



Phymatholithon calcareum

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

Phymatholithon calcareum

Phymatholithon calcareum 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 species is present in the Marine Atlantic- and Marine Mediterranean region.

Overall conclusion is favorable (FV) in the Marine Mediterranean region, and unknown (XX) in the Marine Atlantic region. Both these assessments were problematic.

There was a problem assessing this species for the marine Atlantic region. Method 2GD was used where gridded area was used as weight. Using method 2GD directly, give the result unknown (XX) for all parameters and overall conclusion using matrix give unknown (XX). 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. United Kingdom has also changed their assessment; from unfavorable- inadequate (U1) in 2001-2006 to unknown (XX) in 2006-2007. They have assessed the habitats 1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time as unfavorable- inadequate (U1), and 1160 Large shallow inlets and bays as unfavorable- bad (U2). Since these are habitats that may contain the species, more data is therefore urgently needed in United Kingdom for this species.

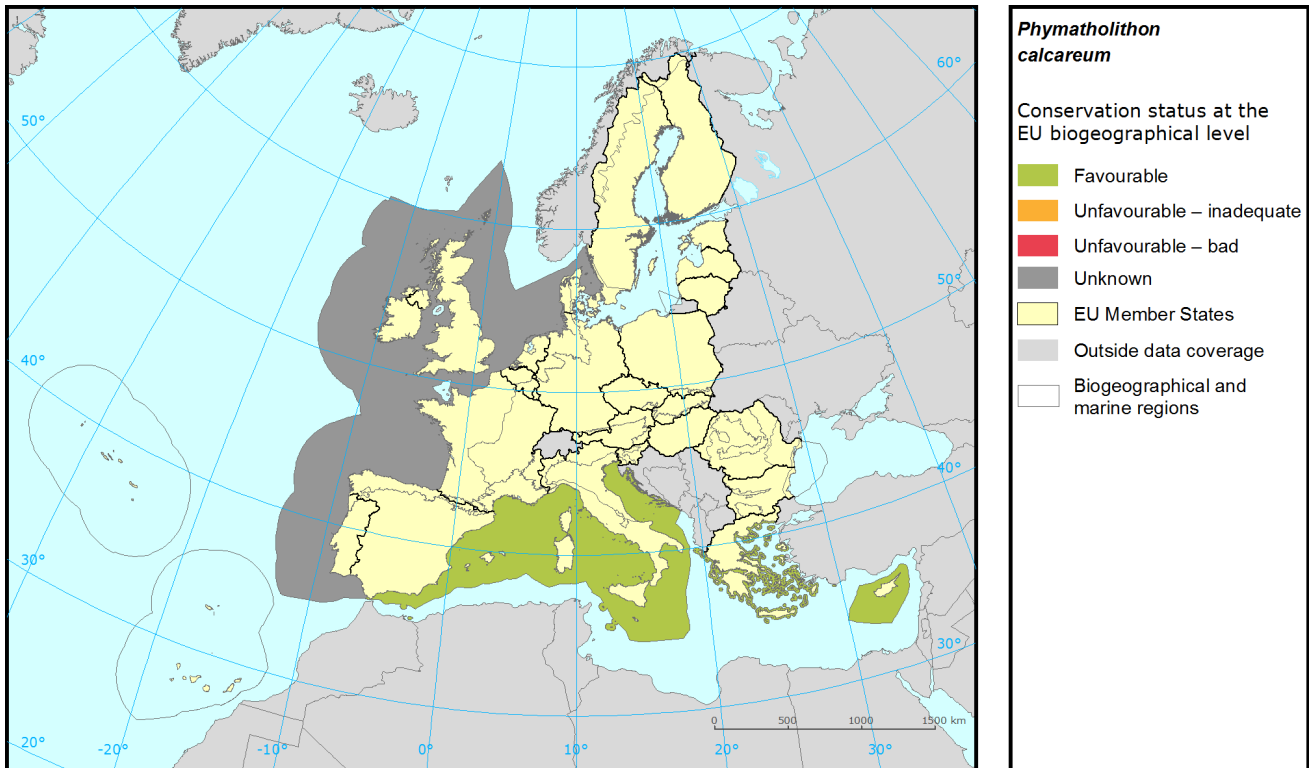
Favorable overall assessment in the Marine Mediterranean region is questionable since another species of maerl in the Marine Mediterranean region, *Lithothamnium coralloides*, has overall conclusion unfavorable- inadequate (U1). Many of the parameters were missing for both of these maer species for the evaluation 2007-2013, and more data is therefore needed. Particularly since these are species whose exploitation requires regulation based on sound scientific evidence, and since maerl constitutes a habitat on which trawling is forbidden in the Mediterranean Sea according to the EC fisheries regulation. Numerous pressures and threats are listed of which many are considered "high" and "medium", and that further questioning the favorable status of this species.

Pressures and threats mainly involve destruction by fishing, or other mechanical damage and marine constructions, but also pollution and aquaculture.

Species: *Phymatholithon calcareum*

Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level



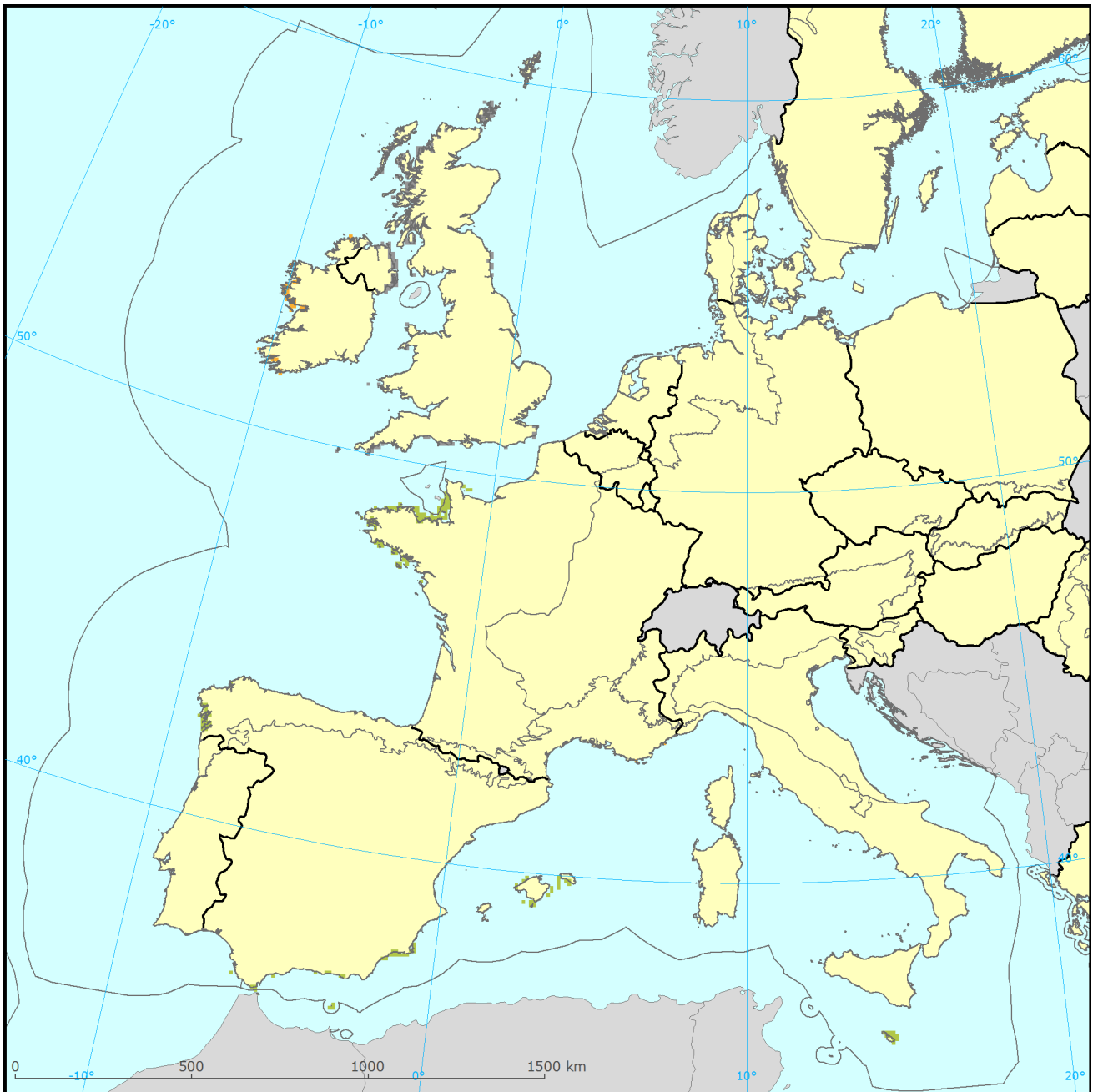
Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
MATL	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		84	U2	Not genuine
MMED	FV	FV	FV	XX	FV	=	16	XX	Not genuine

See the endnote for more informationⁱ

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Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



Phymatholithon calcareum

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	FV	XX	FV		6.5	XX	Changed method
FR MATL	FV	XX	FV	FV	FV		24.6	U2	Better data
IE MATL	FV	FV	U1	FV	U1	+	10.4	U1	Genuine
UK MATL	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		58.6	U1-	Changed method
ES MMED	FV	FV	FV	XX	FV		77.6		
FR MMED	XX	XX	XX	U1	U1	-	3.4	XX	Better data
MT MMED	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		19.0	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	29
H03	Pollution to marine waters	18
I01	Invasive alien species	12
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	12
C01	Mining and quarrying	6
D03	Shipping lanes and ports	6
F01	Marine and freshwater aquaculture	6
F06	Other hunting, fishing and collection activities	6
J03	Other changes to ecosystems	6

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Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
F02	Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	25
H03	Pollution to marine waters	19
I01	Invasive alien species	13
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	13
M01	Abiotic changes (climate change)	13
C01	Mining and quarrying	6
C02	Oil and gas exploitation	6
D03	Shipping lanes and ports	6

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=Phymatholithon+calcareum>

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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.