all new credit proposals in this sector, ABN AMRO checks whether clients:

- Are in possession of the [Certificate Responsible Fishing](#) (CVV) label;

- Are in possession of or have applied for the [Marine Stewardship Council](#) (MSC) certification;
- Use fishing methods that are energy-efficient and do not damage marine life.

If the client does not (yet) have these certifications, the credit application should contain concrete information on the company's sustainability approach regarding fishing methods, discards, compliance with all local laws and regulations, etc.

How does ABN AMRO put its standards into practice?

In accordance with its [Sustainability Risk Policy for Lending](#) and [Sustainability Risk Policy for Investment](#), ABN AMRO puts its sustainability standards into practice through the following four steps:

- Screening and risk determination, using the bank's Global Sustainability Risk Index.
- Assessment of the client's sustainability performance by means of due diligence procedures, specifically focusing on those issues relevant to the fisheries sector.
- Approval of the transaction from a sustainability risk management perspective. If certain gaps have been identified in the client's sustainability performance, it is the bank's policy to agree on measures that enhance the client's sustainability performance or to require more intense monitoring by the bank.
- Monitoring the client's compliance. ABN AMRO's monitoring focuses on clients with a sustainability risk performance that is subject to improvement, in particular the client's compliance with conditions and mutually agreed measures, for as long as the bank maintains a financial interest in the transaction.