



Conservation status improvement targets Introduction

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3rd Natura 2000 Biogeographical seminar for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea regions

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The conservation status improvement targets

- **To ensure no deterioration in conservation trends and status of all protected habitats and species by 2030 (+closing knowledge gaps).**
- **To ensure that at least 30% of species and habitats not currently in favourable status are in that category or show a strong positive trend.**
- **Covers all species/habitats reported under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive and bird species reported under Article 12 of the Birds Directive.**

Guidance to Member States on how to select and prioritise species/habitats for the 30% conservation improvement target under the strategy:

<https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/6f30d1d2-d6f2-4c6e-a4dc-1feb66201929/library/bd8a2cd4-f774-4574-bd88-0b1fa012b725/details>

State of EU marine biodiversity

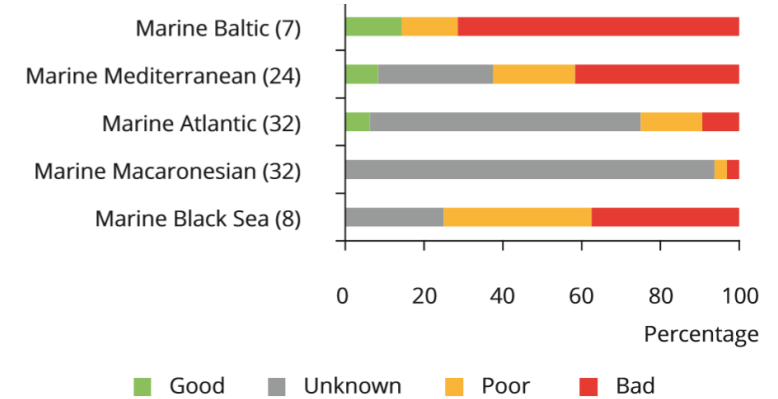
Healthy seas?	Status: ecosystem characteristics	5-10 year outlook	Information availability and quality
Seabed habitats			
Water column habitats			
Marine invertebrates			
Marine fish			
Turtles			
Seabirds and waterbirds			
Marine mammals			
Ecosystem processes and functions			
Clean and undisturbed seas?	Status: pressure	5-10 year outlook	Information availability and quality
Physical disturbance of seafloor			
Extraction of fish and shellfish			
Non-indigenous species			
Eutrophication			
Contamination			
Marine litter			
Underwater noise and other forms of energy input			
Climate change			
Productive seas?	Direct dependency on healthy seas	Activity 5-10 year outlook	Information availability and quality
Land-based activities	x	-	
Extraction of living resources	v	↗	
Production of living resources	v	↗	
Extraction of non-living resources and disposal of waste	x	↗	
Transport and shipbuilding	x	↗	
Tourism and recreation	v	↗	
Man-made structures	x	↗	
Energy production	x	↗	
Research and survey	x	↗	
Military	x	↘	

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/state-of-europes-seas>

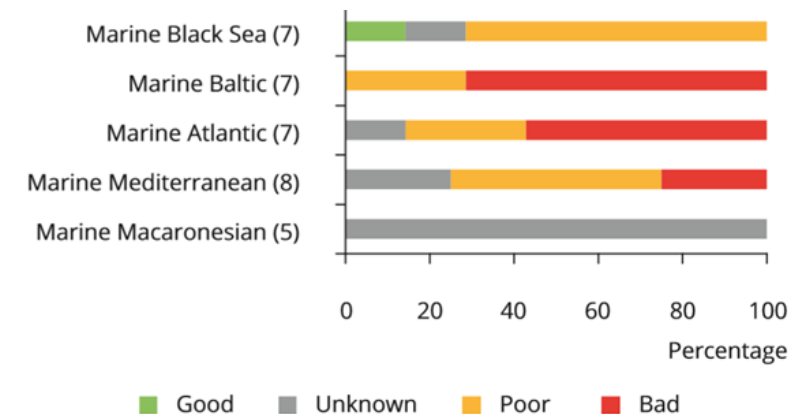


<https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2779/032638>

Conservation status of protected marine species



Conservation status of protected marine habitats



<https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/biodiversity/state-of-nature-in-the-eu/state-of-nature-2020>

EU State of Nature report

- **Every 6 years**, EU Member States are required to report on:
 - **the sizes of and trends in populations of birds** (Article 12 of the Birds Directive)
 - **the conservation status of and trends in targeted habitats and species** (Article 17 of the Habitats Directive)
- **The EEA compiles and processes** the reports from the Member States and makes the assessment of the conservation status of species and habitats at **the biogeographical/EU level**.
- This information is accessible **online**.

EU State of Nature report

Explore nature reporting data

Modified 24 Aug 2023

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Every 6 years EU Member States are required to report on the sizes of and trends in populations of birds (Article 12 of the Birds Directive) and on the conservation status of and trends in targeted habitats and species (Article 17 of the Habitats Directive) within their European territories.

The EEA, together with its European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity and consultants from the European Commission, compile and process the reports from the Member States. In addition, they assess the conservation status of species and habitats at the EU level.

These data are from the reporting period 2013-2018.

Methodology	▼
Datasets	▼
Web Viewers	▼
Results at EU level - dashboards	▼
Reporting from the Member States	▼
Data quality and coherence	▼

- Member States' reports
- Web viewers
- Dashboards
- Maps
- Quality feedback
- ...

EU State of Nature report

Article 17 web tool

Article 17 > Habitat summary

Habitat assessments at EU biogeographical level

The Article 17 web tool provides an access to EU biogeographical and Member States' assessments of conservation status of the habitat types and species of Community interest compiled as part of the Habitats Directive - Article 17 reporting process. These assessments have a period 2013-2018.

Choose a period, a group, then a habitat type belonging to that group. Optionally, further refine your query by selecting one of the available biogeographical regions for that habitat type. Once a selection has been made the conservation status can be visualised in a map view.

The 'Data sheet info' includes notes for each regional and overall assessment per habitat.

The 'Audit trail' includes the methods used for the EU biogeographical assessments and justifications for decisions made by the assessors.

2013-2018
 Coastal habitats
 1120 Posidonia beds (Posidonion)
 Marine Mediterranean

[View data sheet info](#) [Audit trail](#) [Map](#)

Note: Rows in italic shows data not taken into account when performing the assessments (marginal presence, occasional, extinct prior HD, information, etc)

Legend: FV Favourable XX Unknown U1 Unfavourable-Inadequate U2 Unfavourable-Bad

Current selection: 2013-2018, Coastal habitats, 1120 Posidonia beds (Posidonion oceanicae), Marine Mediterranean. [Show all Coastal habitats](#)

MS	Range (km ²)				Area (km ²)				Structure and functions (km ²)				Future prospects				Overall assessment				Distribution area(km ²)									
	Surface	Status (% MS)	Trend	FRR	Min	Max	Best value	Type est.	Method	Status (% MS)	Trend	FRA	Good	Not good	Not known	Status	Trend	Range prosp.	Area prosp.	S & f prosp.	Status	Curr. CS	Curr. CS trend	Prev. CS	Prev. CS trend	Status Nat. of ch.	CS trend Nat. of ch.	Distrib.	Method	% MS
CY	281	0.13	-	≈	N/A	N/A	130	estimate	a	1.62	-	≈	164.60 - 164.60	N/A - N/A	N/A - N/A	FV	-	good	good	good	FV	FV	-	FV	N/A	noChange	noChange	N/A	a	0
ES	30900	14.16	u	>	N/A	N/A	1212.80	minimum	b	15.13	u	>	N/A - N/A	N/A - N/A	1212.80 - 1212.80	XX	x	unk	unk	unk	XX	XX	-	U1	-	method	method	21000	b	10.37
FR	12700	5.82	-	≈	706.40	890.70	876.80	estimate	b	10.94	-	≈	691 - 758	126 - 182	34 - 71	U1	-	good	poor	unk	U1	U1	-	U1	-	noChange	genuine	12400	b	6.12
GR	66024	30.26	-	≈	2300	2600	N/A	estimate	b	38.57	-	>	2012 - 2275	288 - 325	N/A - N/A	FV	-	good	poor	good	U1	U1	-	U1	-	noChange	noChange	97400	b	48.10
HR	21800	9.99	-	≈	N/A	N/A	159.83	estimate	c	1.99	u	x	N/A - N/A	N/A - N/A	159.83 - 159.83	XX	u	good	poor	poor	U1	U1	x	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	21800	c	10.77
IT	86100	39.41	x	≈	N/A	N/A	3116.61	estimate	b	38.89	x	≈	N/A - N/A	N/A - N/A	N/A - N/A	XX	x	good	good	unk	FV	FV	x	U1	-	knowledge	knowledge	48400	c	23.90
MT	202	0.09	-	≈	N/A	N/A	68.46	estimate	a	0.85	-	≈	66.38 - 68.46	N/A - 2.08	N/A - N/A	FV	-	good	good	good	FV	FV	-	FV	N/A	noChange	noChange	1100	a	0.54
SI	155	0.07	-	≈	N/A	N/A	0.01	estimate	a	0	-	0.01	0.01 - 0.01	N/A - N/A	N/A - N/A	FV	-	good	unk	unk	XX	FV	-	FV	N/A	noChange	noChange	400	a	0.20

Automatic Assessments [Show](#)

EU biogeographical assessments

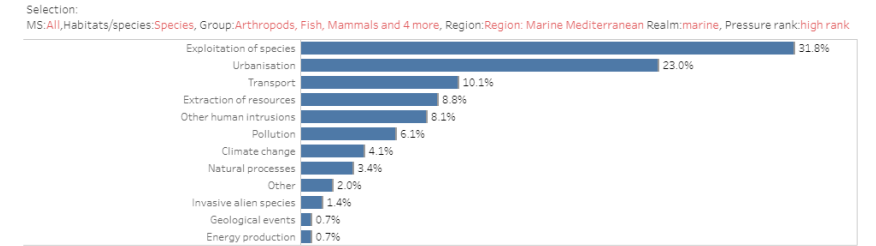
MS/EU28	Surface	Status Range	Trend	FRR	Min	Max	Best value	Status Area	Trend	FRA	Good	Not good	Not known	Status Str. & funct.	Trend	Range prosp.	Area prosp.	S & f prosp.	Status Future prosp.	Curr. CS	Curr. CS trend	2012 CS	2012 CS trend	Status Nat. of ch.	CS trend Nat. of ch.	2001-06 status with backcasting	Target 1	
EU28	218162	2XA	x	>	218162	7694.11	8178.41	8014.51	2XA	x	>	8014.51	2933.99	-	-	414.00	-	-	-	2XA	MIX	x	U1	-	nc	nong	U1	D

The current dataset is readonly, so you cannot add a conclusion.

Introduction Overview pressures (matrix) Pressures (main categories) Pressures (all categories) Pressures per habitat/species group Pressures per ecogroup (table)

MS: (All)
 Habitats
 Species
 Group: (Multiple values)
 Biogeographical region: Region: Marine Mediterranean
 realm: marine
 highRankAndNoHighR...: (All)
 Legend: ■ high rank

Aggregated number of reports per main pressure category - Species -

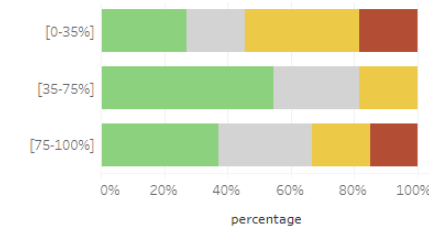


Changes in conservation status and trends of non-bird species and habitats within different Natura 2000 coverage classes

Select country: (All) Select region: MMED

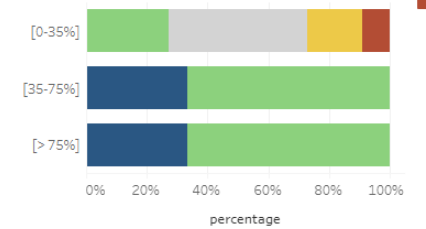
a) Annex I habitats

Selected country: All, region: MMED



b) Annex II non-bird species

Selected country: All, region: MMED

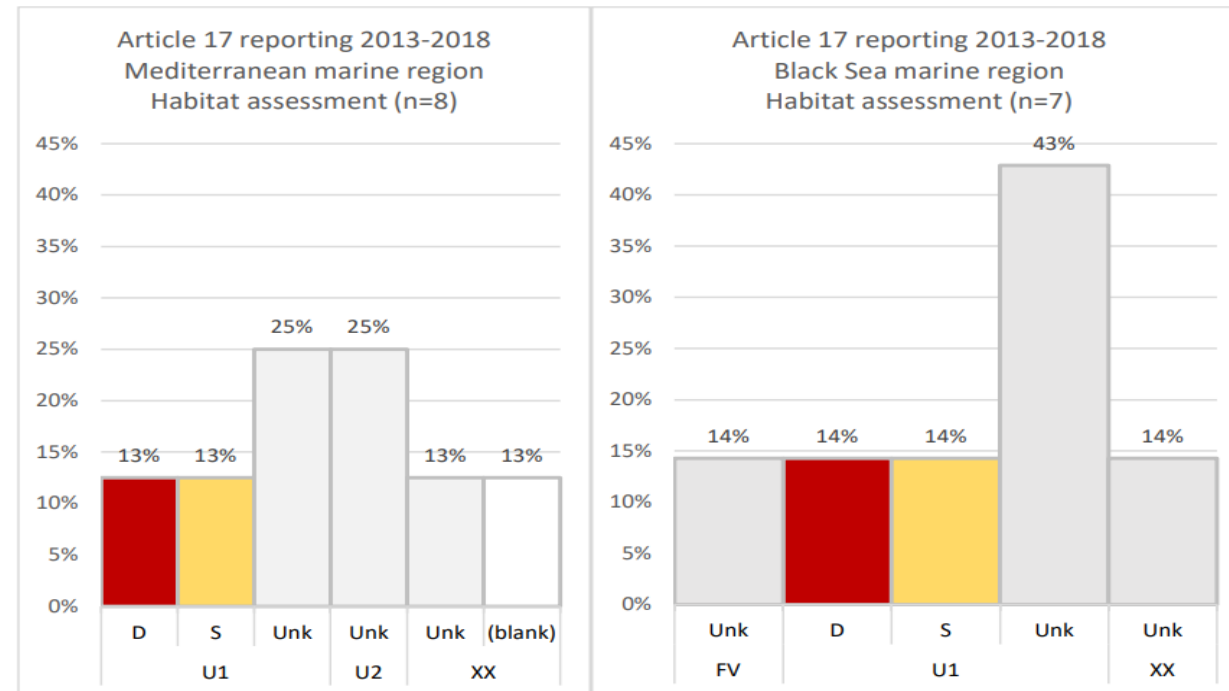


Selected country: All, region: MMED

Feature type	Natura2000 Coverage Classes	Improvement	Remained favourable	Unknown	No change	Deterioration	Grand Total
a) Annex I habitats	[0-35%]		3 (8.33%)	2 (9.52%)	4 (30.77%)	2 (25.00%)	11 (13.58%)
	[35-75%]		6 (16.67%)	3 (14.29%)	2 (15.38%)		11 (13.58%)
	[75-100%]		10 (27.78%)	8 (38.10%)	5 (38.46%)	4 (50.00%)	27 (33.33%)
b) Annex II non-bird species	[0-35%]		3 (8.33%)	6 (28.57%)	2 (15.38%)	2 (25.00%)	13 (16.05%)
	[35-75%]		1 (33.33%)	3 (8.33%)			4 (4.94%)
	[75-100%]		2 (66.67%)	11 (30.56%)	2 (9.52%)		15 (18.52%)
Grand Total		3 (100.00%)	36 (100.00%)	21 (100.00%)	13 (100.00%)	8 (100.00%)	81 (100.00%)

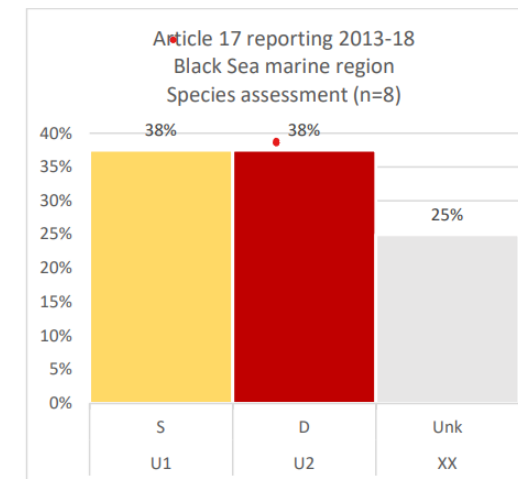
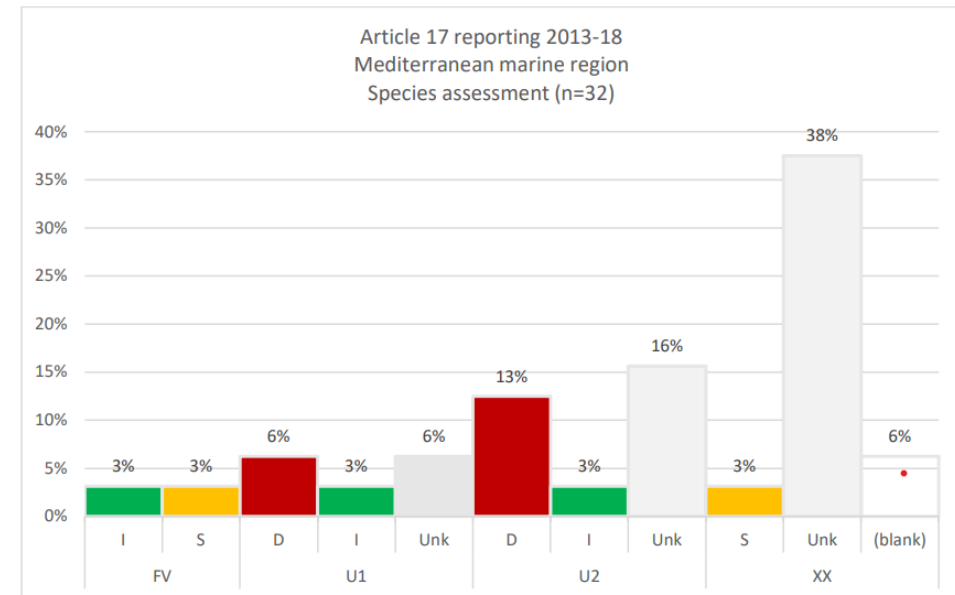
Conservation status – marine habitats in the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions

- In the Mediterranean, all marine habitats are in **unfavourable conservation status**, **none** of the trends are positive
- In the Black Sea, only 1 habitat (1180) is in **favourable** condition, all other habitats either **unfavourable** or unknown, **none** of the trends are positive
- No change/deterioration of status is more frequent for habitats not well covered by Natura 2000 network
- Deterioration of status even for habitats well covered by the network - **effectiveness of measures?**



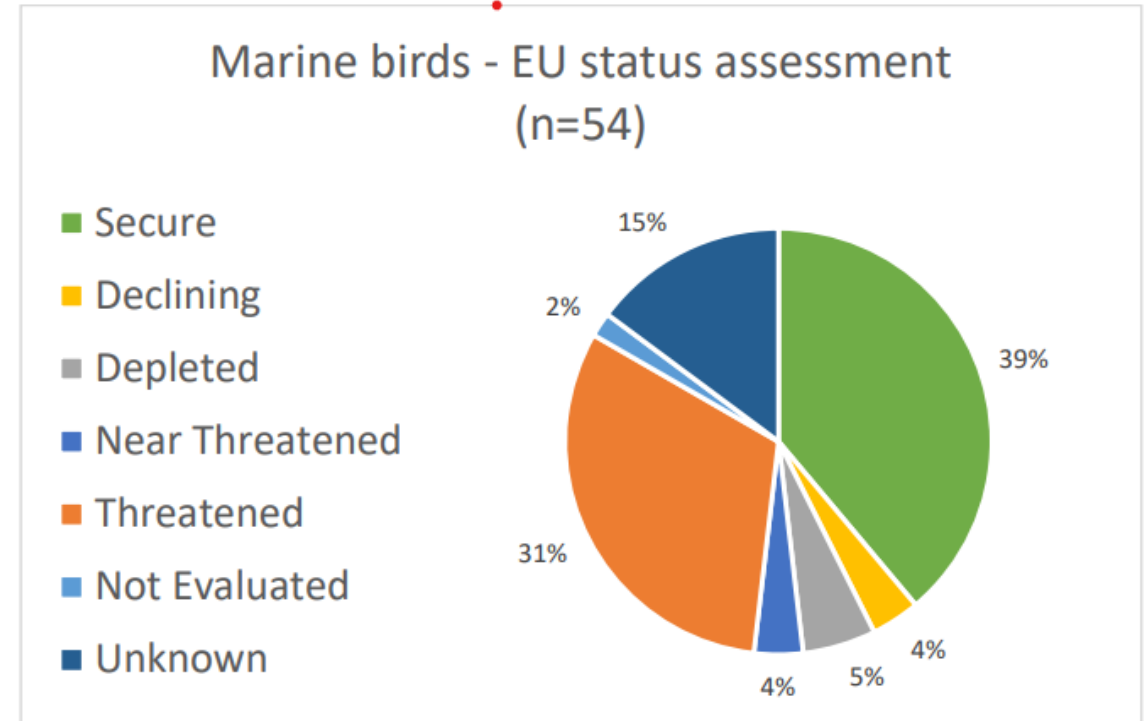
Conservation status – marine species (HD) in the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions

- In the Mediterranean, only two species (HD) are in **favourable** conservation status
- Main issue is the lack of knowledge
- In the Black Sea, 75% are in **unfavourable** status
- No change/deterioration of status is more frequent for species not well covered by Natura 2000 network
- For species well covered by the Natura 2000 network, the status has remained favourable or is improving



Conservation status – seabirds in the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions

- Marine birds – 35% either threatened or near threatened at EU level
- Marine birds – only 39% in favourable status at EU level



Main pressures on habitats in the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions

Mediterranean:

1. Urbanisation
2. Fishing and aquaculture
3. Transport and pollution

Black Sea:

1. Fishing and aquaculture
2. Urbanisation
3. Extraction of mineral resources

Main pressures on species in the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions

Mediterranean:

1. Fishing and aquaculture
2. Urbanisation
3. Transport

Black Sea:

1. Fishing and aquaculture
2. Military activities and other

Conservation measures for marine habitats and species in the Mediterranean Sea

- Measures both **inside and outside** Natura 2000
- **60%** of the necessary measures for **habitats** and **57%** of measures for **species are still not taken in the Mediterranean Sea**
- **Conservation status is not improving for many habitats/species – this may indicate that key measures have not yet been taken**

EU red list of marine habitats - Mediterranean

Box 3.4.1 Threatened Mediterranean Sea marine habitats (for more information refer to the full assessments).

Endangered

- A2.31 Communities of Mediterranean mediolittoral mud estuarine
- A3.13 Photophilic communities with canopy-forming algae in Mediterranean infralittoral and upper circalittoral rock
- A5.52B Algal dominated communities in the Mediterranean infralittoral sediment
- A5.6v Mediterranean infralittoral mussel beds
- A5.6y Mediterranean infralittoral oyster beds

Vulnerable

- A2.25 Communities of Mediterranean mediolittoral sands
- A2.33 Communities of Mediterranean mediolittoral mud
- A2.7x Biogenic habitats of Mediterranean mediolittoral rock
- A3.23 Photophilic communities dominated by calcareous, habitat-forming algae
- A3.36 Communities of Mediterranean infralittoral estuarine rock
- A4.23 Communities of Mediterranean soft circalittoral rock
- A5.27 Communities of Mediterranean lower circalittoral sand
- A5.32 Communities of Mediterranean infralittoral mud estuarine
- A5.38 Communities of Mediterranean infralittoral muddy detritic bottoms
- A5.535 Posidonia beds in the Mediterranean infralittoral zone

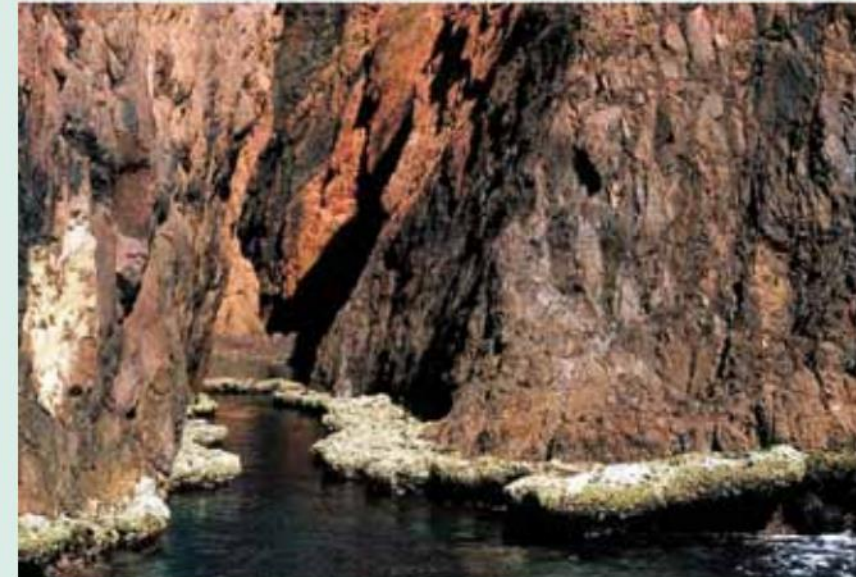
Box 3.4.2 MEDITERRANEAN SEA CASE STUDY

Biogenic habitats of Mediterranean mediolittoral rock

Assessment outcome: **VULNERABLE**

Biogenic concretions such as those of the red algae *Lithophyllum byssoides* and platforms formed by the algae *Neogoniolithon brassica-florida* and the gastropod *Dendropoma petraeum* have been described from only a few localities along the Mediterranean coastline. Their distribution is mostly restricted to the northwestern Mediterranean, the warmest part of the basin. Both reefs and rims represent unique archives to reconstruct past Mediterranean climate and especially sea level oscillations. They play an important role in preventing or slowing down the rock erosive processes. Where these reefs are well developed they increase microhabitat complexity and the associated biodiversity on the narrow Mediterranean intertidal fringe.

The habitat is vulnerable to physical impacts, such as coastal developments and trampling, and very sensitive to environmental stresses related to water quality and changes in sea level as they develop. Ocean acidification, predicted to be one of the consequences of climate change, impairs recruitment success and causes shell dissolution, as well as altering the shell mineralogy of the reef-building gastropod, *Dendropoma petraeum*.



Lithophyllum byssoides rims fringing rocky coastline. © E. Ballesteros

This habitat has a restricted distribution: there are continuing declines in its spatial extent and biotic quality and given its vulnerability to current impacts such as pollution and sea-level rise, a continuing decline in the quantity and quality is considered likely. This habitat has therefore been assessed as Vulnerable.

EU red list of marine habitats – Black Sea

Box 3.5.1 Threatened Black Sea habitats (for more information refer to the full assessments).

■ Critically Endangered

A5.xx Pontic circalittoral biogenic detritic bottoms with dead or alive mussel beds, shell deposits, with encrusting corallines (*Phymatolithon*, *Lithothamnion*) and attached foliose sciaphilic macroalgae

■ Endangered

A1.1xx Turf algae on Pontic moderately exposed lower mediolittoral rock

A1.44 Pontic mediolittoral caves and overhangs

A3.34 Fucales and other algae on Pontic sheltered upper infralittoral rock, well illuminated

A5.5w Seagrass meadows in Pontic lower infralittoral sands

A5.62 Mussel beds on Pontic circalittoral terrigenous muds

■ Vulnerable

A4.24 Invertebrate-dominated Pontic circalittoral rock

Box 3.5.2 BLACK SEA CASE STUDY

A5.xx Pontic circalittoral biogenic detritic bottoms with encrusting corallines (*Phymatolithon*, *Lithothamnion*) and attached foliose sciaphilic macroalgae

Assessment outcome: **■ CRITICALLY ENDANGERED**

This habitat is characterised by extensive stands of perennial red algae (genera *Phyllophora*, and *Coccotylus*) on a substrate of mixed sediments (shelly mud to pure shell hash) covered by dead or living crustose coralline algae *Lithothamnion crispatum*, *Lithothamnion proponentidis*, and *Lithophyllum cystoseirae*. It is only present on the north-west shelf of the Black Sea, a locality linked to specific bathymetry and oceanographic conditions. There is also a delicate nutrient balance which provides suitable conditions for this habitat to form.

During the 1970s and 1980s the north-western Black Sea was heavily affected by eutrophication due to nutrient enrichment and this resulted in the reduction in extent (by several orders of magnitude) of the *Phyllophora* field, a habitat that was first described in 1908. Harvesting for agar was also a past pressure on this habitat. Today only a small nucleus of the habitat survives on the Ukrainian shelf. The diversity of the associated fauna and flora has also severely declined, although it is now thought to be largely stable. Bottom-trawling and expanding gas exploration activities are current and future threats to this habitat. This habitat has been assessed as Critically Endangered because of a severe reduction in quality and extent over the last 50 years.



Coccotylus truncatus in Zernov's *Phyllophora* field, Ukraine. © T. Hetman

Expected measures for the pledges?

- **New or improved measures** inside and outside Natura 2000 capable of **reversing** the negative trends
- The role of **conservation measures in Natura 2000 sites** – ensuring their **effective management**
- **Synergies with the MSFD programmes of measures** and measures implemented through regional sea conventions
- **Measures in the marine action plan**
- (*Restoration measures under the Nature restoration law*)

Thank you



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