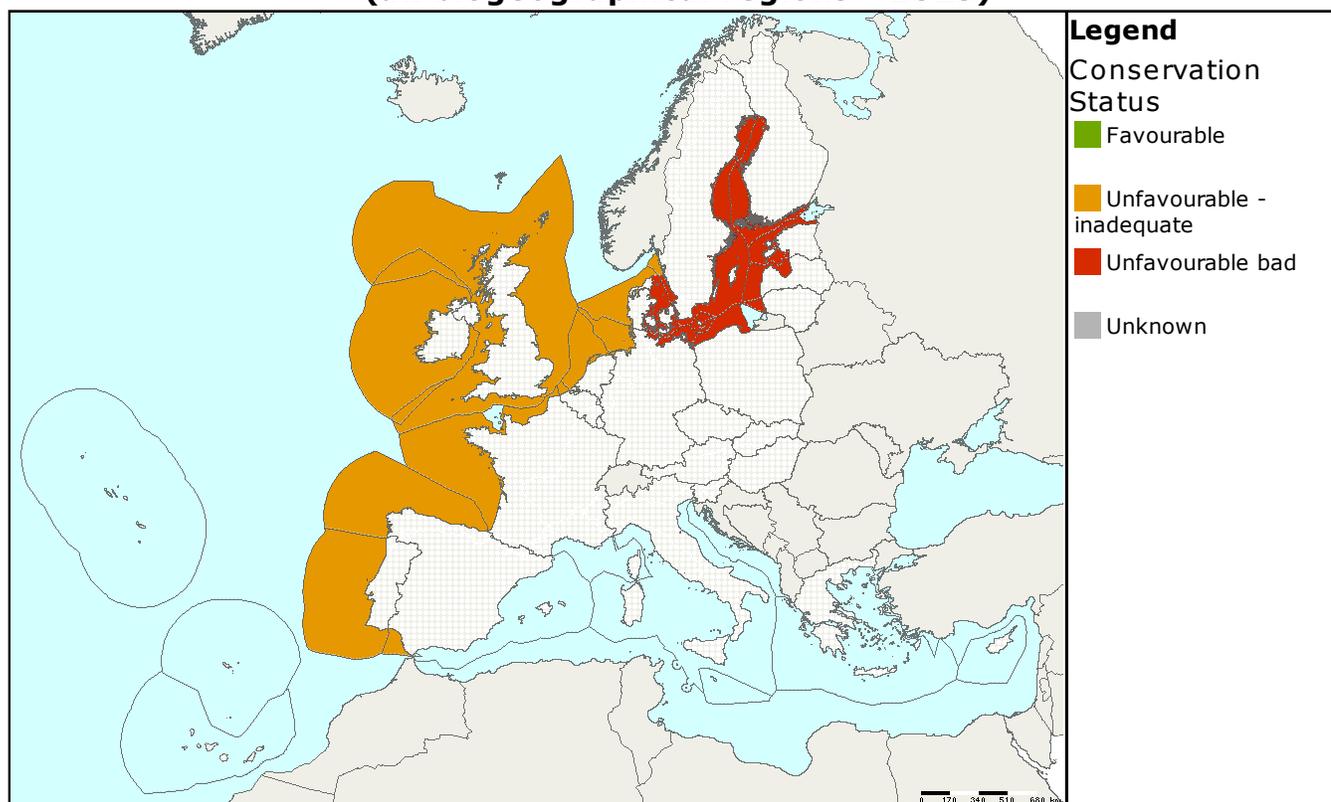


Species name: **Phoca vitulina**
Annex: **II, V**

Species group: **Mammals**
Regions: **ATL MATL MBAL MMAC**

Assessments of conservation status at the European level (all biogeographical regions - EU25)

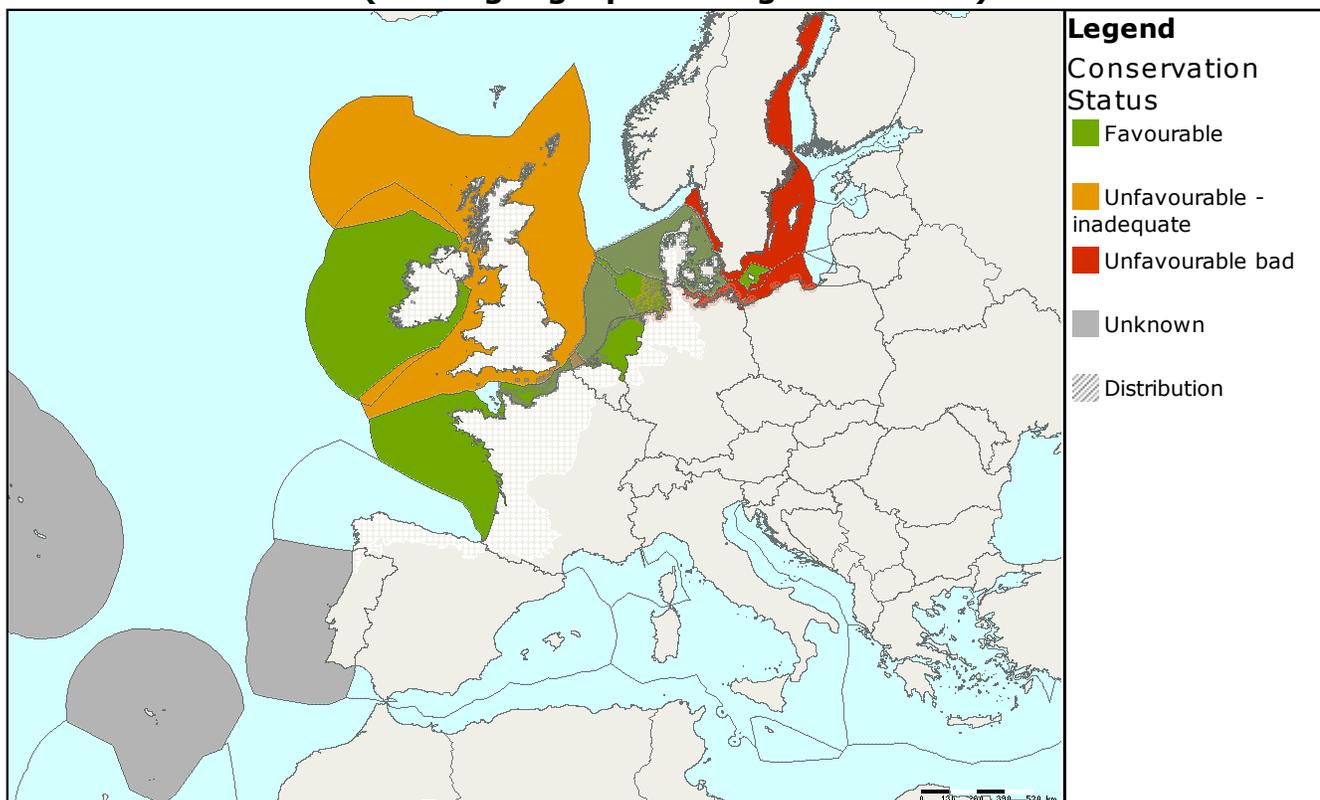


MS	Region	Conservation status assessment					Population size & unit	Population Trend
		Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects	Overall		
EU25	MATL						54958 - 58348 indiv.	
EU25	MBAL						11601 - 12601 indiv.	

The common seal is present in the eastern Atlantic region with its subspecies *Phoca vitulina vitulina*. It is regularly distributed throughout the entire marine Baltic region and in the marine Atlantic region from the United Kingdom and Ireland to mainland European coasts from Sweden and southwards to France (Brittany) and occasionally as far south as northern Portugal. The Baltic population was close to extinction in the 1970s and widespread declines have occurred in the United Kingdom, Kattegat and Skagerrak, and Wadden Sea populations. The species is vulnerable to fishery bycatch, culling, high pollution loads, disease events, and disturbance to haul out areas.

The overall conservation status in the marine Atlantic region is 'unfavourable-inadequate' and dictated largely by the status (decreasing trend and population numbers below the reference values) of the United Kingdom population which represents more than 50% of the marine region's population. In the Baltic on the other hand, the overall assessment is 'unfavourable-bad' due to the status of the Swedish population which represents almost half of the Baltic population. The species is listed as 'least concern' in the IUCN Red List of threatened species.

Assessments of conservation status as reported by Member states (all biogeographical regions - EU25)



MS	Region	Conservation status assessment					Size&unit	Population trend	Data quality
		Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects	Overall			
NL	ATL						4200 - 5500 indiv.	+	1
BE	MATL						10 - 50 indiv.	+	3
DE	MATL						9363 - (9363) indiv.	+	1
DK	MATL						6000 - 6000 indiv.	+	1
FR	MATL						180 - 230 indiv.	+	2
IE	MATL						2905 - 2905 indiv.	X	1
NL	MATL						4200 - 5500 indiv.	+	1
SE	MATL						4000 - 6000 indiv.	-	1
UK	MATL						28300 - (28300) indiv.	-	1
PT	MATL						N/A x	X	
DE	MBAL						1 - (1) indiv.	+	1
DK	MBAL						6600 - 6600 indiv.	+	1
SE	MBAL						5000 - 6000 indiv.	-	1
PL	MBAL						N/A grids	X	3
PT	MMAC						N/A x	X	

Data quality is based on as assessment by each Member State, 1 = good, 2 = medium, 3 = poor

This information is derived from the Member State national reports submitted to the European Commission under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive in 2007 and covering the period 2001-2006. More detailed information is available at <http://biodiversity.eionet.europa.eu/article17>