



1650 *Boreal Baltic narrow inlets*

Habitat code	1650
Priority	No
Habitat group	Coastal habitats
Regions	Marine Baltic

Habitat 1650 Boreal Baltic narrow inlets

The habitat is endemic to the Marine Baltic region & restricted to Finland and the east coast of Sweden. The bays are long and narrow and are partly separated from the open sea by a submerged sill. The enclosed nature of the bays gives natural enrichment of sediments with diverse fauna and flora, but also makes the bays more sensitive to threats and pressures.

Range and area are favourable, but structure functions and future prospects are inadequate deteriorating (U1-) in Finland and bad deteriorating (U2-) in Sweden with the overall conclusion for the region bad deteriorating (U2-). This is in line with the HELCOM Red List of Baltic Sea underwater biotopes, habitats and biotope complexes, that assess the habitat as vulnerable (VU).

Water quality is an important factor for the state of the habitat. Increased nutrient loads results in eutrophication. Eutrophication increases primary production. That contributes to turbidity and reduces the amount of light available to submerged plants, thus narrowing the possible depth range for the macrophytes typical to the habitat type. Eutrophication also enhance growth of annual filamentous algae. This negatively affects the perennial macrophyte communities as the filamentous algae can grow on top of them and form loose, drifting algal mats that suffocate the macrophytes. The decomposing algal mats also use up oxygen and may cause hypoxia. Hypoxia releases the nutrient phosphorous that is bound in sediments, thus contributing to increased eutrophication.

Depending on the degree of urbanization in the catchment area, not only nutrients but also harmful substances end up in the water.

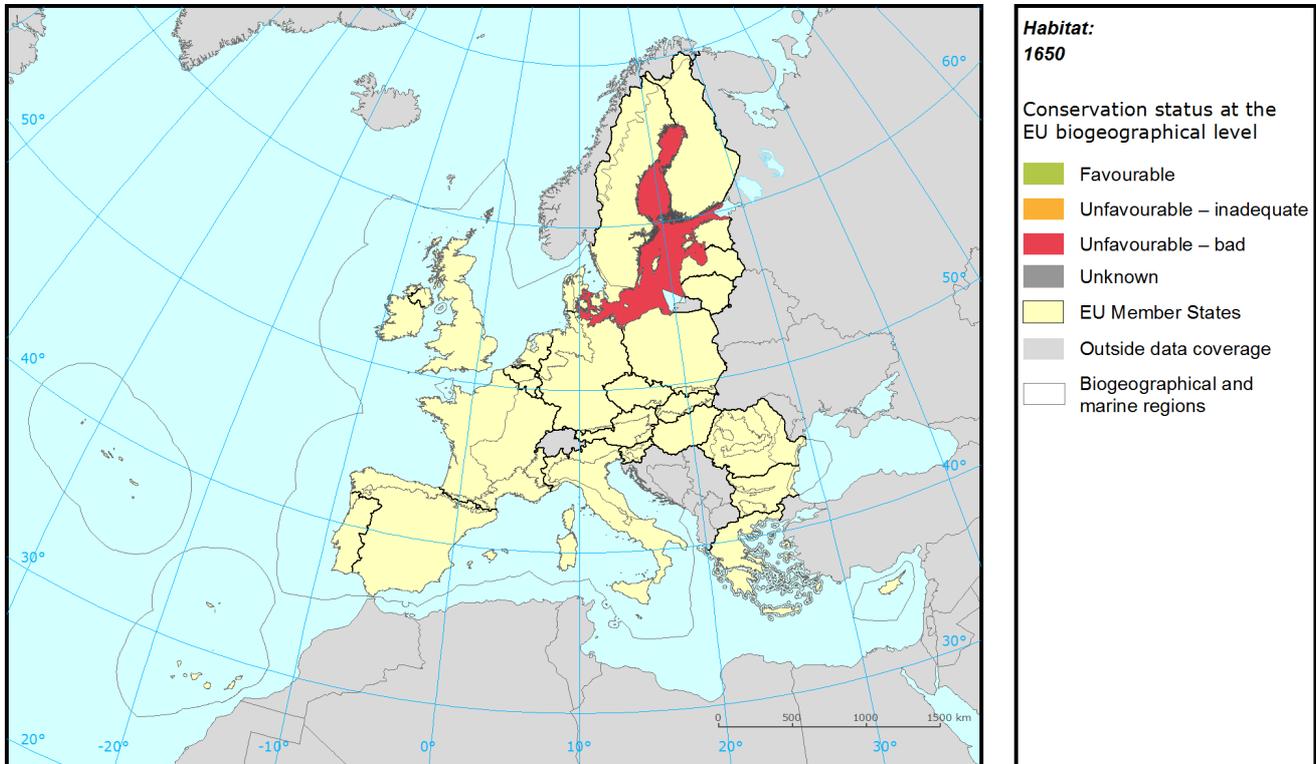
Continued construction on the shores has also contributed to the human pressures on the habitat type with dredging and dumping of dredged deposits and construction activities in shallow water or near the shoreline. The effects include both direct mechanical damage to the habitat type and also contributes to eutrophication, resulting from increased turbidity and resuspension of nutrients.

The habitat was assessed in Boreal region in 2007 and in the Marine Baltic region in 2013. For Finland the assessments are the same between periods (inadequate deteriorating, U1-). Sweden assessed the habitat as inadequate stable (U1) in 2007 and as bad deteriorating (U2-) in 2013. The change is no genuine change but due to more accurate data and improved knowledge (b1). Thus, the assessment is unfavourable 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					
MBAL	FV	FV	U2	U2	U2	-	100	U1	Not genuine

See the endnote for more informationⁱ

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Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



Habitat: 1650

Distribution and conservation status at the Member State level

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Favourable |  EU Member States |
|  Unfavourable – inadequate |  Outside data coverage |
|  Unfavourable – bad |  Biogeographical and marine regions |
|  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.

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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					
FI	MBAL	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	-	54.6		
SE	MBAL	FV	FV	U2	U2	U2	-	45.4	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
H01	Pollution to surface waters	40
E03	Discharges (household/industrial)	20
G01	Outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities	20
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	20

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
E03	Discharges (household/industrial)	25
G01	Outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities	25
H01	Pollution to surface waters	25
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	25

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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

MBAL	
FI	38
SE	1

See the endnotes for more informationⁱⁱ

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	33
7.3	Regulation/ Management of fishery in marine and brackish systems	33
8.3	Managing marine traffic	33

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=1650>

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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.