



## 1620 *Boreal Baltic islets and small islands*

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<b>Habitat code</b>	1620
<b>Priority</b>	No
<b>Habitat group</b>	Coastal habitats
<b>Regions</b>	Boreal, Continental

### **Habitat 1620 Boreal Baltic islets and small islands.**

The habitat is present in the Boreal and Continental region in the Baltic Sea. In the Boreal region, the habitat is present in Estonia, Finland and Sweden. In the Continental region, the habitat is present only in Sweden.

The habitat consists of groups of skerries, islets or single small islands, mainly in the outer archipelago or offshore areas. Composed of Precambrian, metamorphic bedrock, till or sediment. The vegetation of boreal Baltic islets and small islands is influenced by the brackish water environment, the ongoing land upheaval (in areas with intense land up-heaval) and the climatic conditions. The vegetation types are influenced by wind, dry weather, salt and many hours of sunlight. Land-upheaval causes a succession of different vegetation types. Bare bedrock is common. A lot of small islands have no trees. The vegetation is usually very sparse and consists often of mosaic-like pioneer vegetation communities. On some islands the species diversity is increased by nitrogenous excrement from birds. Many of the plants are xerophytic and lichens are common. Temporary or permanent rockpools are common and these are inhabited by a variety of aquatic plant and animal species. Boreal Baltic islets and small islands are important nesting sites for birds and resting sites for seals. The surrounding sublittoral vegetation is also included in the type 1620. In Sweden where the habitat is most common, the habitat was interpreted as skerries, islets or single small islands >0,1 ha and a maximum tree cover of 0,25 ha, with exposure class "sheltered" or higher (>4,000 m<sup>2</sup>/s). To the islands, a water part was added that corresponded to a depth of 15 meters. In a few cases, data of depth was not available, then a zone of 200 meters was added around the island.

Range and area are favourable in both regions where the habitat occur. In the Boreal region, structure functions and future prospects are also favourable in Estonia and Finland, but the major part of the area (95.4%) in Sweden is inadequate deteriorating (U1-). In the Continental region where the habitat only exist in Sweden, the structure functions and future prospects are also inadequate deteriorating (U1-). The overall conclusion is therefore inadequate deteriorating (U1-) for both the Boreal and Continental region.

Major reasons for inadequate structure and function and future prospects for Boreal Baltic islets and small islands is the water quality that suffers from the same problems as the habitat 1170 reefs. Human induced eutrophication causes increase in turbidity, silting and growth of annual filamentous algae, which narrows down the possible depth range for the macrophytes typical to the habitat type. Terrestrial parts suffer from human related disturbances, which affect the quality of the islets and islands as nesting or resting places for seals and birds. Other major threats in Finland include alien species, mostly American mink, and also increasing plans to build windmills.

# Habitat: 1620 *Boreal Baltic islets and small islands*

Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

For the Boreal region Estonia and Finland assessed the habitat as favourable both in 2007 and in 2013. Sweden assessed the habitat as favourable in 2007 and as inadequate deteriorating (U1-) in 2013. The change is no genuine change but due to more accurate data and improved knowledge (b1). Since Sweden has 95.4% of the area of the habitat, the assessment is inadequate deteriorating and did not change between periods.

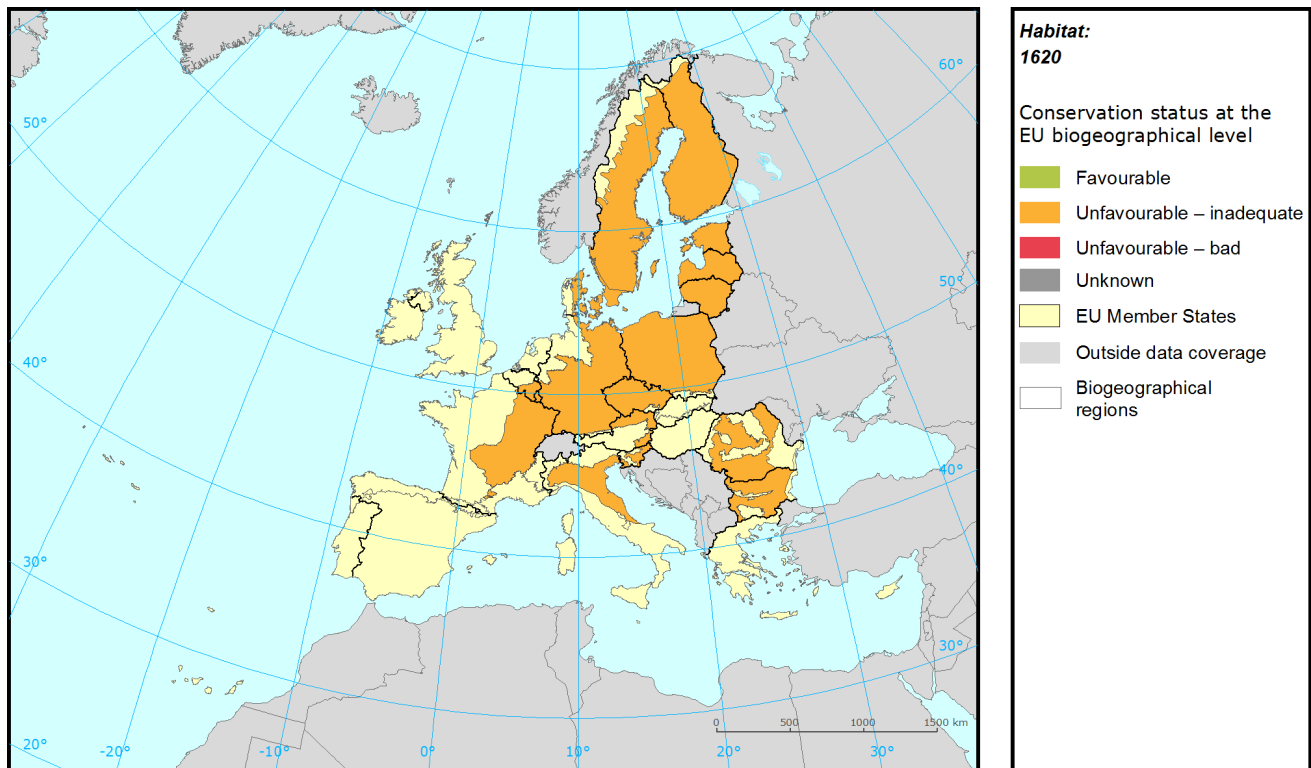
In the Continental region, the habitat only exists in Sweden. Sweden assessed the habitat as favourable in 2007 and as inadequate deteriorating (U1-) in 2013. The change is no genuine change but due to more accurate data and improved knowledge (b1). Thus, the assessment is inadequate deteriorating and did not change between periods.

The overall assessment for Boreal Baltic islets and small islands in total, is thus inadequate deteriorating, and did not change between periods.

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Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

## Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level



Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Area	Structure & Functions	Future prospects					
BOR	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	-	96	FV	Not genuine
CON	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	-	4	FV	Not genuine

See the endnote for more information<sup>1</sup>

# Habitat: 1620 *Boreal Baltic islets and small islands*

Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

## Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



### **Habitat: 1620**

Distribution and conservation status at the Member State level

- |                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Favourable                | EU Member States       |
| Unfavourable – inadequate | Outside data coverage  |
| Unfavourable – bad        | Biogeographical region |
| Unknown                   |                        |

The map shows both Conservation Status and distribution using a 10 km x 10 km grid. Conservation status is assessed at biogeographical level. Therefore the representation in each grid cell is only illustrative.

# Habitat: 1620 *Boreal Baltic islets and small islands*

Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

MS	Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
		Range	Area	Structure & functions	Future prospects					
EE	BOR	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		14.6	FV	
FI	BOR	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		38.1	FV	
SE	BOR	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	-	47.4	FV	Better data
SE	CON	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	-	100.0	FV	Better data

Knowing that not all changes in conservation status between the reporting periods were genuine, Member States were asked to give the reasons for changes in conservation status. Bulgaria and Romania only joined the EU in 2007 and Greece did not report for 2007-12 so no reason is given for change for these countries. Greek data shown above is from 2001-06.

## Main pressures and threats reported by Member States

Member States were asked to report the 20 most important threats and pressures using an agreed hierarchical list which can be found on the [Article 17 Reference Portal](#). Pressures are activities which are currently having an impact on the habitats and threats are activities expected to have an impact in the near future. Pressures and threats were ranked in three classes 'high, medium and low importance'; the tables below only show threats and pressures classed as 'high', for some habitats there were less than ten threats or pressures reported as highly important.

### Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' pressures

Code	Activity	Frequency
I01	Invasive alien species	100

### Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
H01	Pollution to surface waters	100

# Habitat: 1620 *Boreal Baltic islets and small islands*

Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

## Proportion of population covered by the Natura 2000 network

Member States were asked to report the area of the habitat which is covered by the Natura 2000 network. The percentage of the habitat area covered by the network was estimated by comparing the area within the network and the total area in the biogeographical/marine region.

### Percentage of coverage by Natura 2000 sites in biogeographical/marine region

	BOR	CON
EE	100	
FI	24	
SE	33	27

See the endnotes for more information<sup>ii</sup>

## Most frequently reported conservation measures

Member States were asked to report up to 20 conservation measures being implemented for this habitat using an agreed list which can be found on the Article 17 Reference Portal. Member States were further requested to highlight up to five most important ('highly important') measures; the table below only shows measures classed as 'high', for many habitats there were less than ten measures reported as highly important.

### Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' conservation measures

Code	Measure	Frequency
5.0	Other marine-related measures	22
7.3	Regulation/ Management of fishery in marine and brackish systems	22
8.3	Managing marine traffic	22
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites	11
6.2	Establishing wilderness areas/ allowing succession	11
7.1	Regulation/ Management of hunting and taking	11

This information is derived from the Member State national reports submitted to the European Commission under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive in 2013 and covering the period 2007-2012. More detailed information, including the MS reports, is available at:

<http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/habitat/summary/?group=Coastal+habitats&period=3&subject=1620>

# Habitat: 1620 *Boreal Baltic islets and small islands*

Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

**i Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level:** Current Conservation Status (Current CS) shows the status for the reporting period 2007-2012, Previous Conservation Status (Previous CS) for the reporting period 2000-2006. Reason for change in conservation status between the reporting periods indicates whether the changes in the status were genuine or not genuine. Previous Conservation Status was not assessed for Steppic, Black Sea and Marine Black Sea regions. For these regions the Previous status is therefore considered as 'unknown'. The percentage of the habitat area occurring within the biogeographical/marine region (% in region) is calculated based on the area of GIS distribution.

**ii Percentage of coverage by Natura 2000 sites in biogeographical/marine region:** In some cases the population size within the Natura 2000 network has been estimated using a different methodology to the estimate of overall population size and this can lead to percentage covers greater than 100%. In such case the value has been given as 100% and highlighted with an asterisk (\*). The value 'x' indicates that the Member State has not reported the habitat area and/or the coverage by Natura 2000. No information is available for Greece. The values are only provided for regions, in which the occurrence of the habitat has been reported by the Member States.