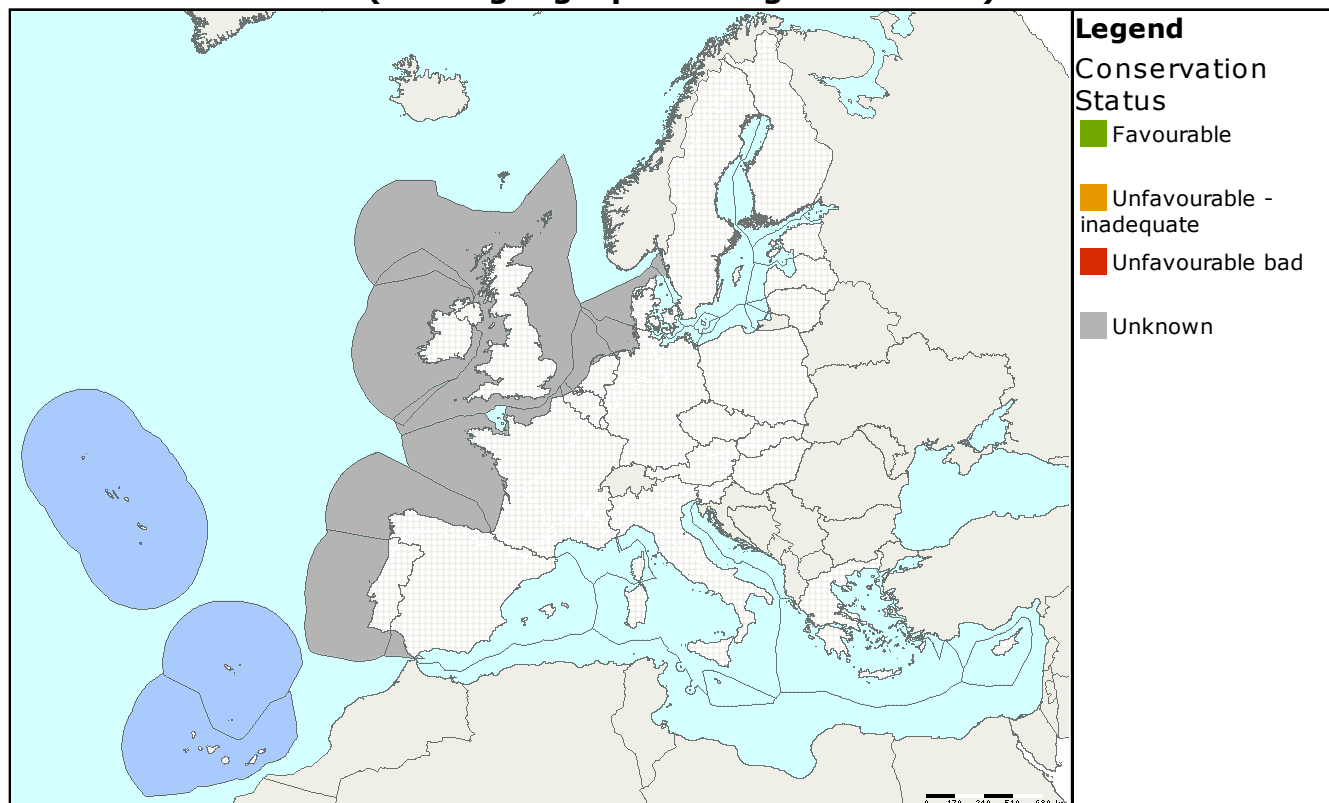


Species name: **Balaenoptera musculus**
Annex: **IV**

Species group: **Mammals**
Regions: **MATL MMAC**

Assessments of conservation status at the European level (all biogeographical regions - EU25)

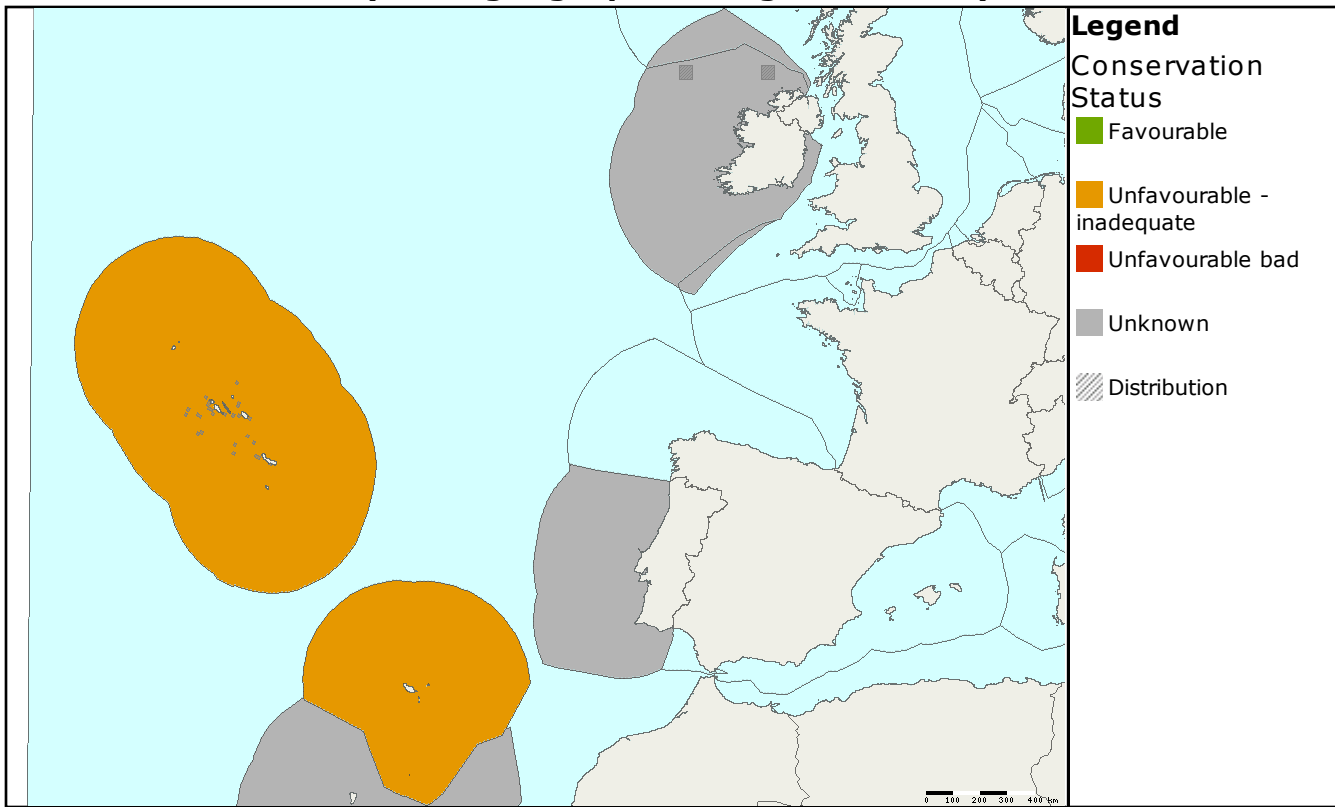


MS	Region	Conservation status assessment					Population size & unit	Population Trend
		Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects	Overall		
EU25	MATL						30 - 50 indiv.	X
EU25	MMAC							

The blue whale occurs in the marine Atlantic and Macaronesian regions from latitudes extending from the Scotian shelf and southwards to the Canary islands. It is observed in pelagic waters up to 1,000 meters deep. In the past, the species was widely distributed in the wintering grounds of the southern North Atlantic. However, the North Atlantic population, just like the rest of the global population, has been severely depleted by whaling activities and as such the species is listed as 'endangered' in the IUCN list of threatened species.

Its conservation status in the marine Atlantic region is 'unknown' due to the lack of data and driven by the fact that the species has been reported as occurring only in the Irish Atlantic waters while no assessment was possible for the marine Macaronesian due to the lack of data and incomplete assessments by Member States.

Assessments of conservation status as reported by Member states (all biogeographical regions - EU25)



MS	Region	Conservation status assessment					Size&unit	Population trend	Data quality
		Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects	Overall			
IE	MATL						30 - 50 indiv.	X	2
PT	MATL						N/A x	X	
ES	MMAC						1000 - (1000) indiv.	+	3
PT	MMAC						N/A x	X	

Data quality is based on as assessment by each Member State, 1 = good, 2 = medium, 3 = poor

This information is derived from the Member State national reports submitted to the European Commission under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive in 2007 and covering the period 2001-2006. More detailed information is available at <http://biodiversity.eionet.europa.eu/article17>