



Halichoerus grypus

Annex	II, V
Priority	No
Species group	Mammals
Regions	Marine Atlantic, Marine Baltic, Marine Macaronesian

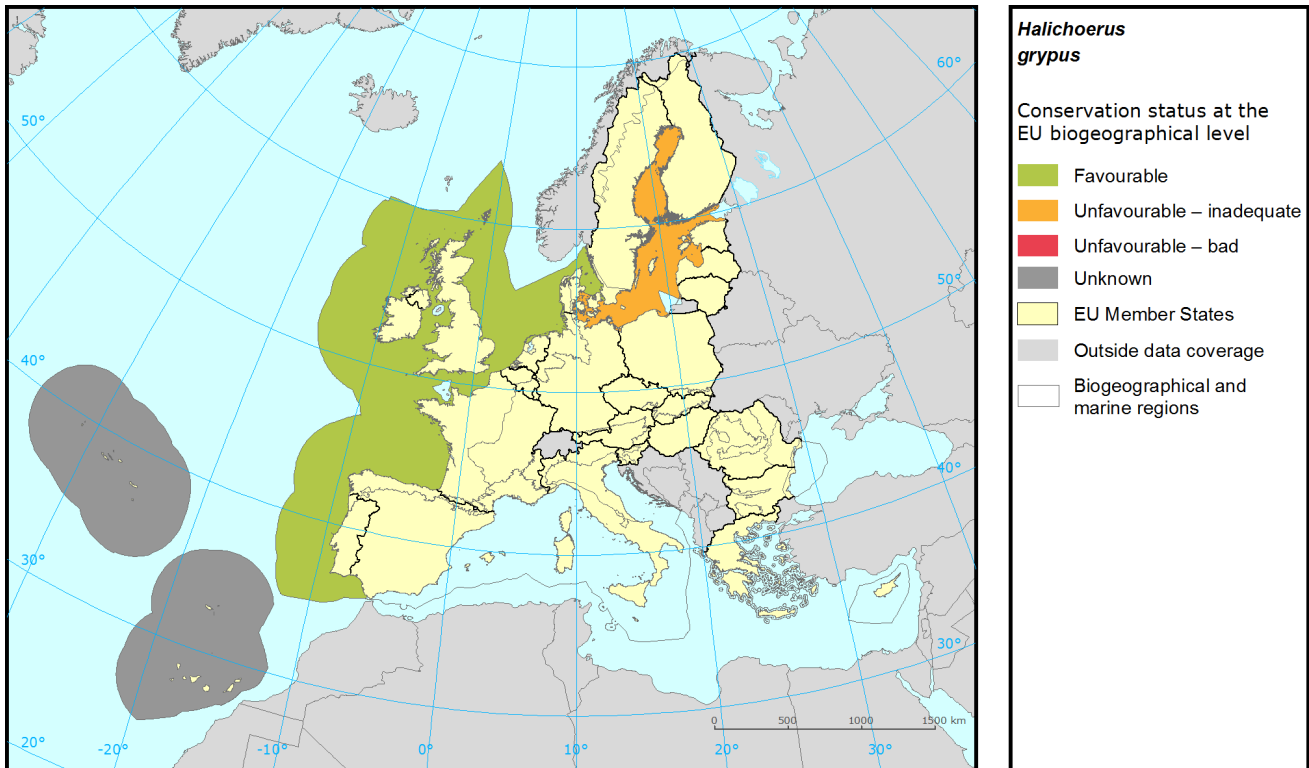
Halichoerus grypus

The grey seal is present in the marine Atlantic region along the coasts of the United Kingdom, Ireland, and on the European mainland coasts from Sweden to France (Brittany). Another geographically isolated population, considered a separate subspecies, is present in the marine Baltic region.

The overall assessment in the marine Atlantic region is 'favourable' the same as in 2007 since more than 87% of the Atlantic population lies in the United Kingdom waters even though in the southeastern North Sea countries such as Belgium, the Netherlands and Denmark expressed an unfavourable-bad or inadequate conclusion for at least one of four parameters (range, population, habitat, or future prospects). In the marine Baltic region the status is 'unfavourable-inadequate' due the generally unfavourable status of the species with the exception of Finland, Estonia and Latvia. The enclosed sea characteristic and the high pollution load of the Baltic Sea play a significant role in the endangered status of this species. The status in 2013 is however an improvement from 2007 when status was 'unfavourable-bad'. The change is deemed genuine since there is a genuine improvement from 'unfavourable-bad' to 'unfavourable- inadequate' in Sweden which holds the largest population (39% of gridded distribution area). It is reported but not assessed as a vagrant species in Portugal in the Marine Macaronesian region. The species is listed, on a global level as 'least concern' in the IUCN Red List of threatened species.

Species: *Halichoerus grypus*
Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level

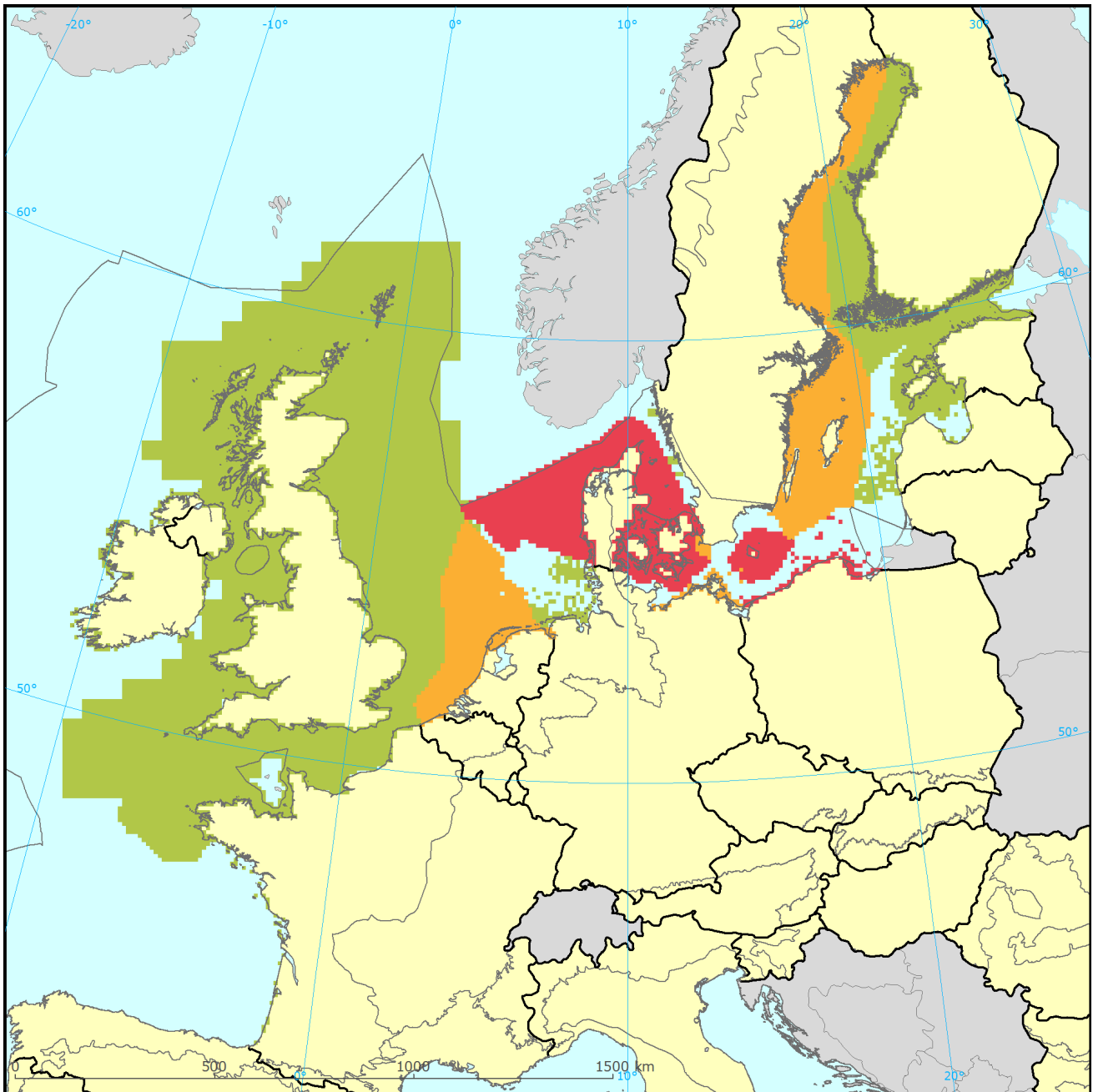


Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
MATL	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV	=	74	FV	
MBAL	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	+	26	U2	Genuine
MMAC					XX			XX	

See the endnote for more informationⁱ








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Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



Halichoerus grypus

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 of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
		Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
BE	MATL	U1	U1	U1	U1	x	0.4	U1	Better data	
DE	MATL	FV	FV	FV	FV		1.2	U1	Genuine	
DK	MATL	FV	U2	FV	U2	+	9.3	U2+		
FR	MATL	FV	FV	XX	FV		8.9	XX	Genuine	
IE	MATL	FV	FV	FV	FV		1.5	FV		
NL	MATL	FV	FV	U1	U1	+	6.9	U1		
PT	MATL							XX		
SE	MATL	FV	FV	FV	FV		0.2	FV		
UK	MATL	FV	FV	FV	FV		71.7	FV		
DE	MBAL	FV	XX	U1	U1	+	1.6	U2	Changed method	
DK	MBAL	FV	U2	FV	U2	+	12.7	U2+		
EE	MBAL	FV	FV	FV	FV		10.0	U1	Changed method	
FI	MBAL	FV	FV	FV	FV		29.9	FV		
LV	MBAL	FV	FV	FV	FV		4.1	XX	Better data	
PL	MBAL	U1	U1	U2	U1	+	2.5	U2	Genuine	
SE	MBAL	FV	FV	U1	FV	+	39.2	U2+	Genuine	
PT	MMAC							XX		

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.

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Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' pressures

Code	Activity	Frequency
H03	Pollution to marine waters	22
C01	Mining and quarrying	11
C03	Production of renewable energy (abiotic)	11
D03	Shipping lanes and ports	11
E02	Industrial or commercial areas	11
F01	Marine and freshwater aquaculture	11
F02	Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	11
G01	Outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities	11

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
F02	Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	22
C01	Mining and quarrying	11
C03	Production of renewable energy (abiotic)	11
D03	Shipping lanes and ports	11
E02	Industrial or commercial areas	11
F01	Marine and freshwater aquaculture	11
G01	Outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities	11
H03	Pollution to marine waters	11

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

	MATL	MBAL
BE	26	
DE	100	x
DK	x	x
EE		93
FI		62
FR	100	
IE	94	
LV		x
NL	45	
PL		13
SE	100	60
UK	34	

See the endnotes for more informationⁱⁱ

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
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species	25
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites	20
5.0	Other marine-related measures	15
6.0	Other spatial measures	10
7.0	Other species management measures	10
7.3	Regulation/ Management of fishery in marine and brackish systems	10
7.1	Regulation/ Management of hunting and taking	5
9.2	Regulating/Managing exploitation of natural resources on sea	5

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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=Mammals&period=3&subject=Halichoerus+grypus>

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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.