



Acipenser sturio

Annex	II, IV
Priority	Yes
Species group	Fish
Regions	Atlantic, Continental, Marine Atlantic, Mediterranean

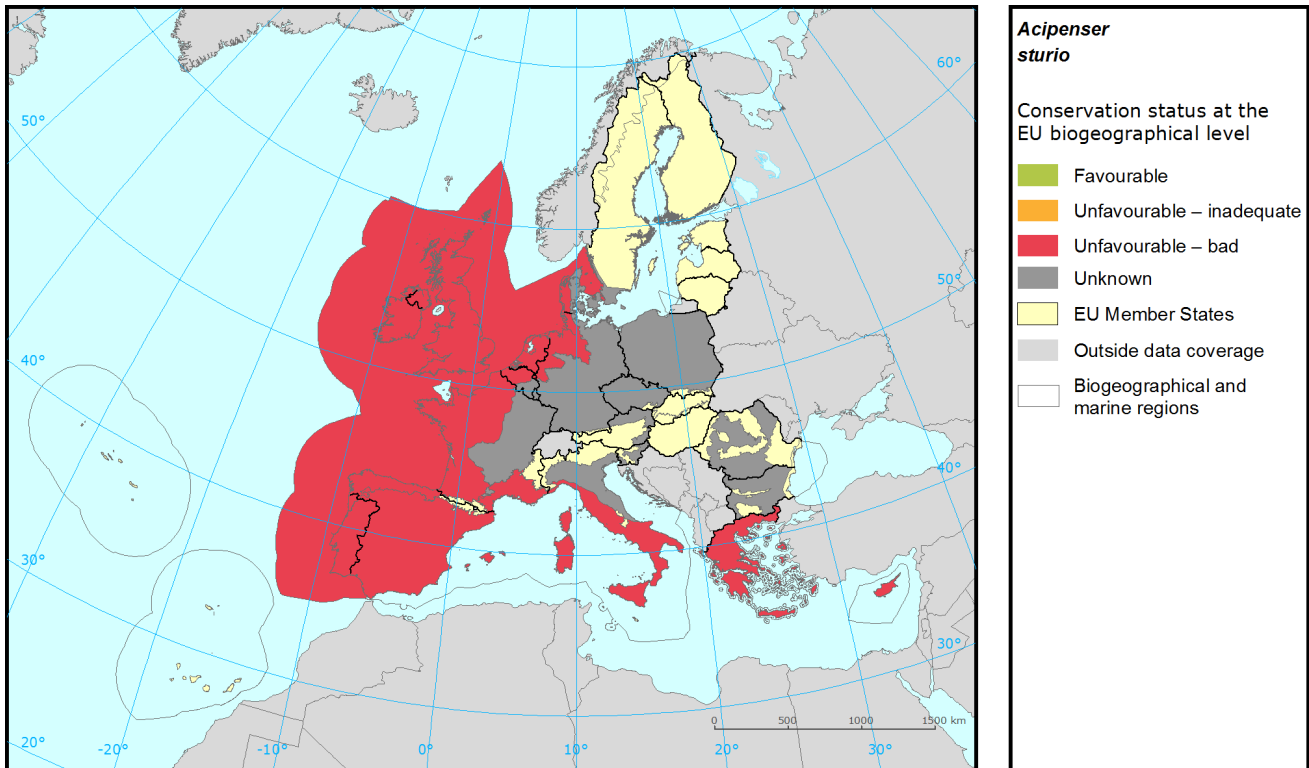
The Atlantic sturgeon is a demersal and diadromous species inhabiting the Atlantic and Mediterranean regions. It can tolerate a wide range of salinities. Most of its life is spent at sea, relatively close to the coast, but it enters rivers to spawn. Previously abundant along all European coasts, today reproducing populations is only known from one riversystem in France and possibly also in Greece. A reintroduction project is taken place in Germany but the success of this is unknown. Moreover, it is a long-lived and slow-growing fish which is therefore very vulnerable to exploitation. The species is exposed to the following threats: over fishing, construction of dams that block the rivers where sturgeons spawn, water pollution and habitat destruction.

The conservation status is s 'unfavourable-bad' in the Atlantic, Marine Atlantic and Mediterranean biogeographical regions and Unknown in the Continental region. The species is listed as 'critically endangered' in the IUCN Red List of threatened species.

Species: *Acipenser sturio*

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					
ATL	U2	U2	U2	U1	U2	=	46	U2	
CON	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		4	U2	Not genuine
MATL	FV	U2	XX	XX	U2	=	38	U2	
MED	U1	U2	U1	U2	U2	+	12	U2	

See the endnote for more informationⁱ

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Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



Acipenser sturio

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					
DE ATL	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		33.3		
FR ATL	U2	U2	U2	U1	U2	=	66.7	U2	
DE CON	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		100.0		
FR MATL	FV	U2	XX	XX	U2	=	100.0	U2	
NL MATL									
UK MATL									
GR MED	U1	U2+	U1	U2+	U2+		100.0	U2+	

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
C01	Mining and quarrying	20
D03	Shipping lanes and ports	20
F02	Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	20
H01	Pollution to surface waters	20
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	20

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

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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

	ATL	CON	MATL
DE	x	x	
FR	24		39

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
7.4	Specific single species or species group management measures	100

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=Fish&period=3&subject=Acipenser+sturio>

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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.