



Margaritifera auricularia

Annex	IV
Priority	No
Species group	Molluscs
Regions	Atlantic, Continental, Mediterranean

The Pearl Mussel *Margaritifera auricularia* is found in large slow-flowing rivers. It is dependent on certain fish species for its completion of the life cycle. *M. auricularia* is believed to be dependent on the very rare and endangered Common Sturgeon, *Acipenser sturio*, at least in much of its range. In the Mediterranean region alternative fish species may be used.

The species is regionally extinct from a large number of Member States and is Critically Endangered in the IUCN Global Red List.

The CS in Atlantic Bio-region is Bad-Unfavourable.No change between assessment periods.

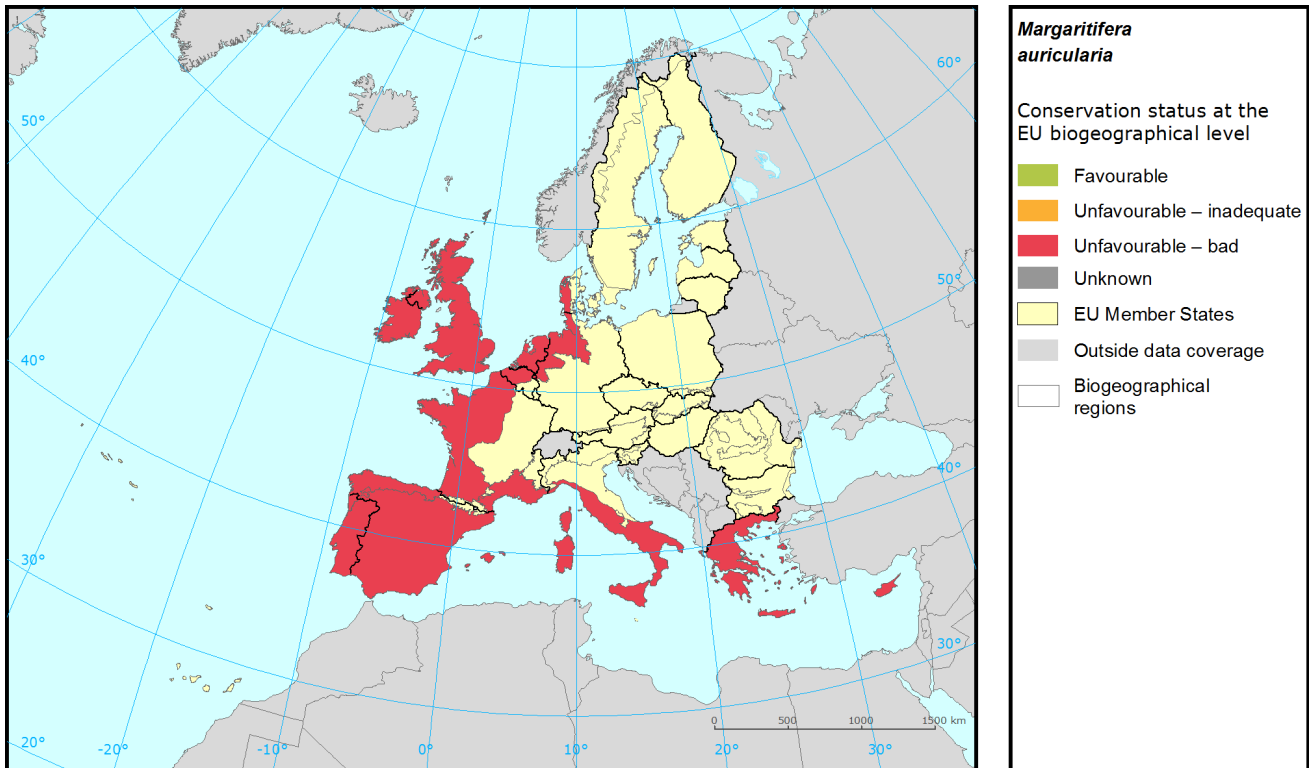
Continental region: This species is now believed to be extinct from Continental region, thus no report. It is also believed to have been extinct before the implementation of the Habitats Directive.

Mediterranean: The conservation status is Unfavourable-Bad in the 2007-2012 period, no change since 2001-2006 (the U1- in the previous period was due to use of different methods, so no change).

The major threats and pressures are eutrophication due to agricultural practices, dredging modification of cultivation practices, cultivation, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, faunal interactions (invasive species).

Species: *Margaritifera auricularia*
 Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level

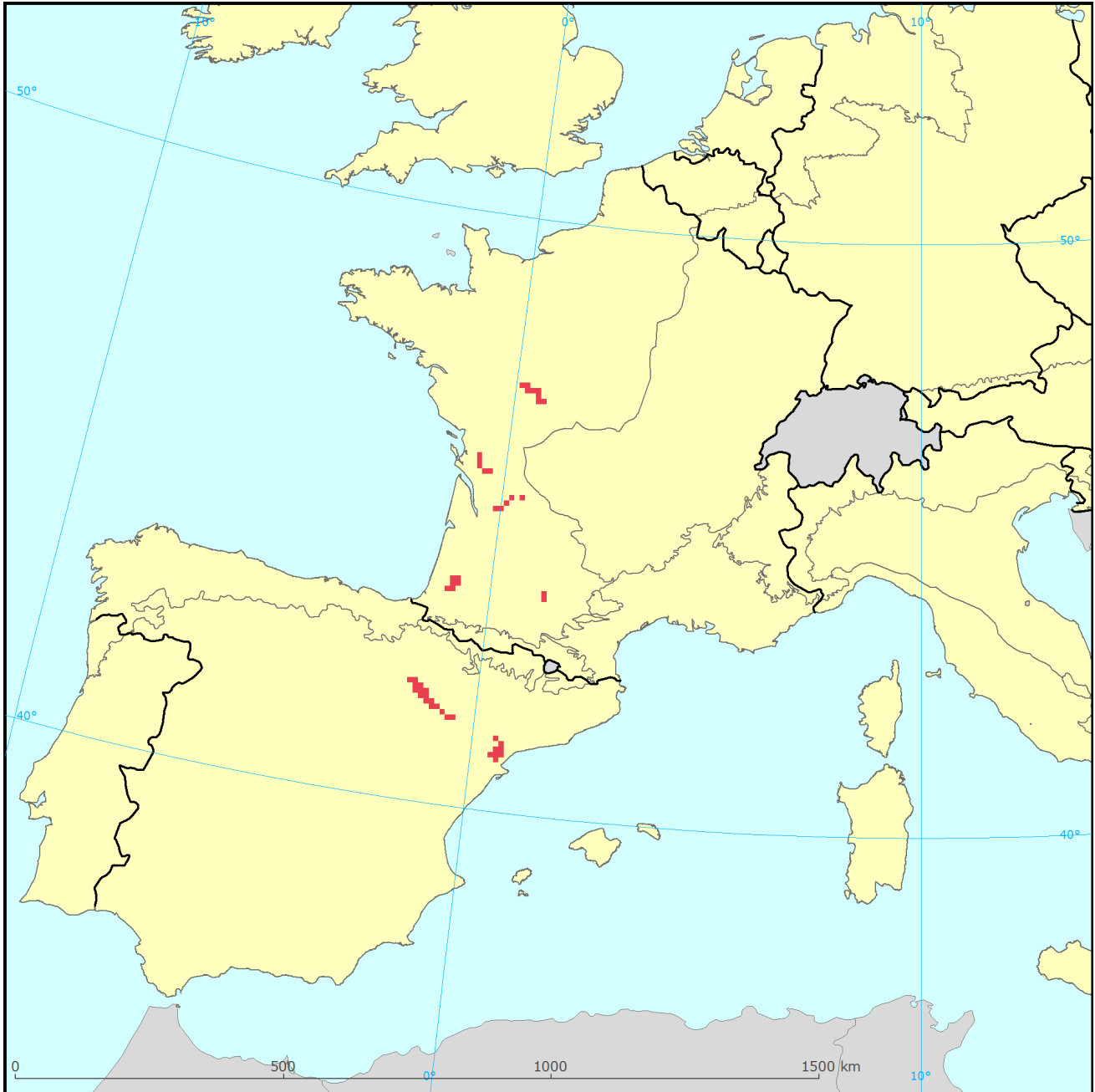


Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
ATL	U2	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	52	U2	
MED	U2	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	48	U1	Not genuine

See the endnote for more informationⁱ

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Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



Margaritifera auricularia

Distribution and conservation status at the Member State level

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Favourable | EU Member States |
| Unfavourable - inadequate | Outside data coverage |
| Unfavourable - bad | Biogeographical region |
| 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					
FR ATL	U2	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	100.0	U2	
ES MED	U2	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	100.0	U1-	Changed method

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
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	22
K03	Interspecific faunal relations	22
A01	Agricultural cultivation	11
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	11
A09	Irrigation in agriculture	11
H01	Pollution to surface waters	11
I01	Invasive alien species	11

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	25
K03	Interspecific faunal relations	25
A01	Agricultural cultivation	13
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	13
H01	Pollution to surface waters	13
I01	Invasive alien species	13

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=Margaritifera+auricularia>

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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.