European Environment Agency
European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity

Physeter catodon

Annex	IV
Priority	No
Species group	Mammals
Regions	Marine Atlantic, Marine Macaronesian, Marine Mediterranean

Physeter catodon

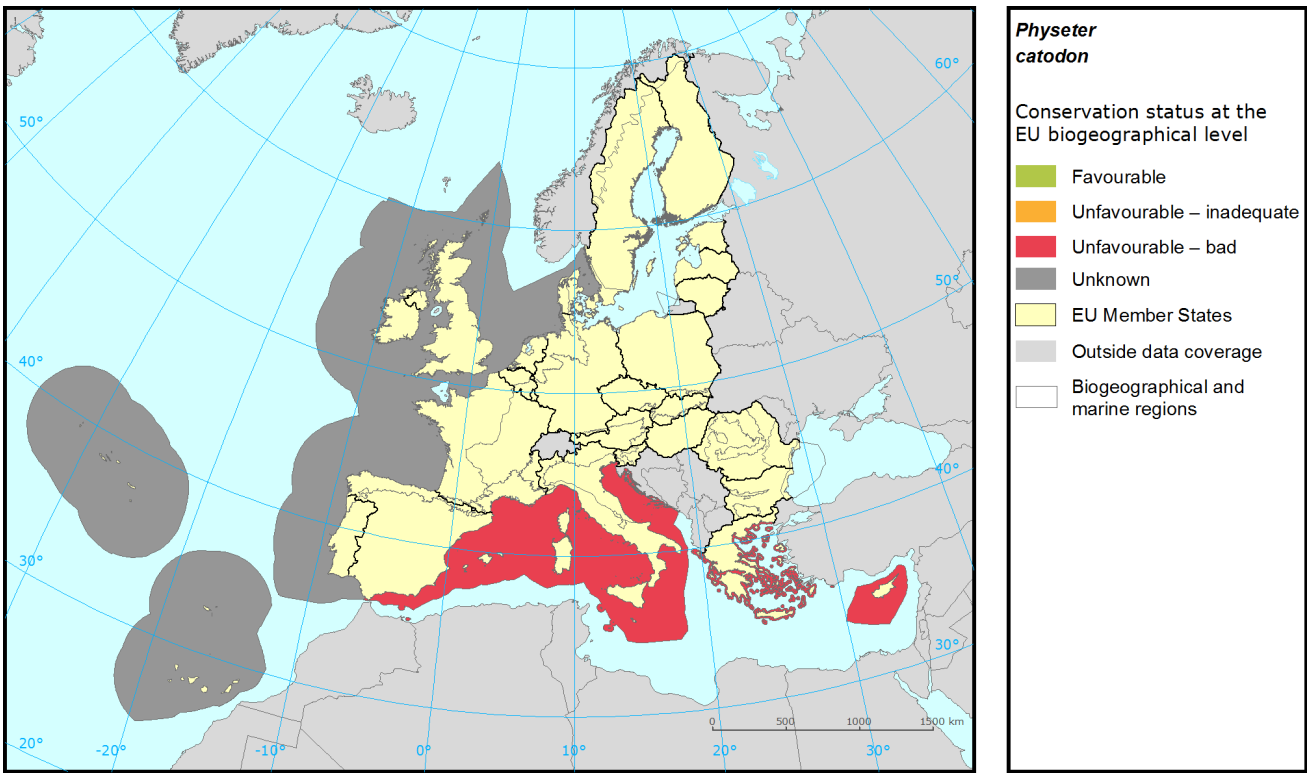
The sperm whale, Physeter catodon, inhabits the continental slope and deeper (over 1,000 meters) temperate to sub-polar waters of the marine Atlantic-, Marine Macaronesian- and Marine Mediterranean regions. Its distribution range includes all of the northwestern and western range of the marine Atlantic and extends south until the Azores and the Canaries islands and into the entire marine Mediterranean region. The population in the Marine Mediterranean region is genetically distinct from the Atlantic population.

Overall conclusion for the Marine Atlantic- and Marine Macaronesian region is unknown (XX). In 2001-2007, the overall conclusion for the Marine Macaronesian region was unfavorable-inadequate (U1). However, Spain who reported all parameters except future prospects as unfavorable- inadequate (U1) in 2001-2007 has now changed most parameters to unknown. Reason for change is no real change but change of methods. They state that the species is common and their range is favorable. More data is clearly needed for both Marine Atlantic- and Marine Macaronesian regions. Especially since the species is listed as ‘vulnerable’ in the IUCN Red list of threatened species.

Overall conclusion for the Mediterranean region is unfavorable- bad (U2), same as in 2001-2007. Conclusion is based on preliminary information indicating a population decline and bad future prospects due to various ongoing threats. This is in line with the IUCN Red list of threatened species that list the species as endangered (EN).

Most countries reported the species as vulnerable to boat collision, noise disturbance, mixed forms of pollution, and bycatch in illegal use of driftnets in the Mediterranean sea.

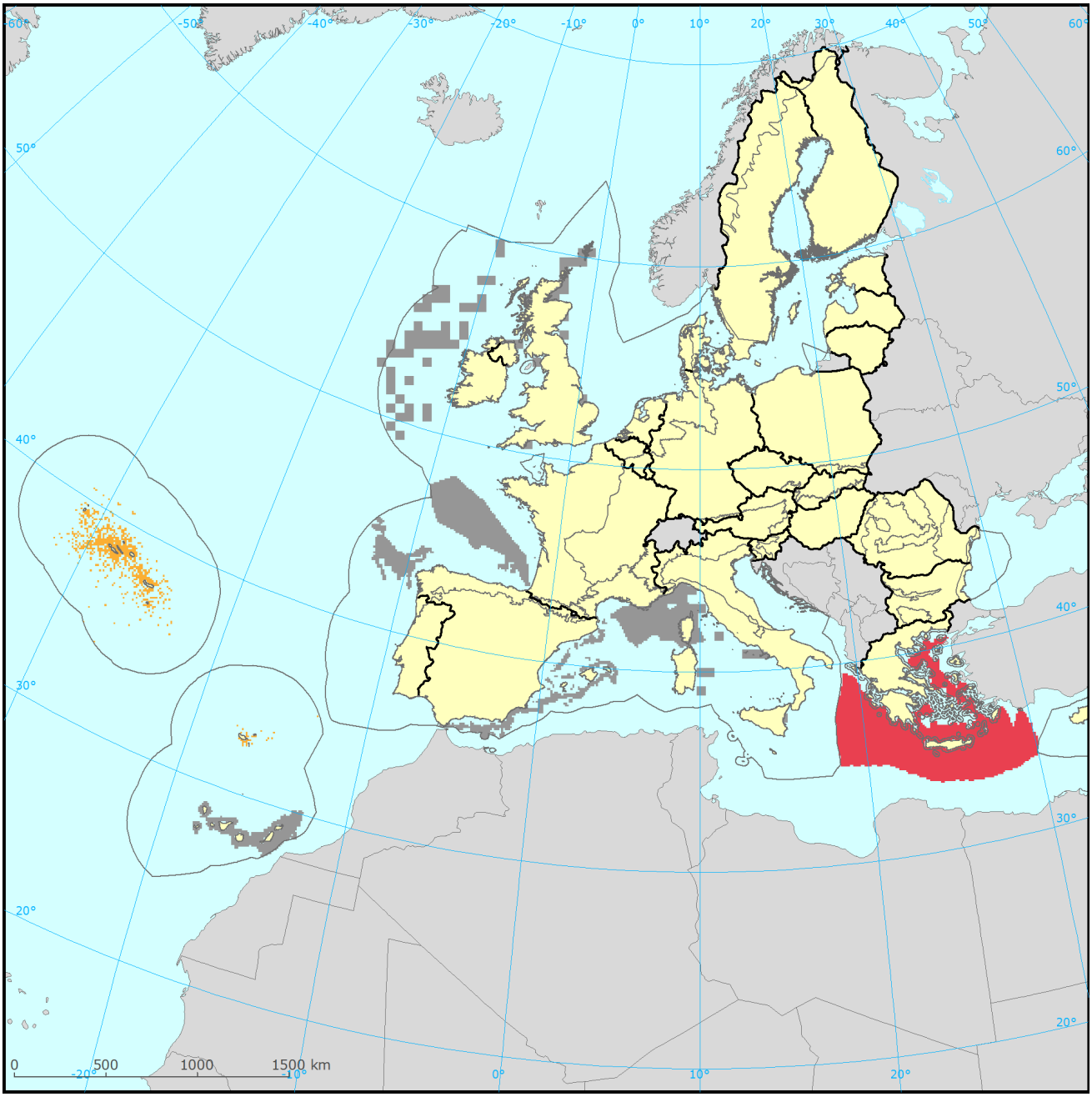
Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level



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	XX	XX	XX	XX	x	33	XX	
MMAC	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	x	13	U1	Not genuine
MMED	XX	XX	XX	U2	U2	x	54	U2	

See the endnote for more information[i]

Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



Physeter catodon

Distribution and conservation status at the Member State level

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

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.

MS	Region	Conservation status of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
		Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
ES	MATL	FV	XX	XX	XX	XX		15.3		
FR	MATL	FV	XX	XX	XX	XX		35.0	XX	
IE	MATL	FV	XX	FV	XX	XX		34.2	XX	
NL	MATL									
PT	MATL								XX	
UK	MATL	FV	XX	XX	XX	XX		15.5	XX	
ES	MMAC	FV	XX	XX	XX	XX		46.0	U1	Changed method
PT	MMAC	XX	XX	XX	U1	U1	x	54.0	U1	
ES	MMED	FV	XX	XX	XX	XX		11.2	XX	
FR	MMED	FV	XX	XX	XX	XX		15.9	XX	
GR	MMED	XX	U1-	U1-	U2	U2		66.3	U2	
IT	MMED	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		6.6	XX	
MT	MMED	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX			XX	
UK	MMED	XX	XX	XX	XX	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.

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' pressures

Code	Activity	Frequency
D03	Shipping lanes and ports	33
F02	Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	22
H03	Pollution to marine waters	22
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	11
H06	Excess energy (noise, light, heating, electromagnetic)	11

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

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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=Physeter+catodon

[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.