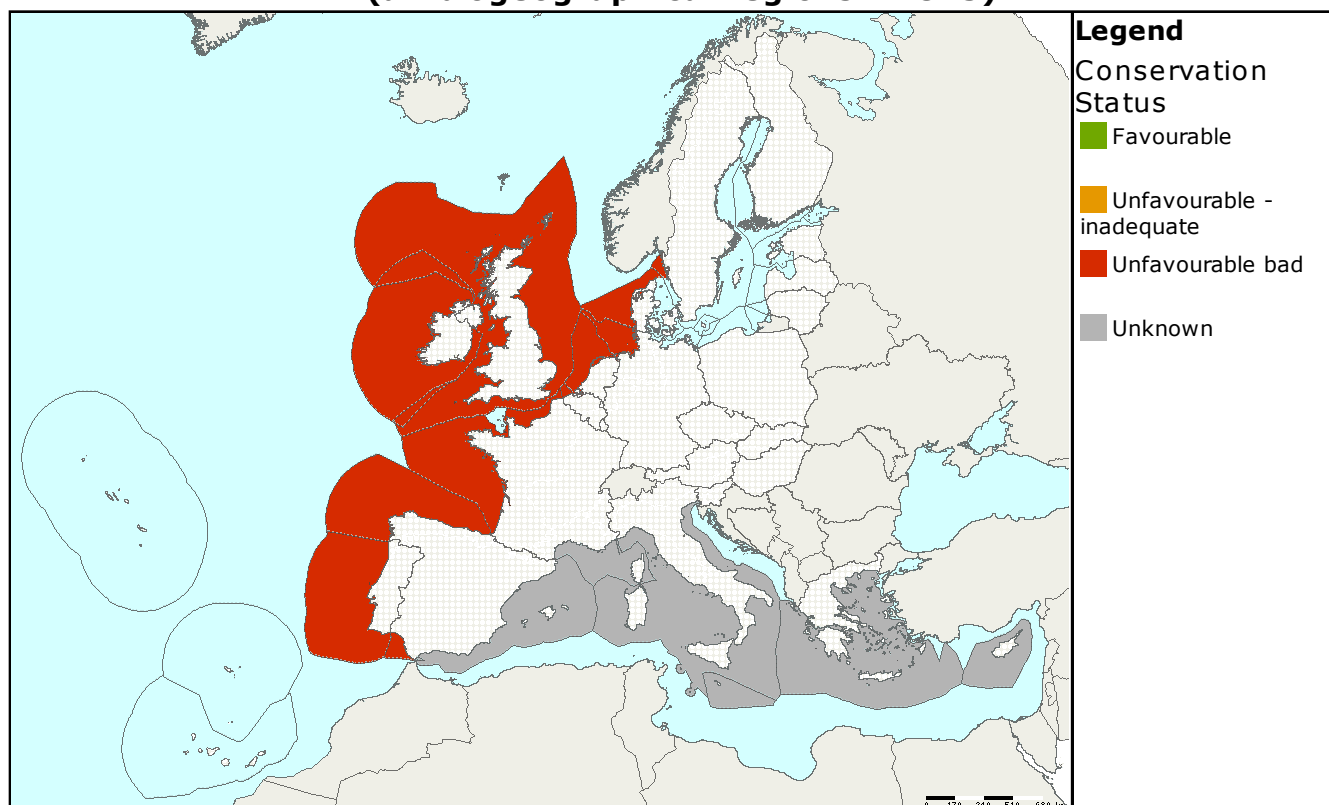


Species name: **Phymatholithon calcareum** Species group: **Plants**  
 Annex: **V** Regions: **MATL MMED**

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



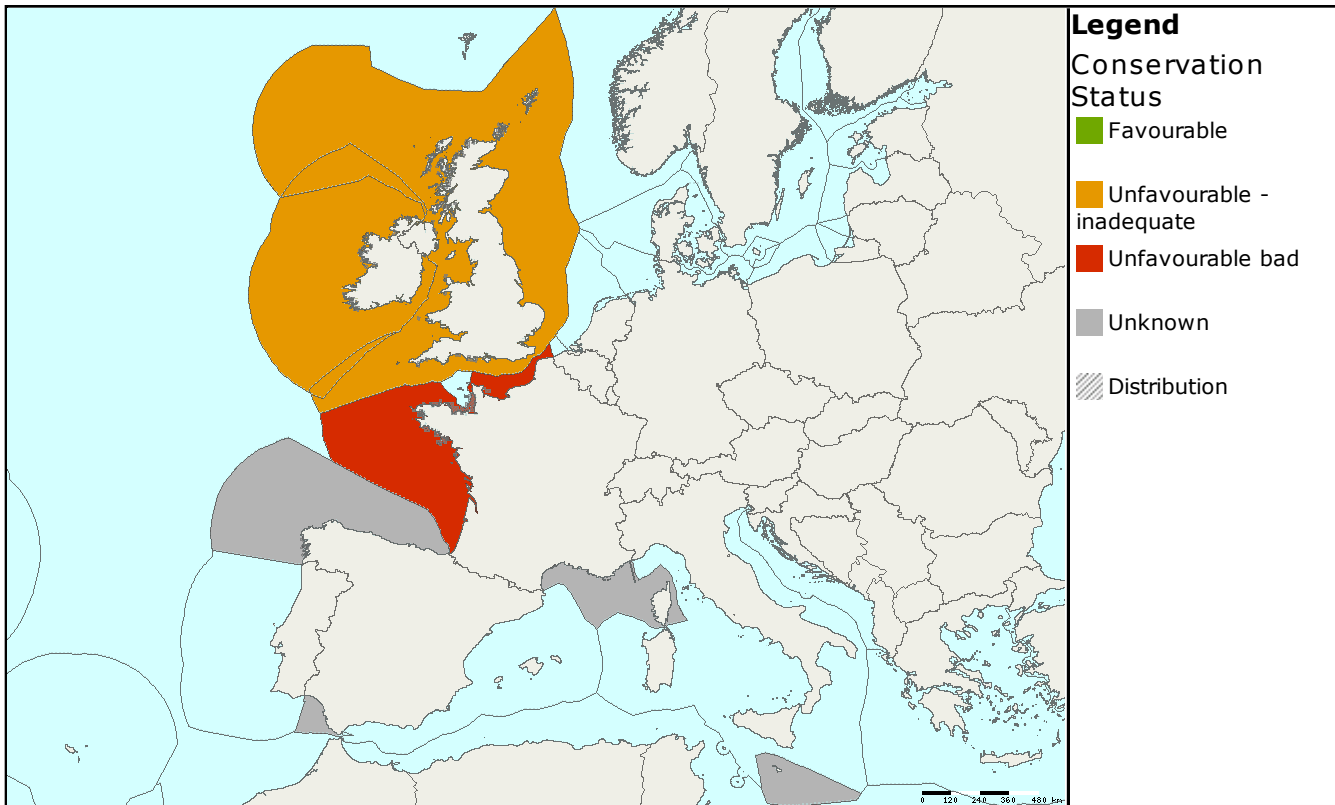
MS	Region	Conservation status assessment					Population size & unit	Population Trend
		Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects	Overall		
EU25	MATL	Unfavourable bad	Unfavourable bad	Unknown	Unfavourable - inadequate	Unfavourable bad	236 grids	
EU25	MMED	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	2 N grids	

The calcareous red algae *Phymatholithon calcareum* is a free-living Rhodophycean belonging to the order Corallinales, whose main constitutive characteristic is the presence of a carbonate layer. It is patchily distributed in the marine Atlantic region, with a northern distribution limit between the Orkney Islands and southern Norway and extending southwards until the Mediterranean sea. This species is found unattached on sediments composed of coarse sand and gravels and a high proportion of detritic components. This algae, when found at high densities together with *Lithothamnium corallioides*, can give rise to rhodolith beds (Maerl beds) that can be severely impacted by resource extraction and habitat degradation.

The overall assessment is 'unfavourable-bad' in the marine Atlantic region due to the high degradation of Maerl beds along most of France's (Brittany) coasts. No reports are available by Denmark and Portugal where Maerl beds are also known to occur. In the marine Mediterranean region the overall assessment status is 'unknown' due to the lack of data for the species in the reports from France and Malta. It is to be noted that Spain, Italy, Slovenia and Greece did not provide assessments for this species even if though it is known to be present in these countries' waters. Range, population and

distribution data is needed. This is particularly important since this is a species whose exploitation may be subject to management measures and since it constitutes a habitat on which trawling is forbidden in the Mediterranean Sea according to the EC fisheries regulation.

### 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			
ES	MATL						1000 - (1000) loc.	=	1
FR	MATL						N/A loc.	-	
IE	MATL						N/A x	X	3
UK	MATL						157 - (157) x	X	2
FR	MMED						N/A loc.	N/A	
MT	MMED						N/A x	X	3

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>