



1140 *Mudflats and sandflats not covered by sea water at low tide*

Habitat code	1140
Priority	No
Habitat group	Coastal habitats
Regions	Marine Atlantic, Marine Baltic, Marine Black Sea, Marine Macaronesian, Marine Mediterranean

The habitat 1140 “Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide” is according to the Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats - EUR28;

Sands and muds of the coasts of the oceans, their connected seas and associated lagoons, not covered by sea water at low tide, devoid of vascular plants, usually coated by blue algae and diatoms. They are of particular importance as feeding grounds for wildfowl and waders. The diverse intertidal communities of invertebrates and algae that occupy them can be used to define subdivisions of 11.27, eelgrass communities that may be exposed for a few hours in the course of every tide have been listed under 11.3, brackish water vegetation of permanent pools by use of those of 11.4. Note: Eelgrass communities (11.3) are included in this habitat type.

The habitat is present in the Marine Atlantic-, Marine Baltic-, Marine Black Sea-, Marine Macaronesian-, and Marine Mediterranean region. Note that, in 2001-2007 the habitat was not reported in the Marine Baltic-, Marine Atlantic- and Marine Mediterranean region. Instead it was reported in the Boreal-, Continental-, Atlantic- and Mediterranean region. The habitat was not reported at all in the Marine Black Sea region in 2001-2007.

The overall conclusion is unfavorable for all regions except for the Macaronesian region where the conclusion is unknown (XX). The status is worst in the Marine Atlantic- and in the Marine Mediterranean region, where assessments are unfavorable- bad (U2), and both the parameters “structures and functions” and “future prospects” are bad. In the Marine Mediterranean region also area is bad and range is inadequate.

In the Marine Black Sea-, and Marine Baltic Sea the overall conclusion is unfavorable-inadequate (U1). For the Marine Baltic Sea, the overall conclusion is in agreement with the HELCOMs “Red List of Baltic Sea underwater biotopes, habitats and biotope complexes” from 2013, where the habitat is assessed as vulnerable (VU).

Only the Macaronesian region are likely to have favorable conditions since they report favorable structures and functions and only one low rated threat. However, the overall conclusion is unknown (XX) and more knowledge is needed for this region.

Treats and pressures are numerous, but the major threats in all regions are coastal defence activities such as dyking and stabilization of sand. Water traffic in shallow areas close to the coast can damage the habitat through coastal erosion. Also dredging is a threat, and in some areas also intense recreational use of the shore. Eutrophication due to nutrient run-off from the catchment area also threatens the quality of the habitat. Run-off from urban areas introduce

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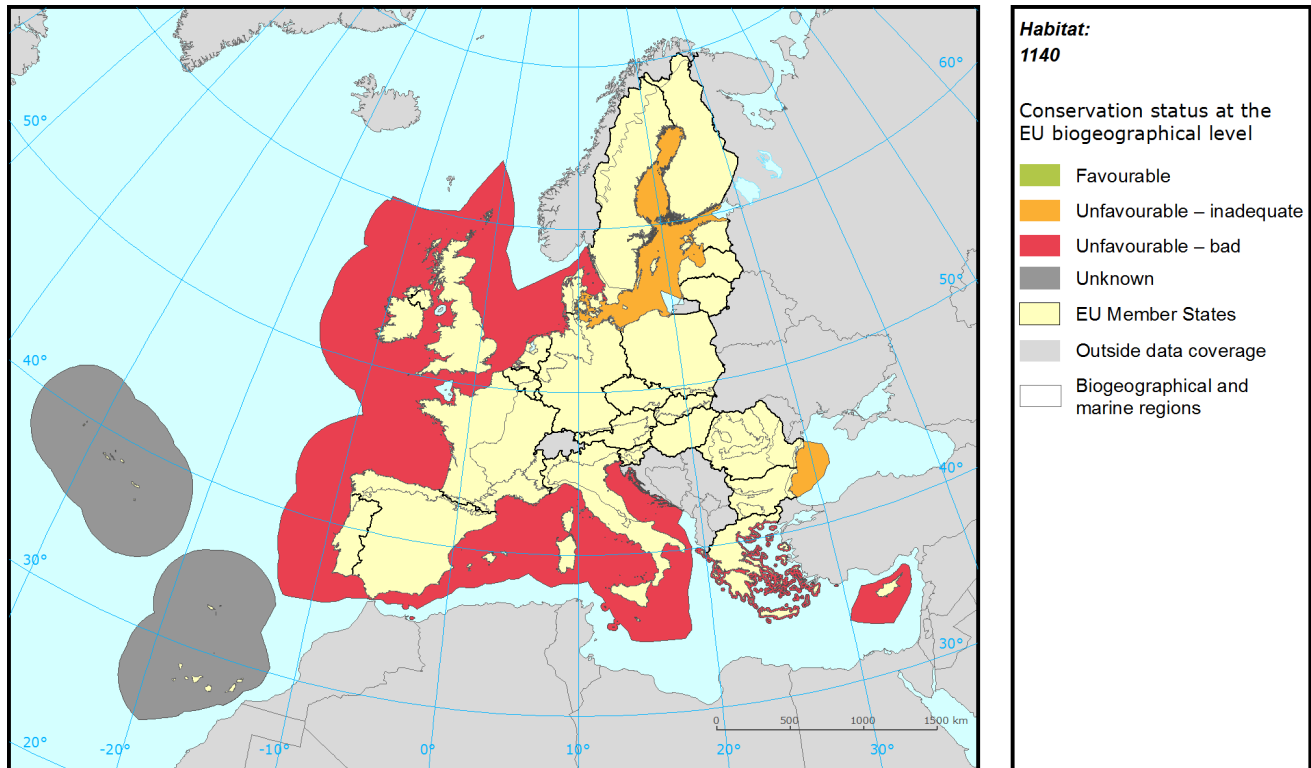
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various hazardous substances, that can accumulate in the soft sediments. Oil spills at sea that are washed ashore on mudflats or sandflats pose a serious threat, as oil is very difficult to remove from this type of soft sediment.

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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	Area	Structure & Functions	Future prospects					
MATL	FV	XX	U2	U2	U2	+	82	U2	
MBAL	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	-	12	U1	
MBLS	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	-	1	XX	Not genuine
MMAC	XX	XX	FV	XX	XX		0.1	XX	
MMED	U1	U2	U2	U2	U2	x	4	U2	

See the endnote for more informationⁱ

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Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



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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 (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
		Range	Area	Structure & functions	Future prospects					
BE	MATL	FV	FV	XX	FV		0.6			
DE	MATL	FV	FV	FV	XX		5.7	FV		
DK	MATL	FV	FV	U2	U2	x	3.6	U2		
ES	MATL	FV	U1	XX	U1	x	5.7	XX	Changed method	
FR	MATL	FV	FV	U1	U1	=	12.9	U1		
IE	MATL	FV	FV	U1	FV	+	11.1	U1	Genuine	
NL	MATL	FV	FV	U1	XX	x	4.4			
PT	MATL	FV	U1	U2	U2	=	3.7		Changed method	
SE	MATL	FV	FV	U1	U1	-	1.9		Better data	
UK	MATL	FV	XX	U2	U2	+	50.3	U2-	Genuine	
DE	MBAL	FV	FV	U1	U1	-	16.0	U1	Genuine	
DK	MBAL	FV	FV	U2	U2	x	12.8	U2		
EE	MBAL	FV	FV	FV	FV		16.3			
SE	MBAL	FV	FV	U1	U1	-	54.9	U1		
BG	MBLS	FV	FV	U1	U1	=	22.6			
RO	MBLS	FV	FV	U1	U1	-	77.4			
PT	MMAC	XX	XX	FV	XX		100.0			
ES	MMED	FV	U1	XX	U1	x	10.2	XX	Changed method	
FR	MMED	U1	U2	U2	U2	-	43.2	U2		
GR	MMED	XX	XX	U2	U2		19.3	U2		
IT	MMED	FV	FV	XX	XX		25.0		Changed method	
SI	MMED	FV	FV	FV	FV		2.3			

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 habitats 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 habitats 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
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	22
F02	Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	10
H01	Pollution to surface waters	10
D03	Shipping lanes and ports	7
E01	Urbanisation and human habitation	7
G01	Outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities	7
H03	Pollution to marine waters	7
E03	Discharges (household/industrial)	5
F06	Other hunting, fishing and collection activities	5
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	5

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	15
H01	Pollution to surface waters	13
H03	Pollution to marine waters	13
D03	Shipping lanes and ports	7
F02	Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	7
I01	Invasive alien species	7
E01	Urbanisation and human habitation	4
F06	Other hunting, fishing and collection activities	4
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	4
H02	Pollution to groundwater	4

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Proportion of population covered by the Natura 2000 network

Member States were asked to report the area of the habitat which is covered by the Natura 2000 network. The percentage of the habitat area covered by the network was estimated by comparing the area within the network and the total area in the biogeographical/marine region.

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

	MATL	MBAL	MBLS	MMAC	MMED
BE	16				
BG			100		
DE	99	97			
DK	100	100			
EE		26			
ES	87				40
FR	58				x
IE	84				
IT					x
NL	69				
PT	x			0	
RO			71		
SE	29	38			
SI					93
UK	62				

See the endnotes for more informationⁱⁱ

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Most frequently reported conservation measures

Member States were asked to report up to 20 conservation measures being implemented for this habitat 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 habitats there were less than ten measures reported as highly important.

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' conservation measures

Code	Measure	Frequency
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites	21
4.2	Restoring/improving the hydrological regime	9
5.0	Other marine-related measures	9
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species	9
8.3	Managing marine traffic	9
9.2	Regulating/Managing exploitation of natural resources on sea	9
4.4	Restoring coastal areas	6
6.0	Other spatial measures	6
4.0	Other wetland-related measures	3
4.1	Restoring/improving water quality	3

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/habitat/summary/?group=Coastal+habitats&period=3&subject=1140>

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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 habitat area 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 habitat area 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 habitat has been reported by the Member States.