



Lithophaga lithophaga

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

Lithophaga lithophaga

The European date mussel, *Lithophaga lithophaga*, is a rock-boring bivalve mollusk that is widespread in along the Atlantic and Mediterranean coasts. It is present in the marine Atlantic-, Marine Macaronesian-, and Marine Mediterranean region.

The mollusc has an extremely slow growth and it lives inside cavities of calcareous rocky substrates, which it bores with its glandular secretions.

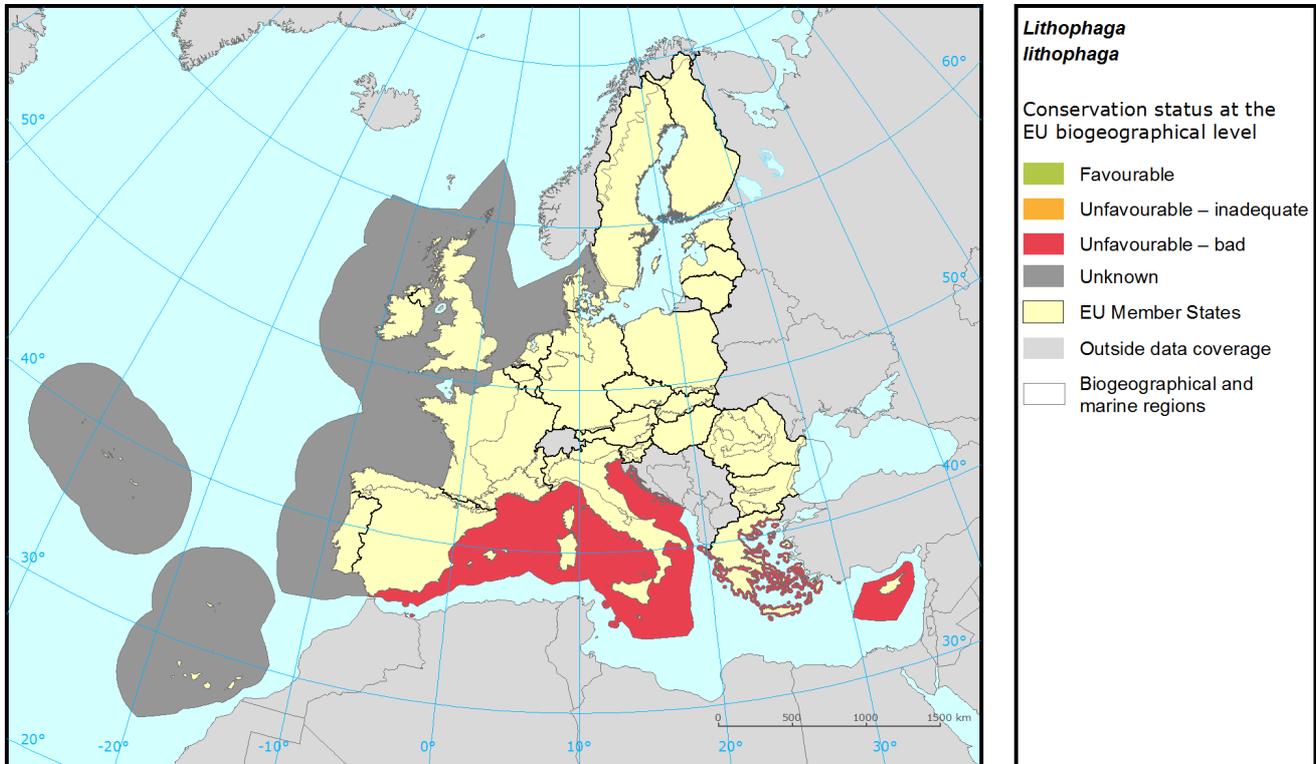
The overall conservation status is unknown (XX) in the Marine Atlantic-, and Marine Macaronesian region. In the Mediterranean region conclusion is unfavorable- bad (U2).

Main pressures and threats are unknown in the Marine Atlantic-, and Marine Macaronesian region. In the Marine Mediterranean region, main pressures and threats are “date mussel fishing”, and “reduction and loss of specific habitat features”. Also, a possible threat for this species is the fishing method that was used to collect it. That involves destructive illegal practices such as dynamite fishing and using hammers which destroy the rocky reef where it lives.

Due to its slow growth rate and the absent data it is important to collect more data for this species. Since the species is considered unfavorable- bad (U2) in the Mediterranean region, it is especially important to improve knowledge in the Marine Atlantic-, and Marine Macaronesian region where the conclusion is unknown.

Species: *Lithophaga lithophaga*
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	FV	XX	XX	XX	x	0.06	XX	
MMAC	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	x		XX	
MMED	FV	U2	FV	U1	U2	+	100	XX	Not genuine

See the endnote for more informationⁱ

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Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



Lithophaga lithophaga

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	FV	XX	XX	XX	100.0			
PT MATL	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		XX		
ES MMAC	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX				
ES MMED	FV	FV	XX	XX	XX	1.1	XX		
FR MMED	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	0.3	XX		
GR MMED	FV	FV	XX	XX	XX	0.6	XX		
IT MMED	FV	U2	FV	U1	U2	97.8	U1	Better data	
MT MMED	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		0.1	XX	
SI MMED	FV	XX	FV	FV	FV		0.1	U1+	Better data
UK MMED	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV	0.1			

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
F05	Illegal taking of marine fauna	75
E01	Urbanisation and human habitation	25

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
F05	Illegal taking of marine fauna	75
E01	Urbanisation and human habitation	25

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=Molluscs&period=3&subject=Lithophaga+lithophaga>

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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.