Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive
Period 2007-2012

**European Environment
Agency**
*European Topic Centre
on Biological Diversity*

Lithothamnium coralloides

Annex	V
Priority	No
Species group	Non-vascular plants
Regions	Marine Atlantic, Marine Mediterranean

Lithothamnium coralloides

Lithothamnium coralloides is a red algae that is hard because of calcareous deposits contained within the cell wall. It forms hard substrates and are important in forming reefs. Due to the calcareous, they are used as soil conditioners. Therefore collection of unattached corallines (maërl) is significant especially in France, where maërl is dredged annually.

The overall assessment is unfavorable- inadequate (U1) in the Marine Mediterranean region. In the Marine Atlantic region, the overall conclusion is unknown (XX).

Note that there was a problem assessing this species for the Marine Atlantic region. The status is unknown. However, in 2001-2006, overall conclusion for the region was unfavorable- bad (U2) based on France that assessed this species as unfavorable- bad (U2) for range and population. France has now changed their evaluation to favorable (FV) since they claim that "*L and P corallioides Calcareum are not the only species forming maerl beds in Brittany. Additional species remain to be described.*" However, it is known that there is a high degradation of maerl beds, of which this species is a principal component, along most of France's (Brittany) coasts. A favorable overall status in France is therefore doubted. It is urgent to collect data for this species in France. More data is also in United Kingdom who changed the assessment from unfavorable- inadequate (U1) in 2001-2006 into unknown in 2006-2007.

Data is also needed for the Marie Mediterranean region where many of the parameters were missing and therefore only method 3 could be used (weighted aggregation of the overall conservation status). This is particularly important since this is a species whose exploitation requires regulation based on sound scientific evidence and since it constitutes a habitat on which trawling is forbidden in the Mediterranean Sea according to the EC fisheries regulation.

Maerl extraction, water quality, mariculture and fishing are all major threats to maerl beds. In France also the continuing uncontrolled spread of the invasive gastropod *Crepidula fornicata.*

Numerous pressures and threats are listed, mainly involving destruction by fishing, dredging and marine constructions but also pollution and aquaculture;

Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, benthic or demersal trawling, shallow surface abrasion/ mechanical damage to seabed surface, penetration/ disturbance below surface of the seabed, estuarine and coastal dredging, Mining and quarrying , sea defence or coast protection works, shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions, tidal barrages, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, demersal longlining, hunting, fishing or collecting activities not referred to above, reduction or loss of specific habitat features, marine water pollution, Soil pollution and solid waste (excluding
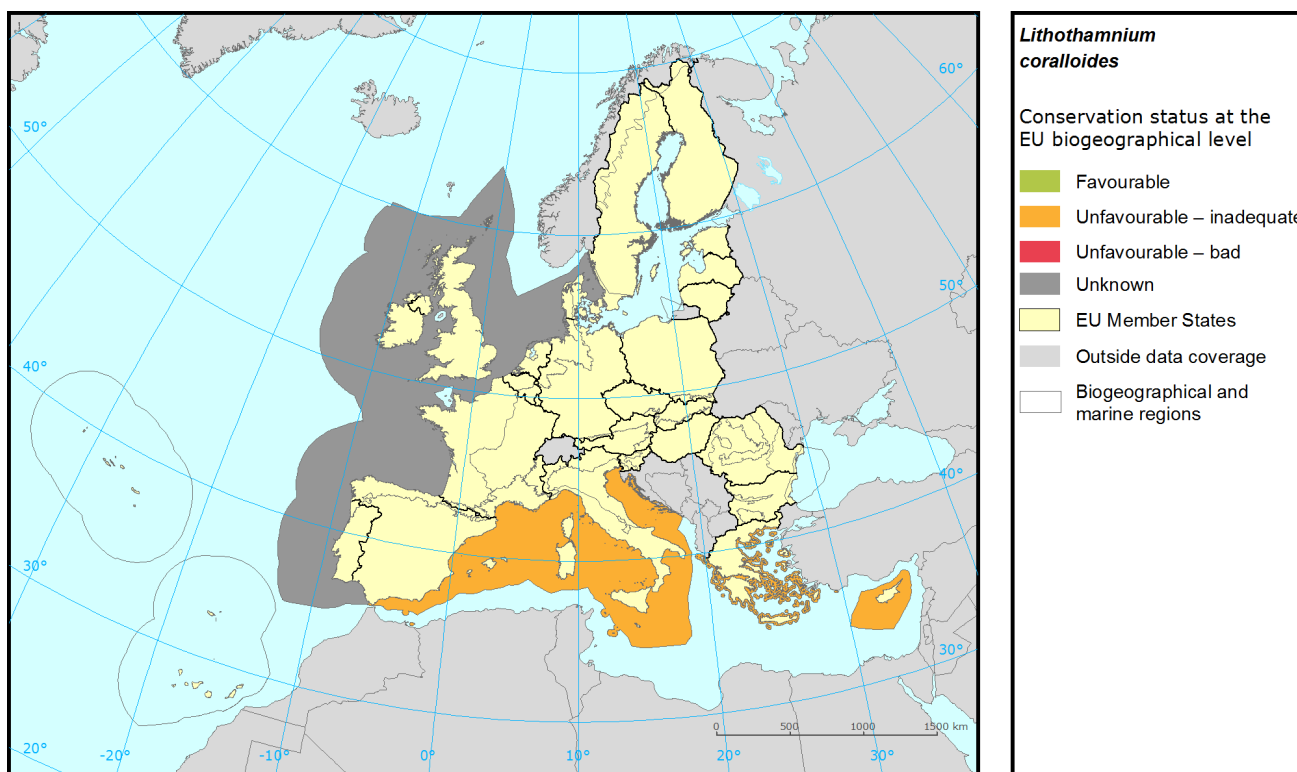
discharges), other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities, changes in abiotic conditions, changes in biotic conditions, livestock farming and animal breeding (without grazing), storm, cyclone, tidal wave, tsunamis, invasive non-native species, marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, bottom culture, suspension culture.

Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level

Lithothamnium coralloides

Conservation status at the EU biogeographical level

- Favourable
- Unfavourable – inadequate
- Unfavourable – bad
- Unknown
- EU Member States
- Outside data coverage
- Biogeographical and marine regions

Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
MATL	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		81	U2	Not genuine
MMED					U1	x	19	XX	Not genuine

See the endnote for more information[i]

Species: *Lithothamnium coralloides*
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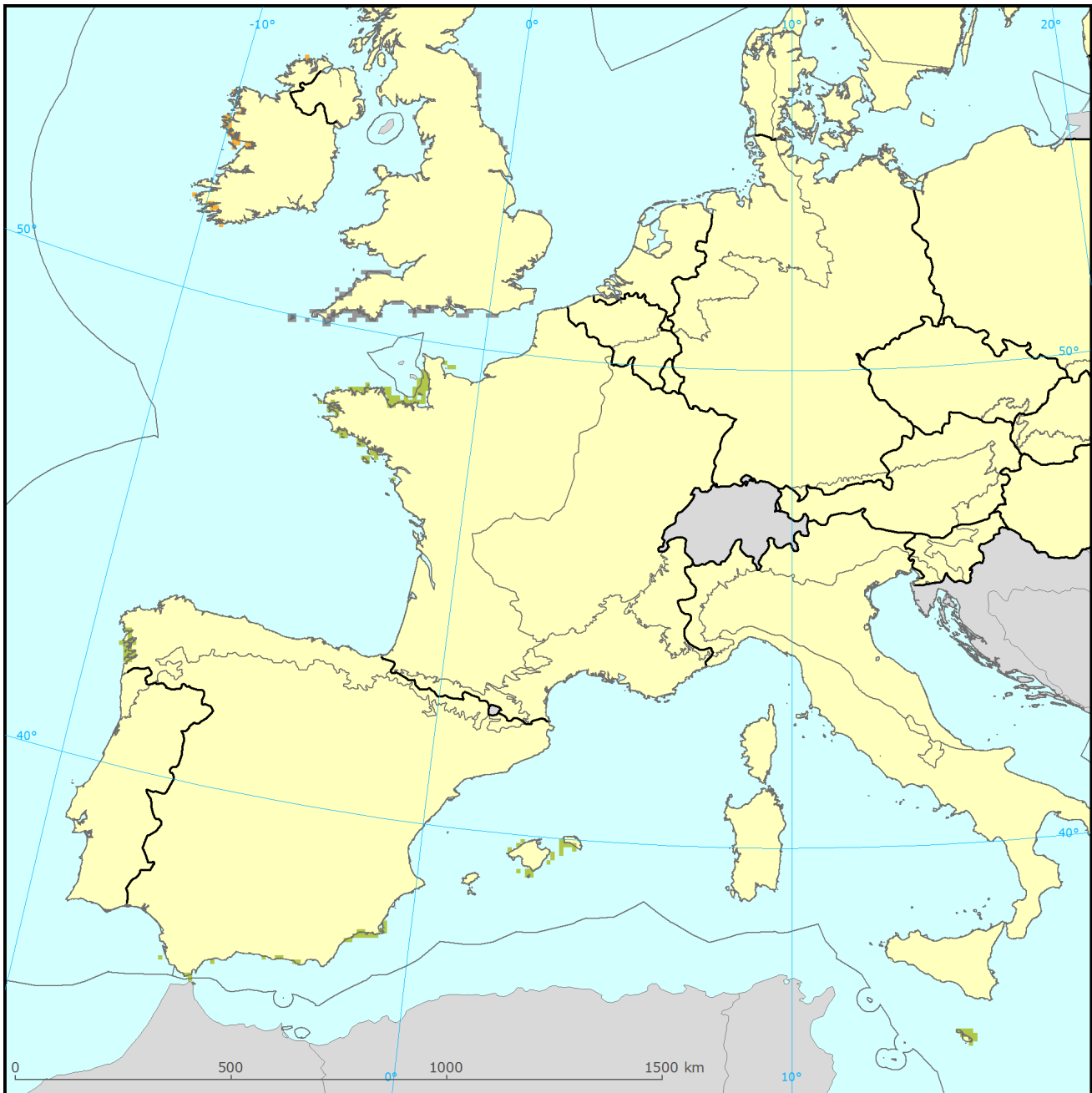## Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level

Lithothamnium coralloides

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.

Species: *Lithothamnium coralloides*
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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	FV	XX	FV		8.9	XX	Changed method
FR	MATL	FV	XX	FV	FV	FV		33.9	U2	Better data
IE	MATL	FV	FV	U1	FV	U1	+	14.3	U1	Genuine
UK	MATL	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		42.9	U1-	Changed method
ES	MMED	FV	FV	FV	XX	FV		79.2		
FR	MMED	XX	XX	XX	U1	U1	-		XX	Better data
MT	MMED	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		20.8	XX	

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
F02	Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	26
H03	Pollution to marine waters	16
D03	Shipping lanes and ports	11
I01	Invasive alien species	11
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	11
C01	Mining and quarrying	5
E06	Other urban/industrial developments	5
F01	Marine and freshwater aquaculture	5
F06	Other hunting, fishing and collection activities	5
J03	Other changes to ecosystems	5

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
F02	Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	20
H03	Pollution to marine waters	20
D03	Shipping lanes and ports	10
I01	Invasive alien species	10
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	10
C01	Mining and quarrying	5
C02	Oil and gas exploitation	5
E06	Other urban/industrial developments	5
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	5
J03	Other changes to ecosystems	5

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=Non-vascular+plants&period=3&subject=Lithothamnium+coralloides

[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.