



Balaenoptera musculus

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

Balaenoptera musculus

The blue whale occurs in the marine Atlantic and Macaronesian regions from latitudes extending from the Scottish 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.

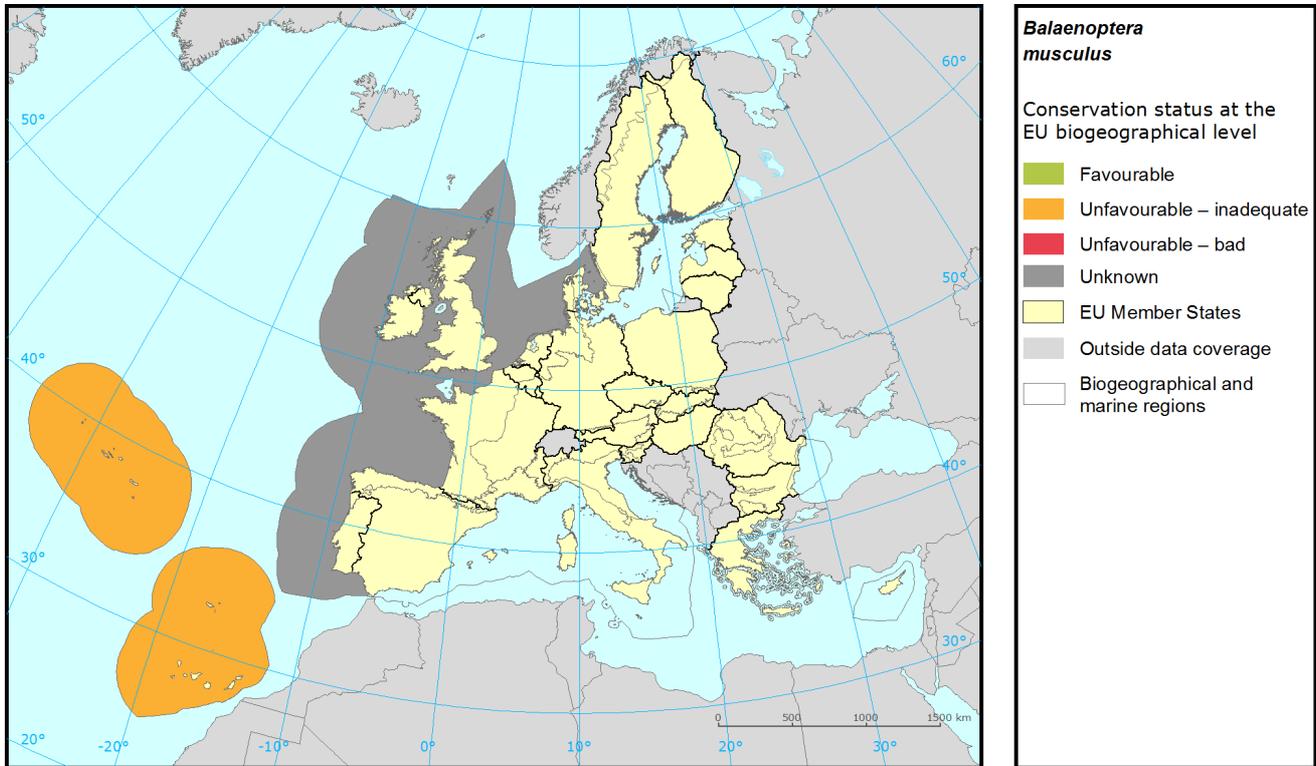
In the Marine Atlantic region all countries but Ireland report the species as "occasional, vagrant or marginal". Its conservation status in the marine Atlantic region is therefore 'unknown' (XX) due to the lack of data. Note, that Spain assess population as unfavorable-inadequate (U1). However, since no population estimate is available from Spain, this could not be included in the regional assessment. More data is therefore needed.

In the Marine Macaronesian region, Spain reports the species as "occasional, vagrant or marginal". Therefore, the conclusion for the region was used with report from Portugal. Overall conclusion is unfavorable- inadequate (U1) due to unfavorable future prospects.

The species is considered vulnerable to boat collision, noise disturbance and mixed forms of pollution.

Species: *Balaenoptera musculus*
 Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level

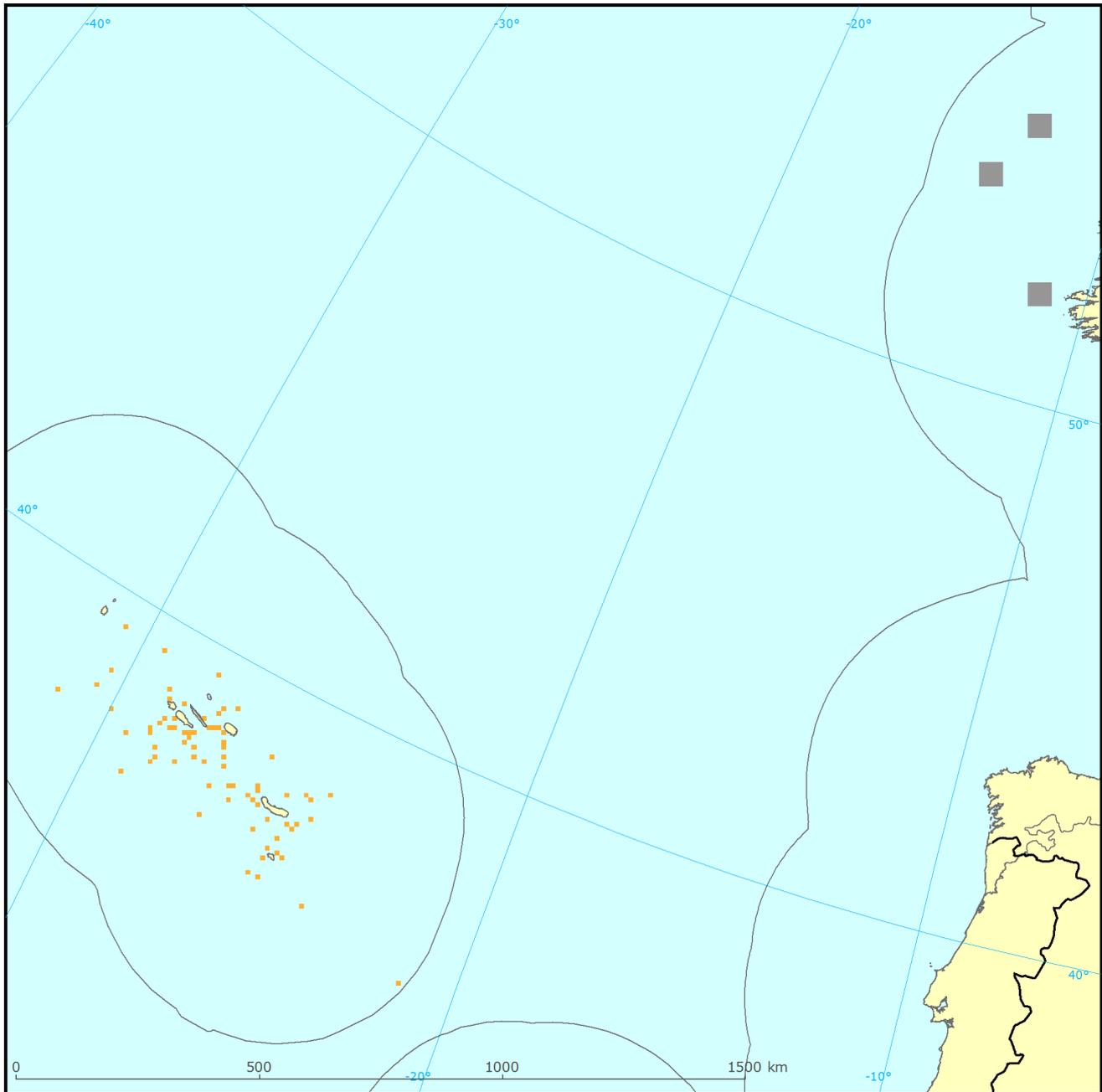


Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
MATL	FV	XX	FV	XX	XX	x	51	XX	
MMAC	XX	XX	XX	U1	U1	x	49	U1	

See the endnote for more informationⁱ

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Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



Balaenoptera musculus

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					
ES MATL	FV	U1	XX	XX	U1	x			
IE MATL	FV	XX	FV	XX	XX		100.0	XX	
PT MATL								XX	
UK MATL	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX				
ES MMAC	FV	XX	XX	XX	XX			XX	
PT MMAC	XX	XX	XX	U1	U1	x	100.0	U1	

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
No 'highly important' pressures were reported.		

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
No 'highly important' threats were reported.		

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=Balaenoptera+musculus>

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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.