European Environment Agency
European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity

Dermochelys coriacea

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

Dermochelys coriacea

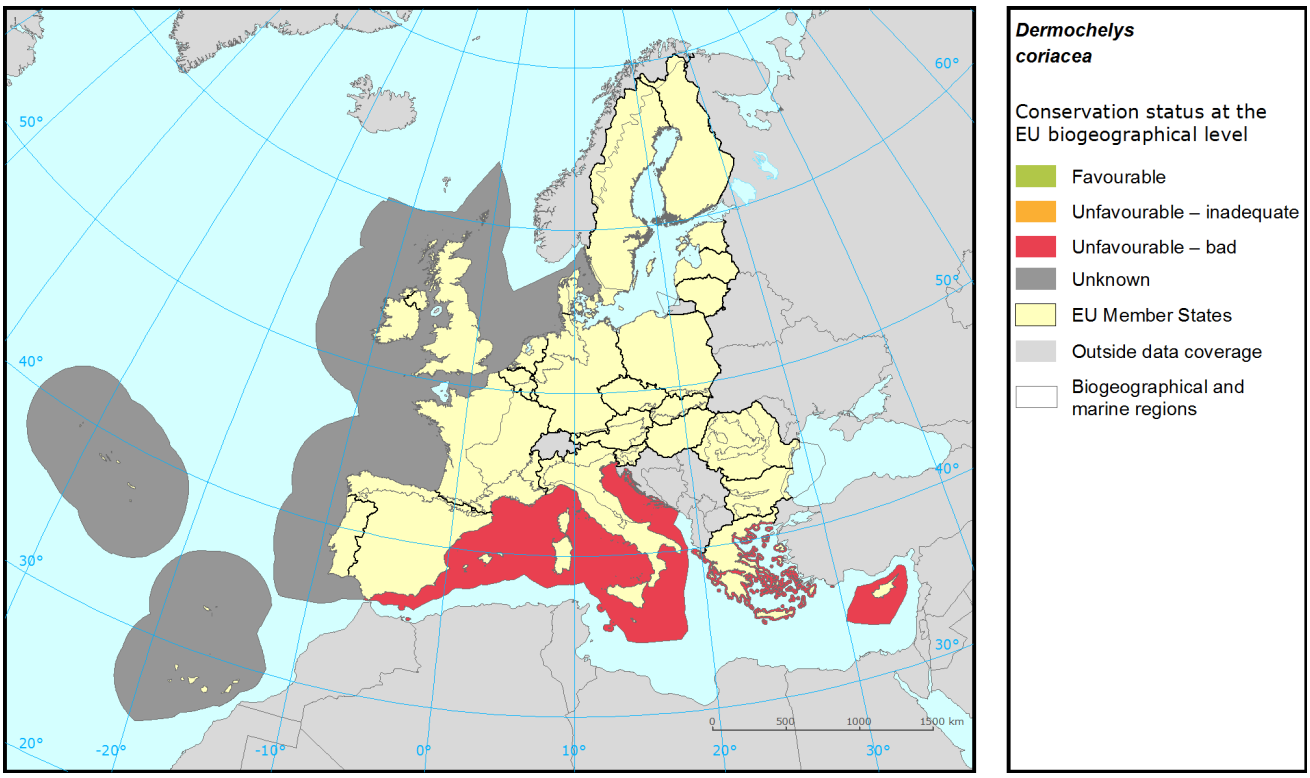
The Leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea)* is distributed globally, with nesting sites on tropical sandy beaches and foraging ranges that extend into temperate and sub-polar latitudes. Population trend is decreasing.

The overall conclusion for the Marine Mediterranean region is unfavorable (U2), same as in 2001-2006. Population for the region is unknown as well as most of the other parameters for countries, and more data is thus needed for this species. The overall conclusion is in line with the IUCN red list of threatened species where the species is listed as vulnerable.

In the Marine Atlantic and Marine Macaronesian region the overall conclusions are unknown (XX), same as in 2001-2006. More data is thus needed for this species. Especially, since it is listed as vulnerable in the IUCN red list of threatened species.

Pressures and threats mainly involve fishing, water pollution and constructions and other activities on land that disturb breeding.

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		34	XX	
MMAC	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX			U1	Not genuine
MMED	FV	XX	U1	U2	U2	x	66	U2	

See the endnote for more information[i]

Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level

Dermochelys coriacea

Distribution and conservation status at the Member State level

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

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.

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	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX			XX	
FR	MATL	FV	XX	U1	U2	U2	=	6.2	XX	Better data
IE	MATL	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		55.5	U1	Changed method
NL	MATL									
PT	MATL								XX	
UK	MATL	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		38.2	XX	
ES	MMAC	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		100.0	XX	
PT	MMAC								U1	
ES	MMED	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		0.1	XX	
FR	MMED	FV	XX	XX	U2	U2	-	0.2	U2	
GR	MMED	FV	XX	U1-	U2	U2		99.8	U2	
IT	MMED								XX	
UK	MMED	XX	XX	XX	XX	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	23
H03	Pollution to marine waters	23
F06	Other hunting, fishing and collection activities	18
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	14
H01	Pollution to surface waters	9
D03	Shipping lanes and ports	5
F05	Illegal taking of marine fauna	5
G01	Outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities	5

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

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F02	Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	23
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F06	Other hunting, fishing and collection activities	18
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H01	Pollution to surface waters	9
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F05	Illegal taking of marine fauna	5
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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=Reptiles&period=3&subject=Dermochelys+coriacea

[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.