



Phoca hispida botnica

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

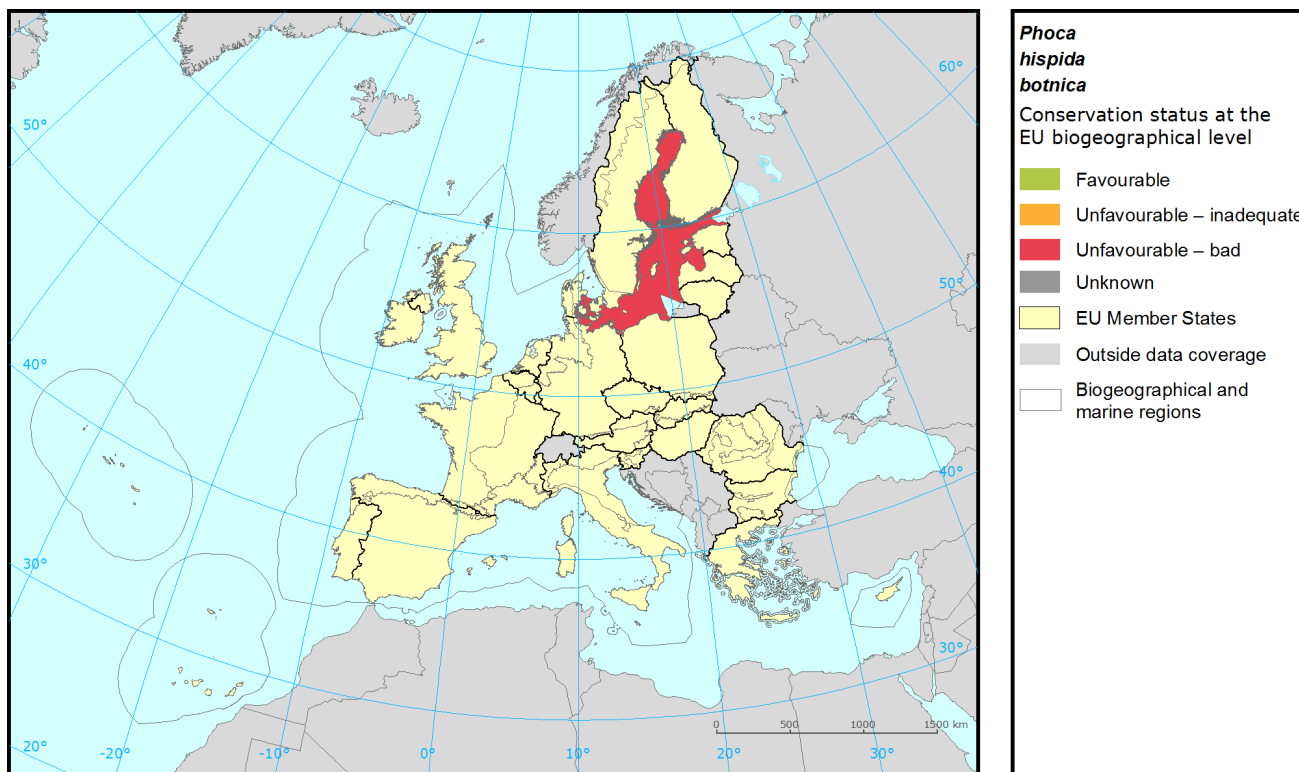
Phoca hispida botnica

The Baltic ringed seal is endemic to the Baltic Sea. It breeds and moults on ice during the winter. This subspecies has suffered a very severe population decline during the last century due to over-harvesting and low fertility values possibly inhibited by high contaminant loads.

The regional overall assessment is 'unfavourable-bad' the same as in 2007 and dictated by the fact that more than 40% of the population is in Swedish waters for which Sweden has defined the population parameter and the overall assessment as 'unfavourable-bad'. Several factors such as the species' restricted geographic isolation, the high pollution load of the Baltic sea, and the future climate projections in terms of ice coverage for the next 30 years, play a significant role in the endangered status of this species. The species is listed as 'least concern' in the IUCN Red List of threatened species.

Species: *Phoca hispida botnica*
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					
MBAL	U1	U1	U1	U2	U2	+	100	U2	

See the endnote for more informationⁱ

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Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



Phoca hispida botnica

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					
PT MATL								XX	
EE MBAL	U1	U1	FV	U1	U1	x	14.0	U1-	
FI MBAL	FV	U1	FV	U1	U1	x	68.3	U1+	Genuine
LV MBAL	FV	U1	U1	U2	U2	=	4.6	U1-	Genuine
PL MBAL	XX	XX	U1	U2	U2	x		U2	Changed method
SE MBAL	U2	U2	U1	U2	U2	+	13.1	U2	Changed method

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
F02	Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	25
H01	Pollution to surface waters	25
H03	Pollution to marine waters	25
M01	Abiotic changes (climate change)	25

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
M01	Abiotic changes (climate change)	50
H03	Pollution to marine waters	25
J03	Other changes to ecosystems	25

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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

MBAL	
EE	100
FI	0
LV	0
SE	0

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
5.1	Restoring marine habitats	20
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites	20
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species	20
7.1	Regulation/ Management of hunting and taking	20
7.3	Regulation/ Management of fishery in marine and brackish systems	20

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=Phoca+hispida+botnica>

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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.