



## Cottus gobio

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|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>Annex</b>         | II  |
| <b>Priority</b>      | No  |
| <b>Species group</b> | Fish  |
| <b>Regions</b>       | Alpine, Atlantic, Boreal, Continental, Mediterranean, Pannonian |

The bullhead is a freshwater fish distributed across six biogeographical regions in Europe. It lives on clean and well-oxygenated gravel and rock bottoms in streams, rivers and lakes, in estuaries and in shallow brackish waters of the Baltic Sea.

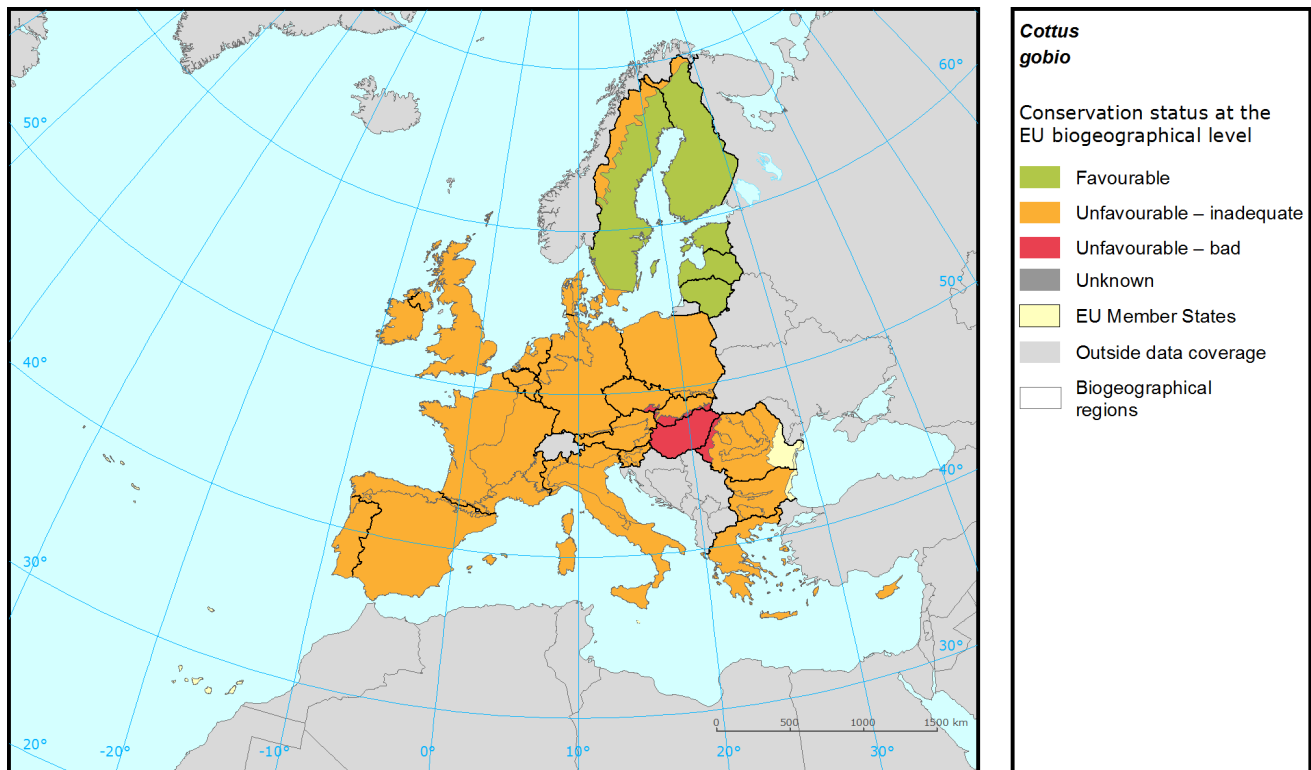
In Alpine region it is widely distributed with favourable status in all parameters in most countries. The overall status is however 'unfavourable-inadequate' due to unfavourable situation in Italy and Spain and unfavourable future prospects in Bulgaria. For Atlantic region it is also widely distributed but the status is unfavourable in 5 of 6 MS. The overall status in the region in 2013 is 'unfavourable-inadequate. In the Continental region it is reported from 12 member states having favourable status in 7, 'unfavourable-inadequate' in Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic and France, and in Italy it is 'unfavourable-bad'. The overall status in the region in 2013 is 'unfavourable-inadequate. For Boreal region overall status is favourable despite being 'unfavourable-inadequate' in Estonia and 'unfavourable-bad' in Latvia. In Mediterranean region species only occurs in France and here it is assessed as unfavourable-inadequate'. In Pannonian region species is only present in Hungary and Slovakia and here situation is assessed as unfavourable-bad. Compared to 2007 the assessment have changed in several regions. Status has changed due to taxonomic review and new data from unknown to unfavourable-inadequate in the Atlantic region, and from favourable to unfavourable-inadequate in the Continental region. The change from unfavourable-inadequate to unfavourable-bad in Pannonian region is however a genuine change due to decreasing population in Slovakia.

Main threats identified are management of aquatic and bank vegetation, invasive species and pollution from agricultural activities. IUCN assess this species as Least Concern but note that there might be a problem with taxonomy and maybe this species is in fact several separate species.

# Species: *Cottus gobio*

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## Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level



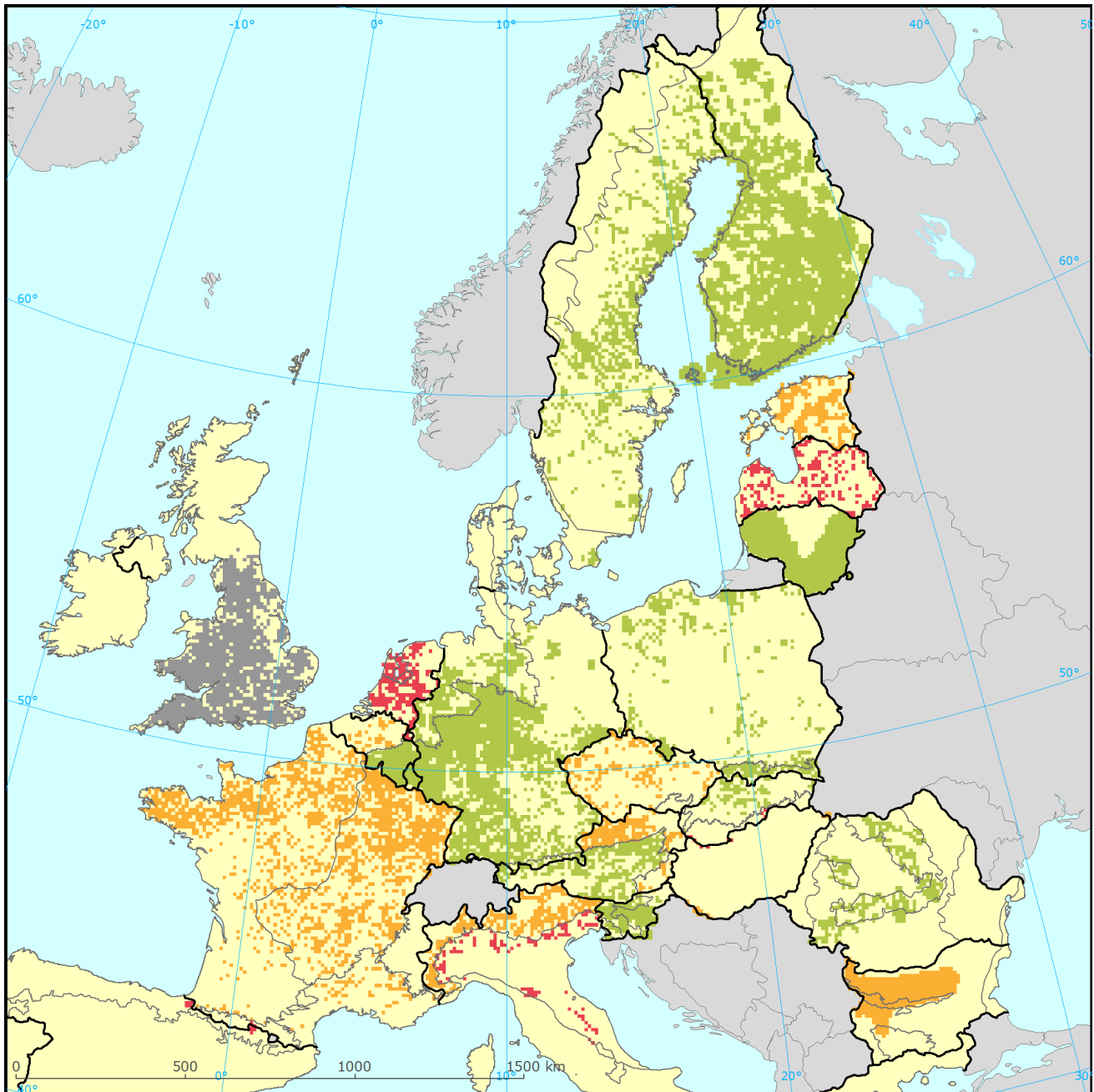
| Region | Conservation status (CS) of parameters |            |         |                  | Current CS | Trend in CS | % in region | Previous CS | Reason for change |
|--------|--|------------|---------|------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
|        | Range                                  | Population | Habitat | Future prospects |            |             |             |             |                   |
| ALP    | U1                                     | FV         | FV      | U1               | U1         | -           | 10          | U1          |                   |
| ATL    | FV                                     | XX         | U1      | XX               | U1         | =           | 21          | XX          | Not genuine       |
| BOR    | FV                                     | FV         | FV      | FV               | FV         | =           | 36          | FV          |                   |
| CON    | FV                                     | FV         | U1      | U1               | U1         | =           | 33          | FV          | Not genuine       |
| MED    | FV                                     | FV         | U1      | U1               | U1         | =           | 0.65        | U1          |                   |
| PAN    | FV                                     | U2         | U1      | XX               | U2         | -           | 0.28        | U1          | Genuine           |

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

# Species: *Cottus gobio*

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## Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



### *Cottus gobio*

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.

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| MS | Region | Conservation status of parameters |            |         |                  | Current CS | Trend in CS | % in region | Previous CS | Reason for change |
|----|--------|-----------------------------------|------------|---------|------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
|    |        | Range                             | Population | Habitat | Future prospects |            |             |             |             |                   |
| AT | ALP    | FV                                | FV         | FV      | FV               | FV         |             | 23.2        | FV          |                   |
| BG | ALP    | FV                                | FV         | FV      | U1               | U1         | -           | 5.5         |             |                   |
| DE | ALP    | FV                                | FV         | FV      | FV               | FV         |             | 2.2         | FV          |                   |
| ES | ALP    | U2                                | U2         | U1      | U2               | U2         | -           | 0.5         | U1          | Better data       |
| FR | ALP    | FV                                | FV         | FV      | FV               |            |             | 7.8         | FV          |                   |
| IT | ALP    | U1                                | U1         | U1      | U1               | U1         | -           | 21.5        | U1          | No data           |
| PL | ALP    | FV                                | FV         | FV      | FV               | FV         |             | 6.5         | FV          |                   |
| RO | ALP    | FV                                | FV         | FV      | FV               | FV         |             | 17.4        |             |                   |
| SE | ALP    | FV                                | FV         | FV      | FV               | FV         |             | 2.8         | FV          |                   |
| SI | ALP    | FV                                | FV         | FV      | FV               | FV         |             | 5.3         | U1          | Better data       |
| SK | ALP    | FV                                | FV         | FV      | FV               | FV         |             | 7.3         | XX          | Better data       |
| BE | ATL    | FV                                | U1         | U1      | U1               | U1         | +           | 1.7         | U1+         | Genuine           |
| DE | ATL    | FV                                | FV         | XX      | FV               | FV         |             | 10.4        | FV          | Better data       |
| ES | ATL    | U1                                | U2         | U1      | U1               | U2         | -           | 0.2         | XX          | Better data       |
| FR | ATL    | U1                                | U1         | U1      | U1               | U1         | =           | 32.5        | FV          | Changed method    |
| NL | ATL    | FV                                | U2         | U1      | U2               | U2         | -           | 7.9         | U1          | Genuine           |
| UK | ATL    | FV                                | XX         | FV      | XX               | XX         |             | 47.3        | XX          |                   |
| EE | BOR    | FV                                | U1         | U1      | U1               | U1         | =           | 5.2         | XX          | Better data       |
| FI | BOR    | FV                                | FV         | FV      | FV               | FV         |             | 56.5        | FV          |                   |
| LT | BOR    | FV                                | FV         | FV      | FV               | FV         |             | 12.1        | FV          |                   |
| LV | BOR    | FV                                | U2         | XX      | XX               | U2         | =           | 4.9         | FV          | Genuine           |
| SE | BOR    | FV                                | FV         | FV      | FV               | FV         |             | 21.2        | FV          |                   |
| AT | CON    | FV                                | FV         | U1      | U1               | U1         | -           | 4.1         | U1          | Changed method    |
| BE | CON    | FV                                | FV         | FV      | FV               | FV         |             | 3.1         | FV          |                   |
| BG | CON    | FV                                | FV         | FV      | U1               | U1         | -           | 8.2         |             |                   |
| CZ | CON    | FV                                | FV         | U1      | U1               | U1         | =           | 4.5         | U1+         | Genuine           |
| DE | CON    | FV                                | FV         | FV      | FV               | FV         |             | 38.4        | FV          |                   |
| FR | CON    | U1                                | U1         | U1      | U1               | U1         | =           | 22.8        | FV          | Better data       |
| IT | CON    | U1                                | U2         | U1      | U2               | U2         | -           | 2.9         | U1          | Better data       |
| LU | CON    | FV                                | FV         | FV      | FV               | FV         |             | 0.6         | FV          |                   |
| PL | CON    | FV                                | XX         | FV      | FV               | FV         |             | 9.5         | FV          |                   |
| RO | CON    | FV                                | FV         | FV      | FV               | FV         |             | 3.1         |             |                   |
| SE | CON    | FV                                | FV         | FV      | FV               | FV         |             | 0.4         | FV          |                   |
| SI | CON    | FV                                | FV         | FV      | FV               | FV         |             | 2.4         | U1          | Better data       |

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| MS | Region | Conservation status of parameters |            |         |                  | Current CS | Trend in CS | % in region | Previous CS | Reason for change |
|----|--------|-----------------------------------|------------|---------|------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
|    |        | Range                             | Population | Habitat | Future prospects |            |             |             |             |                   |
| FR | MED    | U1                                | U1         | U1      | U1               | =          | 100.0       | U1          |             |                   |
| HU | PAN    | FV                                | FV         | FV      | U1               | =          | 64.5        | U1          | Better data |                   |
| SK | PAN    | FV                                | U2         | U1      | XX               | -          | 35.5        | U1-         | Genuine     |                   |

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 species 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 species there were less than ten threats or pressures reported as highly important.

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

| Code | Activity   | Frequency |
|------|--|-----------|
| J02  | Changes in water bodies conditions                     | 45        |
| J03  | Other changes to ecosystems                            | 18        |
| H01  | Pollution to surface waters                            | 16        |
| I01  | Invasive alien species                                 | 7         |
| K03  | Interspecific faunal relations                         | 7         |
| C03  | Production of renewable energy (abiotic)               | 2         |
| E01  | Urbanisation and human habitation                      | 2         |
| H06  | Excess energy (noise, light, heating, electromagnetic) | 2         |

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

| <b>Code</b> | <b>Activity</b>                          | <b>Frequency</b> |
|-------------|--|------------------|
| J02         | Changes in water bodies conditions       | 39               |
| J03         | Other changes to ecosystems              | 20               |
| H01         | Pollution to surface waters              | 11               |
| I01         | Invasive alien species                   | 7                |
| K03         | Interspecific faunal relations           | 7                |
| M01         | Abiotic changes (climate change)         | 5                |
| A09         | Irrigation in agriculture                | 2                |
| C03         | Production of renewable energy (abiotic) | 2                |
| E01         | Urbanisation and human habitation        | 2                |
| H02         | Pollution to groundwater                 | 2                |

## Proportion of population covered by the Natura 2000 network

For species listed in the Annex II of the Directive Member States were asked to report the population size within the Natura 2000 network. The percentage of species population covered by the network was estimated by comparing the population size within the network and the total population size in the biogeographical/marine region.

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

|           | ALP | ATL | BOR | CON | MED | PAN |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| <b>AT</b> | 10  |     |     | 25  |     |     |
| <b>BE</b> |     | 45  |     | 67  |     |     |
| <b>BG</b> | 60  |     |     | 20  |     |     |
| <b>CZ</b> |     |     |     | 54  |     |     |
| <b>DE</b> | 90  | 2   |     | 50  |     |     |
| <b>EE</b> |     |     | 70  |     |     |     |
| <b>ES</b> | 100 | 50  |     |     |     |     |
| <b>FI</b> |     |     | x   |     |     |     |
| <b>FR</b> | 0   | 10  |     | 32  | 7   |     |
| <b>HU</b> |     |     |     |     |     | 100 |
| <b>IT</b> | x   |     |     | x   |     |     |
| <b>LT</b> |     |     | 100 |     |     |     |
| <b>LU</b> |     |     |     | 46  |     |     |
| <b>LV</b> |     |     | 5   |     |     |     |
| <b>NL</b> |     | 45  |     |     |     |     |
| <b>PL</b> | x   |     |     | 7   |     |     |
| <b>RO</b> | 100 |     |     | 100 |     |     |
| <b>SE</b> | 22  |     | 11  | 19  |     |     |
| <b>SI</b> | 45  |     |     | 16  |     |     |
| <b>SK</b> | 20  |     |     |     |     | 5   |
| <b>UK</b> |     | 12  |     |     |     |     |

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

### Most frequently reported conservation measures

For species listed in the Annex II of the Directive Member States were asked to report up to 20 conservation measures being implemented for this species 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 species there were less than ten measures reported as highly important.

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

| Code | Measure  | Frequency |
|------|--|-----------|
| 4.2  | Restoring/improving the hydrological regime                  | 24        |
| 4.1  | Restoring/improving water quality                            | 19        |
| 6.3  | Legal protection of habitats and species                     | 19        |
| 7.2  | Regulation/ Management of fishery in limnic systems          | 11        |
| 4.3  | Managing water abstraction                                   | 8         |
| 6.1  | Establish protected areas/sites                              | 8         |
| 7.4  | Specific single species or species group management measures | 4         |
| 4.0  | Other wetland-related measures                               | 2         |
| 7.0  | Other species management measures                            | 2         |
| 6.0  | Other spatial measures                                       | 1         |

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/species/summary/?group=Fish&period=3&subject=Cottus+gobio>



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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 species population 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 species population 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 species has been reported by the Member States.