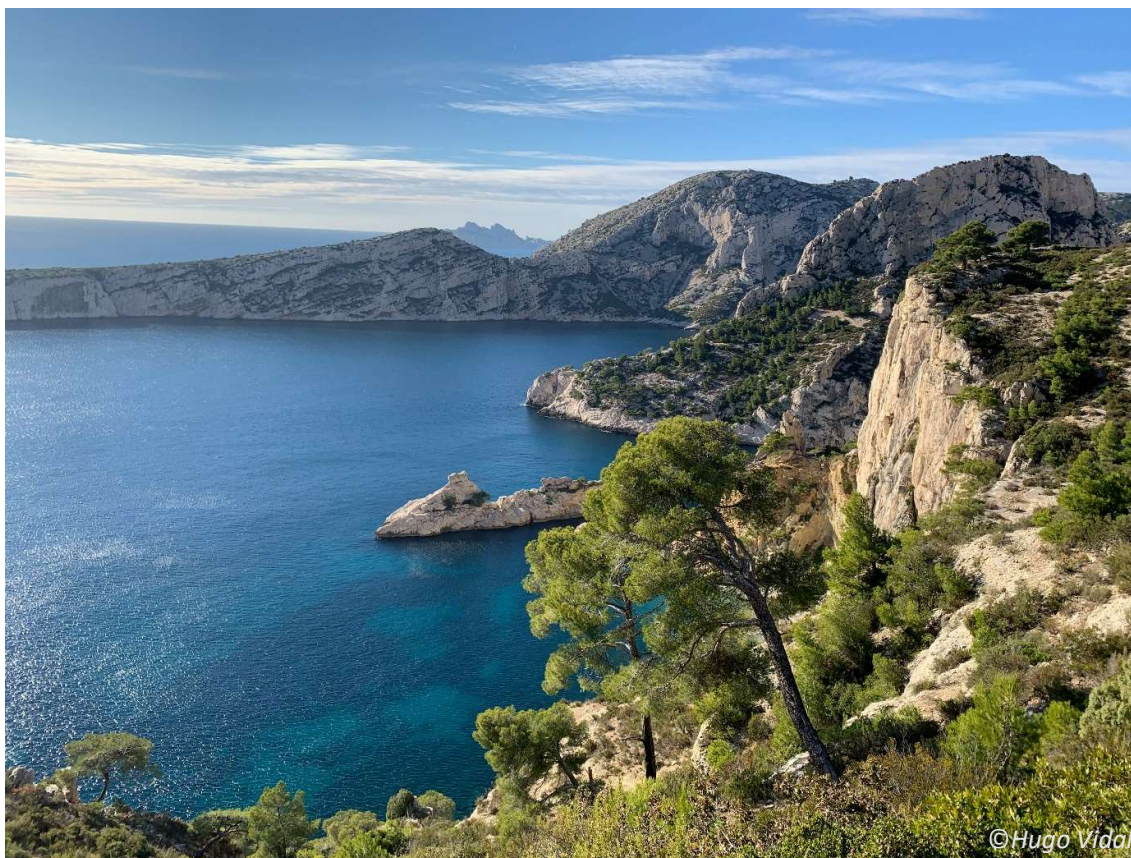




# Third Natura 2000 biogeographical seminar for the Mediterranean and Black Sea marine regions

## Background Document



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## 1. Introduction to the Natura 2000 biogeographical process and the Natura 2000 seminars

The Natura 2000 biogeographical process was launched in 2011 by the European Commission. The objective of the process is to promote knowledge exchange, networking, and cooperation on Natura 2000 related issues at a biogeographical region level. At the heart of the process lie the Natura 2000 seminars, as well as a networking programme consisting of the organisation of workshops, events, or meetings relevant to the objective of the process and various communication actions.

Since Member States in each region are likely to face similar challenges in the management of Natura 2000 sites and protected habitats and species, the Natura 2000 seminars are intended to stimulate transnational exchanges and promote a coherent management of Natura 2000 at biogeographical region level. This approach is particularly relevant for the marine environment, where the management of Natura 2000 sites often involves addressing transboundary or even basin-scale pressures and activities which also often affect highly mobile species not restricted to the marine area of one Member State.

As the responsibility for implementing Natura 2000 lies with the Member States, the seminars create an opportunity for these key actors to exchange information at biogeographical level. In addition, they also stimulate engagement with and involvement of other key stakeholders and expert networks, including civil society and economic operators.

### 1.1. EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

The strategic orientation of the process has evolved over time. In 2020, the European Commission adopted the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 “Bringing nature back into our lives”<sup>1</sup>, which was supported by Member States<sup>2</sup>. The strategy sets out a comprehensive, ambitious, long-term plan for protecting nature and reversing the degradation of ecosystems and ecosystem services. Specific targets are to be achieved by 2030, among them two that are particularly relevant for the Natura 2000 biogeographical process:

- **Protected areas:** legally protect at least 30% of the land, including inland waters, and 30% of the sea in the EU, of which at least one third (10% of land and 10% of sea) to be under strict protection. Effectively manage all protected areas, defining clear conservation objectives and measures, and monitor them appropriately.

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<sup>1</sup> EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 Bringing nature back into our lives <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1590574123338&uri=CELEX:52020DC0380>

<sup>2</sup> <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-11829-2020-INIT/en/pdf>

- **Conservation status:** ensure that at least 30% of species and habitats covered by the Birds<sup>3</sup> and Habitats<sup>4</sup> Directives not currently in favourable status are in that category or show a strong positive trend, as well as ensure no deterioration in conservation trends and status of all protected habitats and species.

These targets are not legally binding and do not replace the legal obligations that Member States have under the Birds and Habitats Directives. Rather, they represent a political agreement for action to drive their delivery and help stop and reverse biodiversity loss. Commission's guidance documents have been produced that provide further clarifications for each of the targets<sup>5,6</sup>. These targets have also added a new and over-arching context for the Natura 2000 biogeographical process.

## 1.2. Pledge and review process

As part of the initiative to meet the objectives set out within the Biodiversity Strategy 2030, the European Commission has requested that Member States make pledges to show how they will meet the protected area and conservation status targets. These should follow the format<sup>7</sup> and contents agreed between the Member States, the Commission, and the European Environment Agency (EEA), using the Excel file template developed by the EEA and the European Topic Centre for Biodiversity (ETC-BD) for pledge submission to the EEA's Reportnet platform. Pledges will be peer reviewed by the Commission, the EEA, and Member States. The expanded Natura 2000 biogeographical process and seminars will be central to this review process.

## 1.3. Biogeographical process and Natura 2000 seminars

To provide additional support to Member States and the pledge and review process, the scope of the Natura 2000 biogeographical process has been expanded. In addition to helping Member States to implement their legal obligations under the EU Birds and Habitats Directives, the process will also help them to contribute to the full implementation of targets under the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030.

Sharing information, experience, and knowledge on best practices, and ensuring cooperation and common understanding at transnational level are key to making progress towards achieving a coherent

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<sup>3</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32009L0147>

<sup>4</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A01992L0043-20130701>

<sup>5</sup> Commission guidance on the protected areas targets: [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/publications/criteria-and-guidance-protected-areas-designations-staff-working-document\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/publications/criteria-and-guidance-protected-areas-designations-staff-working-document_en)

<sup>6</sup> Commission guidance on the status improvement targets: <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/6f30d1d2-d6f2-4c6e-a4dc-1feb66201929/library/bd8a2cd4-f774-4574-bd88-0b1fa012b725/details>

<sup>7</sup> Format for the protected areas target: <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/6f30d1d2-d6f2-4c6e-a4dc-1feb66201929/library/55e353-e369-49ab-92b1-4ddab67424b0/details>

Format for the status improvement target: <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/6f30d1d2-d6f2-4c6e-a4dc-1feb66201929/library/395c7cde-e2c4-40b0-9afc-638a214d6b39/details>

EU-wide network of protected areas, improving the effectiveness of its management, and ultimately ensuring progress towards reaching favourable conservation status at biogeographical level by 2030. Natura 2000 seminars will therefore support key players in:

- achieving a common understanding of the objectives and processes in relation to relevant targets under the Biodiversity strategy,
- presenting national pledges related to the targets for a peer review in the seminars,
- achieving a common understanding on relevant topics, especially in relation to Natura 2000, to address challenges in implementation and management, financing, and monitoring and reporting, to ensure coherence and effectiveness of implementation at regional/biogeographical level,
- sharing good practices in regulation, supervision, conservation, and restoration with a view to promoting and upscaling them, and
- facilitating the setup of joint projects to support delivery of these objectives, including on management/restoration.

#### **1.4. Biogeographical process in the marine regions**

The EU Biodiversity strategy applies equally to the marine as to the terrestrial environment. The protected area (PA) targets are to be met at the level of each marine biogeographical region by designating new, or expanding existing, Natura 2000 sites (special areas of conservation under the Habitats Directive or special protection areas under the Birds Directive) or MPAs designated under national legislation or through international agreements such as regional sea conventions.

Strictly protected areas are defined as follows<sup>8</sup>: *“Strictly protected areas are fully and legally protected areas designated to conserve and/or restore the integrity of biodiversity-rich natural areas with their underlying ecological structure and supporting natural environmental processes. Natural processes are therefore left essentially undisturbed from human pressures and threats to the area’s overall ecological structure and functioning, independently of whether those pressures and threats are located inside or outside the strictly protected area”*.

In addition, other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) can be counted towards the targets if they meet relevant criteria stipulated by the Convention on Biological Diversity. What constitutes an OECM in the marine context is currently being elucidated<sup>9</sup>, with fisheries management areas being one topic of focus.

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<sup>8</sup> Commission guidance on the protected areas targets:  
[https://ec.europa.eu/environment/publications/criteria-and-guidance-protected-areas-designations-staff-working-document\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/publications/criteria-and-guidance-protected-areas-designations-staff-working-document_en)

<sup>9</sup>[https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/events/pdf/2.%20Ellen%20Kennington\\_WT\\_OPS\\_Marine%20OECMs.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/events/pdf/2.%20Ellen%20Kennington_WT_OPS_Marine%20OECMs.pdf)



The situation with conservation status (CS) targets is distinctly different. The CS improvement target does not distinguish between habitats and species in marine and terrestrial regions. While this target could be met in theory by addressing only terrestrial habitats and species, there is a strong presumption that for coastal states efforts should be made across both environments. In any case, the part of the target concerning no deterioration in conservation trends and status will still have to be met for marine habitats and species where relevant. A second objective of the target is to ensure that, by 2030, the quality of national monitoring has become sufficiently comprehensive in each of the Member States to allow for complete and up-to-date reporting that provides a reliable assessment of status and trend for all relevant species and habitats. This is particularly important for marine habitats and species given that a large proportion of conservation status assessments are classed as unknown. Finally, this target is conceived as a national-level target to be achieved by each Member State individually without any further regional or biogeographical breakdown.

A new contract was put in place under the Natura 2000 biogeographical process to provide better and more focused support to Member States working in marine regions<sup>10</sup>. The terrestrial and marine biogeographical processes are complementary and there is a strong level of coordination between them, including a joint communications platform and a shared wiki<sup>11</sup>. The Mediterranean and Black Sea seminar is the last of a series of three marine regional events for the period 2023-2024 that will support the delivery of the biodiversity pledge and review process in the EU seas.

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<sup>10</sup> Support for the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process in the Marine Regions ENV/2022/OP/0006

<sup>11</sup> <https://biogeoprocess.net/>

## 2. The Mediterranean and Black Sea marine biogeographical regions

Figure 1 shows the marine biogeographical regions that are relevant in the context of the EU Biodiversity strategy 2030. It is important to note that these are purely biogeographical areas, and do not reflect national jurisdictions.

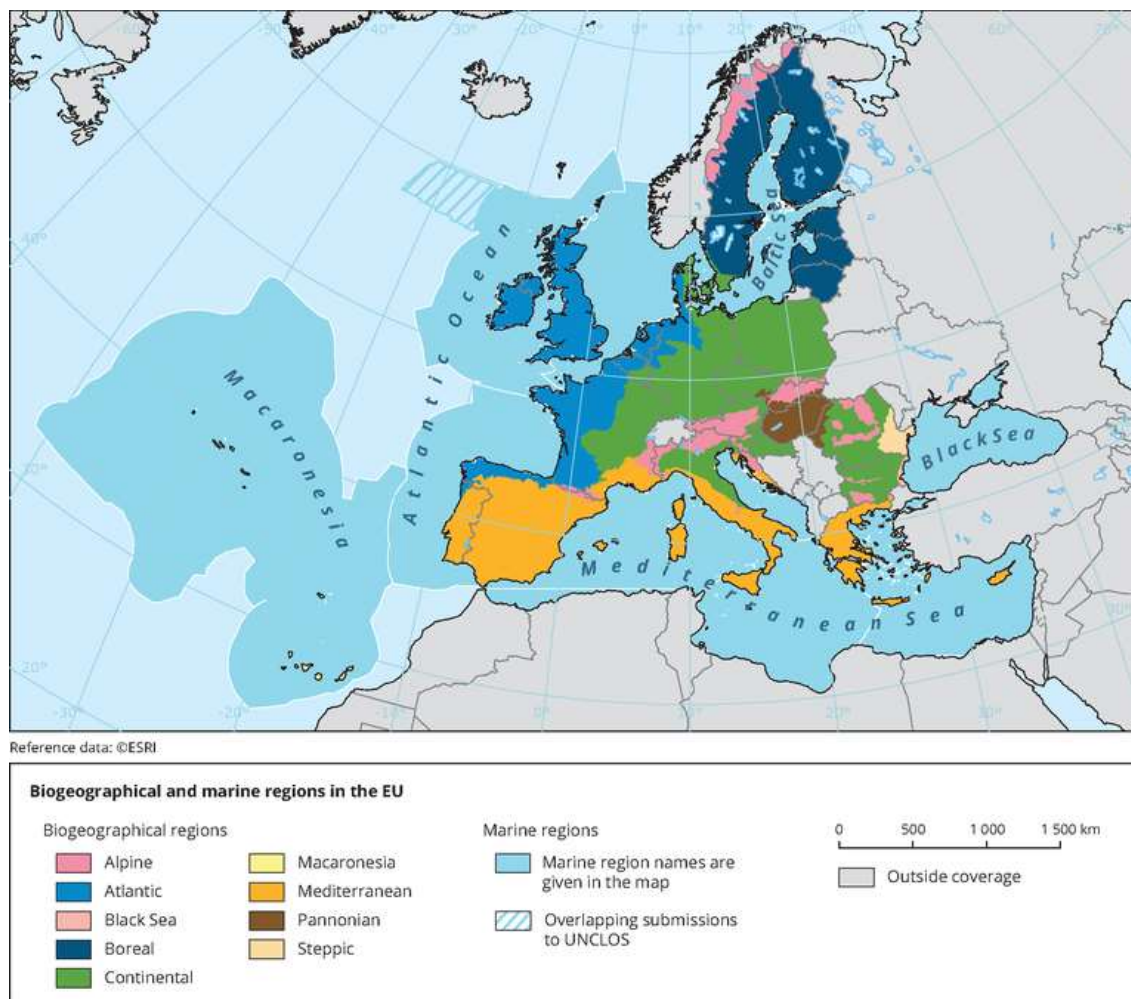


Figure 1: Biogeographical regions in Europe (source: EEA<sup>12</sup>, last modified October 2020)

Relevant coastal Member States in the Mediterranean and Black Sea marine biogeographical regions are Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, **France**, Greece, Italy, Malta, Romania, Slovenia, and **Spain** (coastal states in **bold** have coasts in more than one marine biogeographical region – see Table 1).

Member State	Mediterranean	Black Sea	Atlantic	Macaronesian
Bulgaria (BG)		X		
Croatia (HR)	X			
Cyprus (CY)	X			

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/figures/biogeographical-and-marine-regions-in>

Member State	Mediterranean	Black Sea	Atlantic	Macaronesian
France (FR)	X		X	
Greece (EL)	X			
Italy (IT)	X			
Malta (MT)	X			
Romania (RO)		X		
Slovenia (SI)	X			
Spain (ES)	X		X	X

Table 1 – Member States and relevant marine biogeographical regions

## 2.1. The biogeographical process for the Mediterranean and Black Sea marine regions

The first marine biogeographical seminar was held in St Malo, France in 2015<sup>13</sup>. It covered all EU marine regions and, appropriately for a first event, was broad in scope addressing three themes.

- **Theme 1:** Setting conservation objectives for Natura 2000 sites
- **Theme 2:** Reconciling Natura 2000 objectives and marine activities/ conservation management planning
- **Theme 3:** Regional integration of Natura 2000 issues

The second marine biogeographical seminar was held in Palma, Spain, in 2018<sup>14</sup>. The themes addressed in this event were:

- **Theme 1:** Setting conservation objectives at site, national and regional levels
- **Theme 2:** Setting favourable reference values (FRVs)
- **Theme 3:** Developing conservation measures to achieve the conservation objectives

Discussions were based on biogeographical groupings of Member States: Baltic, Atlantic and Macaronesian, and Mediterranean and Black Sea.

In addition to seminars, networking events bringing practitioners together to discuss specific marine issues have been held. ‘Anchors Away’ was an event held in November 2019 in Athens, Greece to address mitigation of direct anthropogenic impacts on *Posidonia* beds<sup>15</sup> in the Mediterranean, while in October 2020 an online regional workshop was held to discuss common approaches to habitats and species conservation in the Black Sea marine biogeographical region<sup>16</sup>.

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<sup>13</sup> All documentation for the first marine seminar can be found here: [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/knowledge\\_exchange/28\\_document\\_library\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/knowledge_exchange/28_document_library_en.htm)

<sup>14</sup> All documentation for the second marine seminar can be found here: [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/knowledge\\_exchange/28\\_document\\_library\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/knowledge_exchange/28_document_library_en.htm)

<sup>15</sup> [https://biogeoprocess.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Report\\_Anchors-Away.pdf](https://biogeoprocess.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Report_Anchors-Away.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> [https://biogeoprocess.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Report\\_Black-Sea-Marine-Network-Event-BG.pdf](https://biogeoprocess.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Report_Black-Sea-Marine-Network-Event-BG.pdf)

## 2.2. Current protected area coverage

The most recent analysis of marine protected area coverage at marine biogeographical regions level was conducted by the European Environment Agency based on the data reported by the end of 2021 for Natura 2000 sites and for nationally designated areas (Figure 2). It combines data for Natura 2000 sites with those for nationally designated areas reported by Member States and therefore provides an overview of the total area that is designated as protected, accounting for overlaps between different designations. The overview at regional level also includes sites designated under regional sea conventions (accounting for the overlap between them and Natura 2000 and nationally designated sites). The data about the areas under strict protection are currently not reported but this will become available once all pledges are submitted.

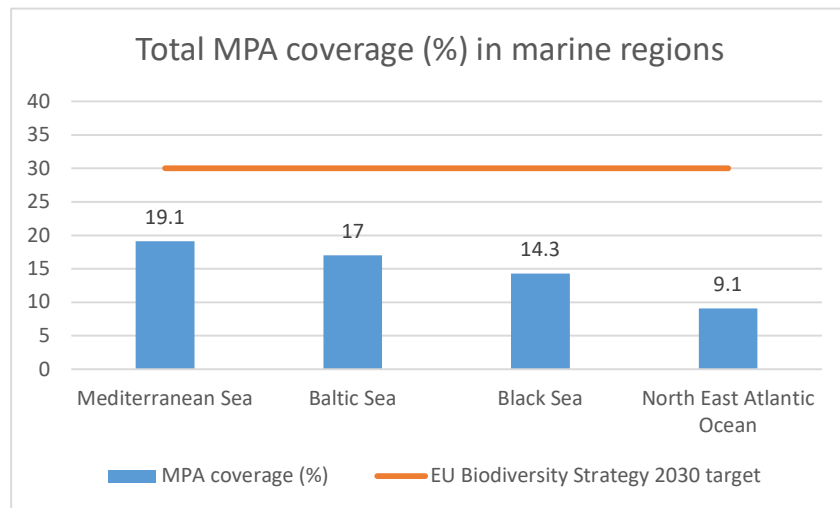


Figure 2 - Total MPA coverage in each marine biogeographical region, as % of the total EU marine area of the region

For the Mediterranean and Black Sea specifically, it is also possible to break down the figures at the level of Member States that have marine waters within these regions (Figure 3). It should be noted that the 30% target is to be achieved at the level of the biogeographical region, however all Member States are expected to contribute towards reaching the strategy protected areas targets to an extent that is proportionate to the natural values they host and to the potential they have for nature restoration.

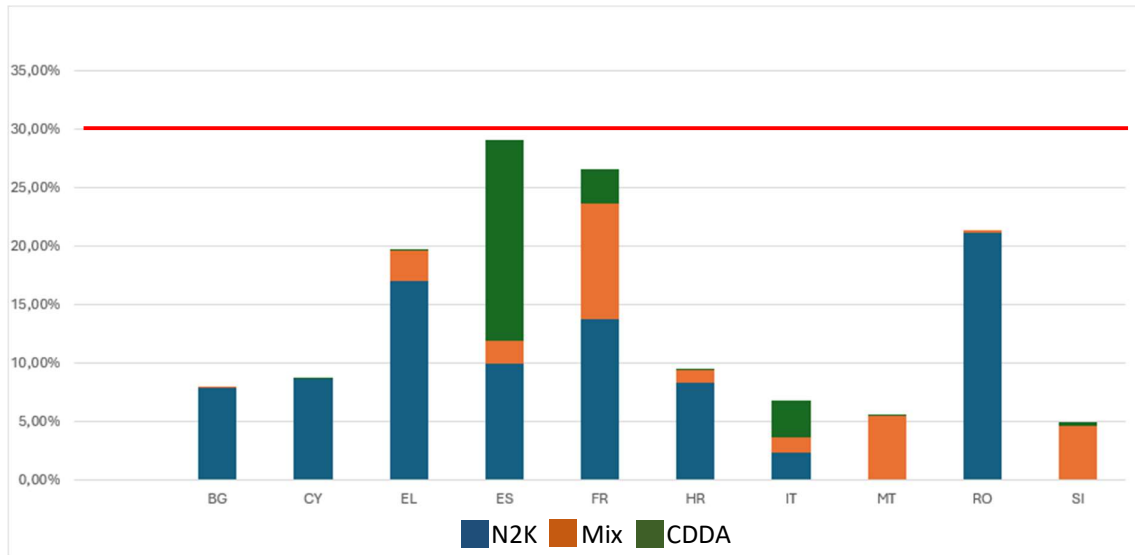


Figure 3 - Percentage of marine area of each Member State in the Mediterranean and Black Sea marine regions covered by Natura 2000 sites (N2K) or nationally designated areas (CDDA), with overlaps accounted for (MIX). Red line shows 30% target of the Biodiversity strategy.

### 2.3. Current conservation status

Information on the conservation status of habitats and species in the Mediterranean and Black Sea marine biogeographical regions is available through the most recent reports under Article 12 of the Birds Directive and Article 17 of the Habitats Directive, for the period 2013-18<sup>17</sup>. This provides a baseline against which progress towards the conservation status targets can be assessed.

#### 2.3.1. Habitats

Member States report on the conservation status of habitats under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive. The charts below (Figure 4) combine the results of conservation status assessment for habitat types as reported by Member States for the Mediterranean and Black Sea marine biogeographical regions for the period 2013-18<sup>18</sup>. The status of each habitat is assessed as favourable (FV), unfavourable-inadequate (U1), unfavourable-bad (U2) or unknown (XX). In addition, a trend value is reported for each assessment value, as declining (D), increasing (I), stable (S), or unknown (Unk).

The chart for the Mediterranean marine region shows that none of the habitats are in favourable status, with all either in U1 (unfavourable – inadequate), U2 (unfavourable – bad) or XX (unknown). None of the assessment trends are positive. The chart for the Black Sea marine region shows that one habitat (1180 - Submarine structures made by leaking gases) is in favourable status, while all other

<sup>17</sup> Note that the reporting for this period includes data from the United Kingdom

<sup>18</sup> Article17\_2020\_habitatsEUassessment [https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/data/article-17-database-habitats-directive-92-43-eec-2/article-17-2020-dataset/article-17-2020-data-csv-format/at\\_download/file](https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/data/article-17-database-habitats-directive-92-43-eec-2/article-17-2020-dataset/article-17-2020-data-csv-format/at_download/file) (accessed October 2023)

habitats are either U1 (unfavourable – inadequate), or XX (unknown). None of the assessment trends are positive.

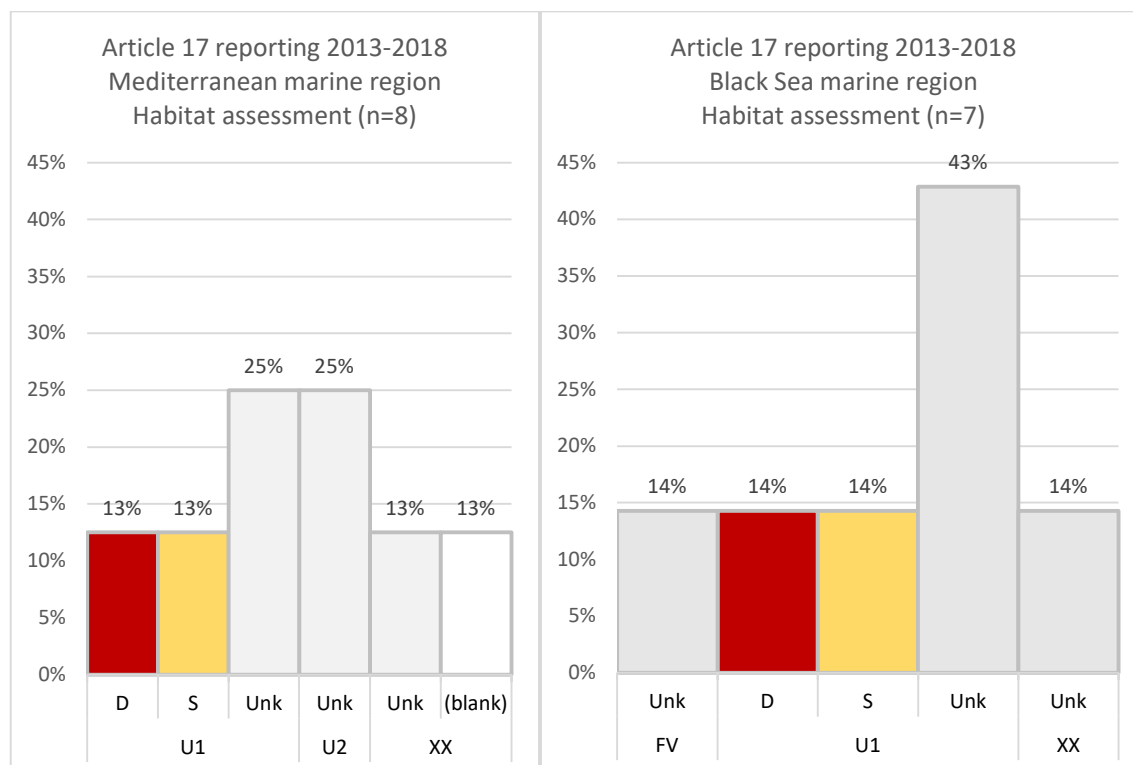


Figure 4 – Conservation status assessments for habitats under Article 17 reporting 2013-2018 for the Mediterranean and Black Sea marine biogeographical regions

### 2.3.2. Species

Member States report on the conservation status of non-bird species under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive. The chart below (Figure 5) shows the results of conservation status assessments for marine species as reported by Member States for the Mediterranean marine region for the period 2013-18<sup>19</sup>. The conservation status of each species is assessed as favourable (FV), unfavourable-inadequate (U1), unfavourable-bad (U2) or unknown (XX). In addition, a trend value is reported for each assessment value, as declining (D), increasing (I), stable (S), or unknown (Unk). Note that in some cases no data are reported, in which case these are identified as 'blank'.

A main issue is the lack of knowledge, with the conservation status of 47% of marine species reported as unknown, as are 22% of trends. Only 6% of marine species in the Mediterranean marine region are assessed to be in a favourable status.

<sup>19</sup> Article17\_2020\_speciesEUassessment [https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/data/article-17-database-habitats-directive-92-43-eec-2/article-17-2020-dataset/article-17-2020-data-csv-format/at\\_download/file](https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/data/article-17-database-habitats-directive-92-43-eec-2/article-17-2020-dataset/article-17-2020-data-csv-format/at_download/file) (accessed October 2023)

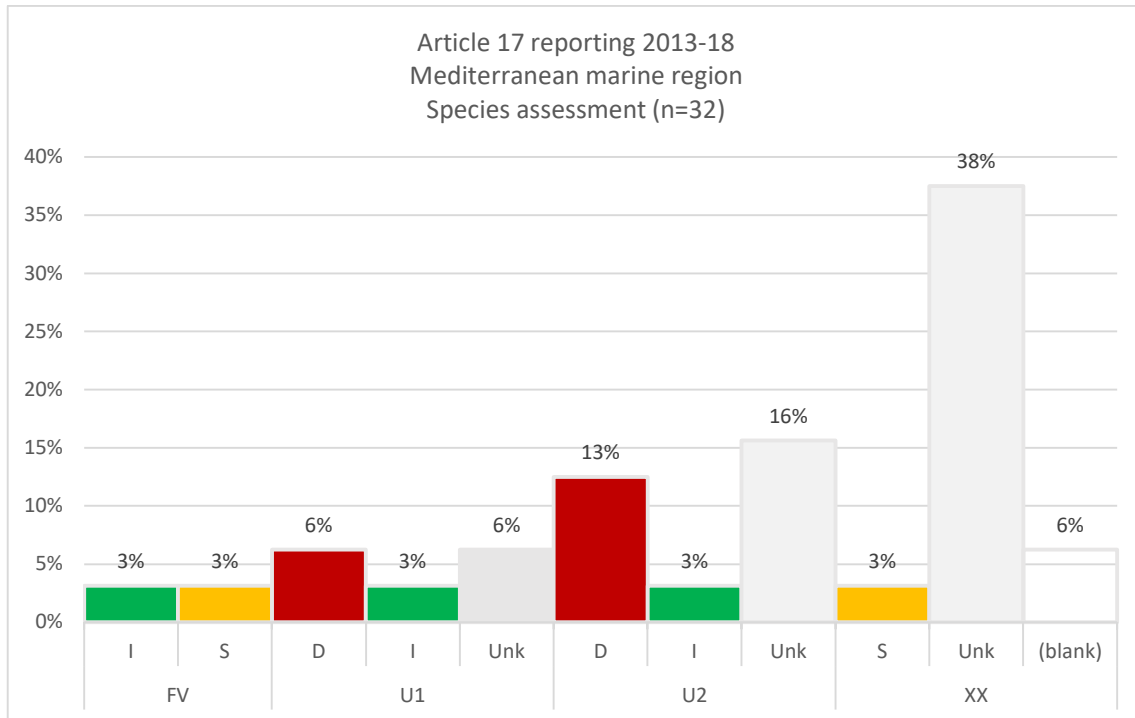


Figure 5 – Mediterranean marine region – species conservation status and trends assessment

Complementing this chart, Figure 6 shows the results of conservation status assessments for marine species as reported by Member States for the Black Sea marine region for the period 2013-18<sup>20</sup>. This shows that 25% of the species (*Alosa immaculata* and *Alosa tanaica*) have an unknown conservation status and trend. The remaining 75% are in unfavourable status, with 38% of the species (all marine mammals: *Phocoena phocoena*, *Delphinus delphis* and *Tursiops truncatus*) in unfavourable-inadequate status, with a stable trend, and 38% of species (all fish: *Huso huso*, *Acipenser stellatus*, and *Acipenser gueldenstaedtii*) in unfavourable-bad status with a decreasing trend.

<sup>20</sup> Article17\_2020\_speciesEUassessment [https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/data/article-17-database-habitats-directive-92-43-eeec-2/article-17-2020-dataset/article-17-2020-data-csv-format/at\\_download/file](https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/data/article-17-database-habitats-directive-92-43-eeec-2/article-17-2020-dataset/article-17-2020-data-csv-format/at_download/file) (accessed October 2023)

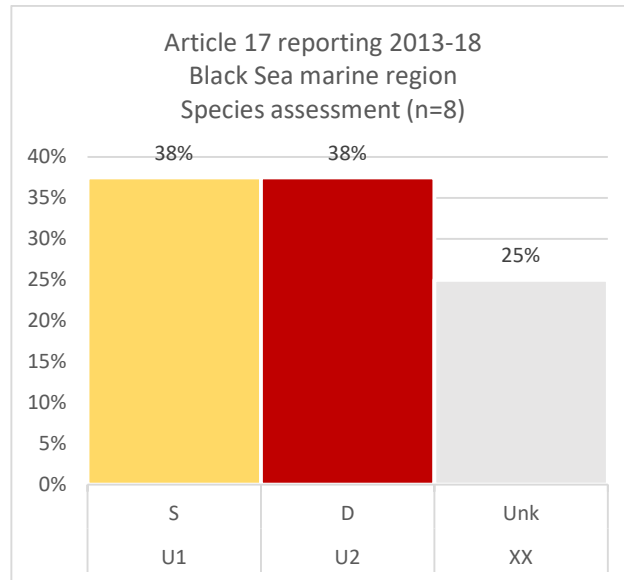


Figure 6 – Black Sea marine region – species conservation status and trends assessment

### 2.3.3. Birds

Data regarding current conservation status and trend for bird species are reported by Member States under Article 12 of the Birds Directive. These are not reported by biogeographical region, but at either EU or Member State level, and there is no distinction made in the data between marine and terrestrial species. However, a list of marine bird species<sup>21</sup> can be used to separate relevant data and information on the conservation status at an EU level and therefore provides some context for Member State pledges.

Figure 7 summarises the results of the most recent (2013-2018) status assessment for marine bird species<sup>22</sup>. This shows that 35% of EU marine bird populations are either threatened or near threatened, with only 39% secure. A complete list of species and assessments is provided in Annex 1.

<sup>21</sup> Marine bird species subset determined from [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/marine/docs/appendix\\_2\\_listing\\_species\\_habitats.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/marine/docs/appendix_2_listing_species_habitats.pdf)

<sup>22</sup> Current status from EEA bird data (Article12\_2020\_birdsEUpopulation) <https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/data/article-12-database-birds-directive-2009-147-ec-1>



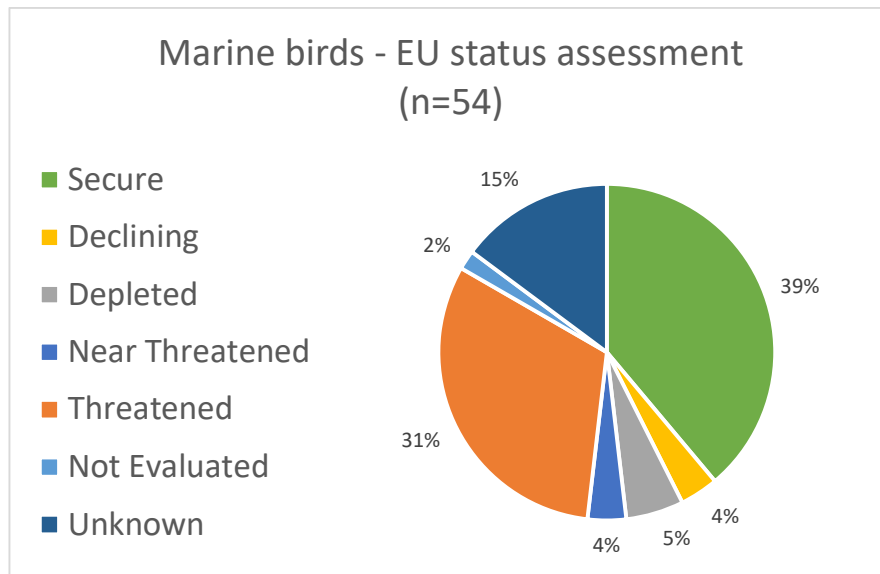


Figure 7 - Summary of marine bird species status assessment under Article 12 reporting at EU level

### 3. Pledge and review – analysis

#### 3.1. Introduction to analysis methodology

This section describes the methodology for analysis and assessment of the Member State pledges for action towards the Protected Area and Conservation Status targets. In addition, it sets out an overview of the information presented to provide context for those Member States who will be submitting pledges soon.

It should be noted that a draft methodology<sup>23</sup> for analysis and assessment of pledges was suggested and discussed in the meeting of the Marine Expert Group (sub-group on marine issues under the Commission’s Biodiversity Platform). This methodology cannot be currently applied because not all Member States have submitted their pledges yet. However, guiding principles of that draft methodology have been used in the analysis presented here.

##### 3.1.1. Protected Area pledges – analysis methodology

The pledges for protected areas targets could only be analysed partially, as only pledges from some Member States have been received. With only some pledges available it is not yet possible to have a full picture at the regional level.

Nonetheless, analysis could be undertaken for each Member State. The analysis for progress on the protected area targets is currently possible for the coverage of the relevant biogeographic marine

<sup>23</sup> <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/00564ca7-9d16-4b81-bac5-b35fcb84aa33/library/0adb9c80-658e-4e94-b22f-0b0b2c527826/details>

region (actual and expected coverage of protected areas and strictly protected areas) according to the data provided by Member States in their submissions.

A preliminary analysis has also been undertaken to look at the question of the current baseline through reviewing the responses of the countries regarding nationally designated areas which should be counted towards the 30% target.

### **3.1.2. Conservation Status pledges – analysis methodology**

The methodology used for analysis of pledges for improving the conservation status of habitats and species protected under the Habitats Directive is different from that used for the analysis of pledges for improving the conservation status of birds. This is because of the different way in which these data are reported (i.e. the lack of assessment at the biogeographical region level for birds).

Habitat and species conservation status assessments under Article 17 of the Habitat Directive are reported at the level of each biogeographical region within each Member State. This allows for the extraction of information relating to habitats and species in the Mediterranean and Black Sea marine regions. In contrast, the assessments of the status of bird species under Article 12 of the Birds Directive are reported by Member State and aggregated at a whole-EU level, with no gathering of information by biogeographical region. Also, especially relevant to the current study, there is no distinction made between bird species that are largely marine, and those that are wholly terrestrial. As a result, additional analysis is needed before assessing pledges, to extract data for bird species that are predominantly marine.

However, in both cases, pledges made in relation to conservation status, whether aiming at status improvement, prevention of detrimental trends or gathering additional information to address ‘unknowns’, are assessed in relation to the reported status of habitats and species, or birds.

#### *Habitats and species - analysis*

The following steps are taken in assessing the Member State pledges to improve the conservation status of marine habitats and species under the Habitats Directive:

- Determine the marine habitats and species that are relevant for the Member State in the appropriate marine biogeographical region – data provided by the EEA for both habitats<sup>24</sup> and species<sup>25</sup> - as well as identifying priority habitats and species.

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<sup>24</sup> Article 17\_2020\_habitats\_check\_list in <https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/data/article-17-database-habitats-directive-92-43-eec-2>

<sup>25</sup> Article 17\_2020\_species\_check\_list in <https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/data/article-17-database-habitats-directive-92-43-eec-2>

- Determine the current conservation status in the appropriate database for all relevant marine habitats<sup>26</sup> and species<sup>27</sup>. For the purposes here, the Current Status, under the Overall Assessment is used. This provides an overall assessment of: FV – favourable, XX – unknown, U1 – unfavourable, inadequate, or U2 – unfavourable, bad.
- For each relevant marine habitat and species, note which of the Conservation Status pledges apply, based on the Member State input<sup>28</sup>. These are categorised as: 30% – status improvement target; non-det – non-deterioration target; UNKN – target to address unknowns; Unlikely – non-detriment target unlikely to be achieved; or N – no target specified.

Tables setting out the analysis results for each Member State that has submitted Conservation Status pledges are presented in Annex 2, while summary charts can be found in the following section.

### *Birds – analysis*

Similar steps are taken in assessing the Member State pledges to improve the Conservation Status of bird species under the Birds Directive, though as previously mentioned some additional work is required to identify those species that are largely marine:

- Determine the bird species that are relevant for the Member State – data provided by the EEA<sup>29</sup> and determine which of these are considered largely marine.<sup>30</sup> It should be noted that where a Member State has coasts in more than one marine biogeographical region, it will not be possible to identify if any region is relevant for each species. However, as Conservation Status pledges for birds do not specify a biogeographical region, this is not considered a significant issue.
- Assess the current Conservation Status using the appropriate database for all relevant marine bird species<sup>31</sup>. For the purposes of the current assessment, the Population Trend is used<sup>32</sup>. This provides an overall assessment of D – Decreasing; I – Increasing; S – Stable; U – Uncertain; Unk – Unknown; or F – Fluctuating. It is important to note that there may be more than one assessment for any bird species, for example if there are different breeding and wintering populations. Each assessment is counted as a separate datapoint.

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<sup>26</sup> Article 17 web tool <https://nature-art17.eionet.europa.eu/article17/habitat/report/>

<sup>27</sup> Article 17\_2020\_data\_species\_regions in <https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/data/article-17-database-habitats-directive-92-43-eec-2>

<sup>28</sup> Individual Member State Conservation Status pledges in <https://reportnet.europa.eu/public/dataflow/705>

<sup>29</sup> Article 12\_2020\_bird\_check\_list in <https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/data/article-12-database-birds-directive-2009-147-ec-1>

<sup>30</sup> Marine bird species subset determined from

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/marine/docs/appendix\\_2\\_listing\\_species\\_habitats.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/marine/docs/appendix_2_listing_species_habitats.pdf)

<sup>31</sup> Article 12\_2020\_data\_birds in <https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/data/article-12-database-birds-directive-2009-147-ec-1>

<sup>32</sup> Note that only population or distribution trends are reported by Member State. Broad conservation assessments are only reported at a whole-EU level.

- For each relevant bird species, note which of the Conservation Status pledges apply, based on the Member State input<sup>33</sup>. These are categorised as: 30% – status improvement target; non-det – non-detriment target; UNKN – target to address unknowns; Unlikely – non-detriment target unlikely to be achieved; or N – no target specified.

Tables setting out the results of analysis for each Member State that has submitted Conservation Status pledges are presented in Annex 2, while summary charts can be found in the following section.

#### *Sankey diagrams – presenting results*

Where a Member State has provided relevant pledges, a summary of assessment results is presented through a Sankey diagram. Figure 8 shows such a diagram, based on the assessment of Spain’s Conservation Status pledges for marine birds. This illustrates the relationship between population trends, on the left-hand side, and the corresponding pledge category on the right. For example, of the ten species with increasing populations, nine have pledges related to non-deterioration – as indicated by the broad blue line between ‘Increasing’ at the top left and ‘Non-deterioration’ at the middle right. Actions to address ‘unknowns’ are pledged for four of the seventeen marine bird species where population trends are unknown – as indicated by the broad light blue line between ‘Unknown’ at the bottom left, and the pledge to address unknowns, middle right.

The summary diagrams for habitats and species follow the same approach, though the left-hand side categories represent conservation status assessments rather than population trends.

The diagram does not specify which marine bird species is in each category, it simply deals with total numbers. So, for example, one of the thirteen species with a declining population trend is not linked to any pledge. From the diagram alone, it is not possible to say which feature this is. It is, however, possible to look at the detailed chart for this assessment, to be found in the relevant Annex, to identify that this refers to breeding populations of *A489 Larus fuscus all others*.

The summary diagrams for Article 17 reporting combine conservation status and pledges for habitats and species into a single chart, as Member State reporting also combines the two. However, the detailed results in Annex 2 present separate tables for habitats and species.

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<sup>33</sup> Individual Member State Conservation Status pledges in <https://reportnet.europa.eu/public/dataflow/705>

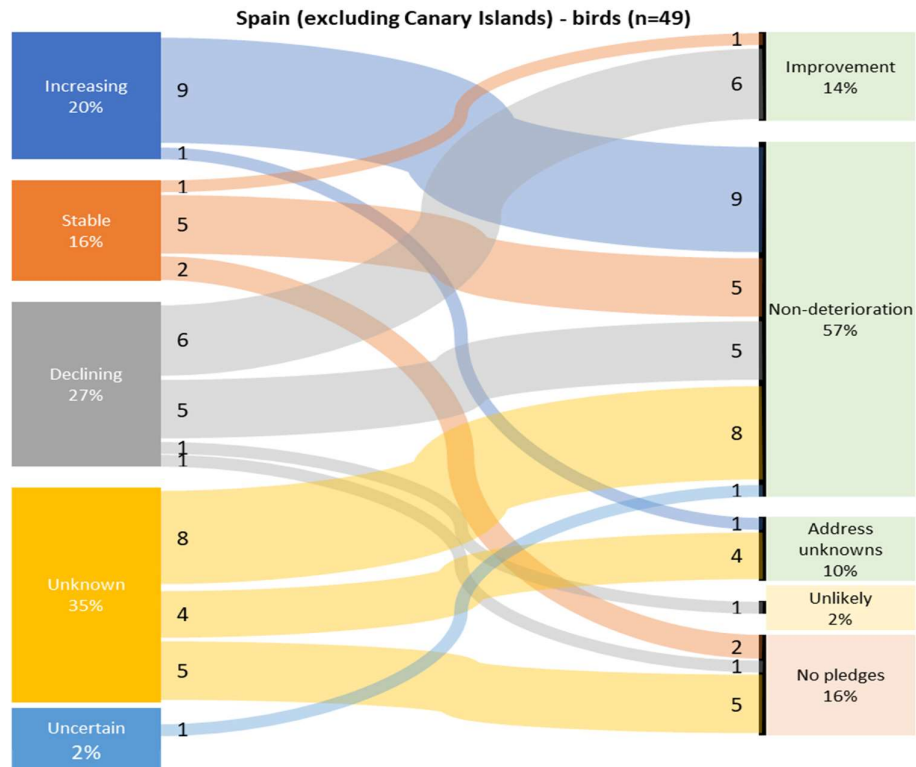


Figure 8 - Example Sankey diagram (see text for explanation)

A final point to remember is that the assessments presented in this report only address pledges made for marine habitats and species, so that pledges for terrestrial habitats and species must also be considered when measuring progress towards the 30% improvement target.

#### *Assessing measures – appropriate action?*

A main aim of the ‘pledge and review’ process is to bring about change, to drive action to improve the conservation status of habitats and species. In addition to simply meeting numerical targets, it is important that effective measures are put in place to support pledges. Member States have reported on measures that will be introduced as part of the process and these will be reviewed. At this stage, such a review will only be qualitative, with a brief commentary on the types and scope of measures that are proposed. In due course, as more pledge data are received from Member States, a methodology for a more detailed analysis of measures can be developed.

#### *In the current absence of pledges*

At this stage in the ‘pledge and review’ process, there are still many Member States in the Mediterranean and Black Sea marine biogeographical regions that are still to provide pledge data. To provide a more complete picture of the current background against which pledges are expected, some basic information on the current conservation status of habitats and species, and marine birds will be provided for these Member States. These will take the form of simple pie chart. Figure 9 provides an example of the type of summary that will be presented.

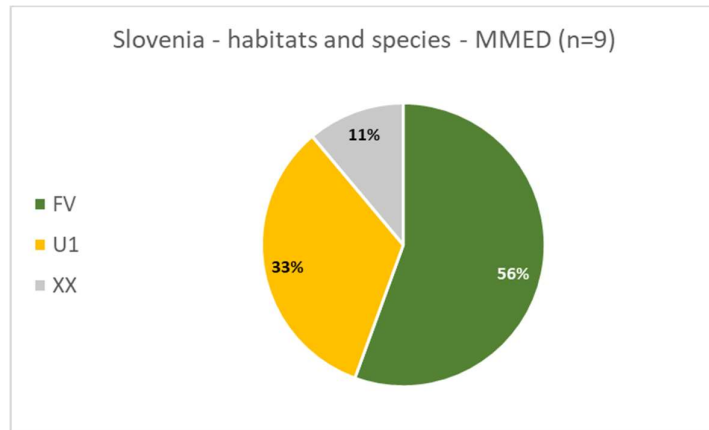


Figure 9 - Example pie chart summarising current habitat (n=5) and species (n=4) conservation status

As with the Member States where pledge data have been received, detailed tables, setting out the current status for each marine habitat and species, and for all marine bird species, will be provided in Annex 3.

#### 4. Pledge and review – analysis of Member State inputs

This section summarises the results of the analysis of Member State pledges on Protected Area and Conservation Status targets. **It should be noted that this is only a preliminary analysis based on the information submitted by Member States which is expected to be further updated. It is a working example to feed the discussions in the seminar and not intended to be a final assessment.**

##### 4.1. Overview of Member States' response

In response to the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 “Bringing nature back into our lives”, the following Member States have provided pledges for either the Protected Areas targets, the Conservation Status targets, or both<sup>34</sup>:

- Cyprus
- Denmark
- France
- Germany
- Luxembourg
- Spain
- Sweden

with responses from Cyprus, France, and Spain being relevant to the current marine seminar, addressing the Mediterranean marine region. Tables summarising these pledges are included in Annex 4.

Of the nine countries in the Marine Mediterranean (MMED) and Marine Black Sea (MBLS) marine regions, only Spain has made a pledge to increase protected areas in their waters.

For Spain, a total of 3,601 km<sup>2</sup> has been pledged to be added (either new sites or expansion of existing sites). There are four Natura 2000 sites that will add additional area – the largest expansion (of 2,925 km<sup>2</sup>) is from the “Canal de Ibiza - including Stone Sponge Seamount” as shown in Figure 10.

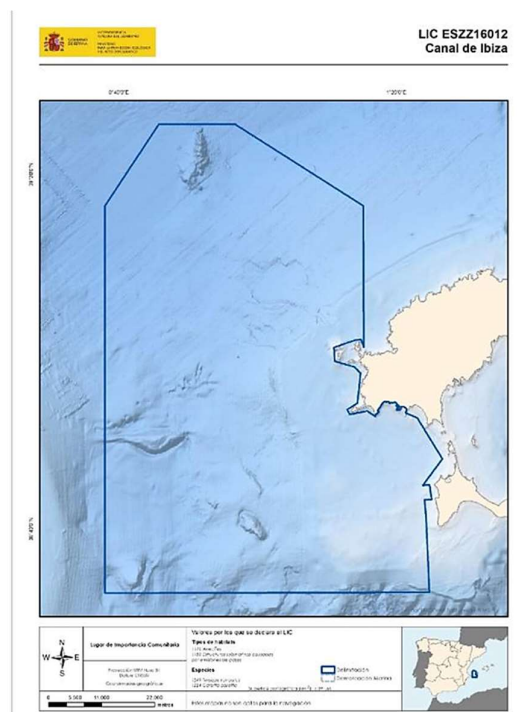


Figure 10 – MPA expansion in Canal de Ibiza

Source : [https://www.boe.es/diario\\_boe/txt.php?id=BOE-A-2023-26741](https://www.boe.es/diario_boe/txt.php?id=BOE-A-2023-26741)

<sup>34</sup> As of February 2024.

The pledge submission from France includes a comment that the implementation of the national strategy for protected areas 2030 is based on a bottom-up approach, through the development of territorial action plans in each territory. This approach must include commitments regarding protected areas and high protection zones, resulting from a collective work led by the actors of the territories and involving the stakeholders. Since this territorialization process is still in progress, France will only report the elements on the current network of protected areas and high protection zones, i.e. no additional sites have been reported at this stage.

#### 4.2. Protected Area pledges – results by Member State

This analysis is done only for the information submitted by Spain in its protected areas reporting and pledges as well as information on Natura 2000 and the dataset on national designated areas (end 2021).

It should be further noted that some Member States who have submitted initial pledges (France), continue compiling information, therefore further analysis will be possible in the future.

The information provided by Spain in the pledge gives an overview of the currently expected increase in the total marine protected areas coverage in the Mediterranean marine biogeographical region and is summarised below in Figure 11. However, as pledges from all but one Member States in this region have not been submitted yet, it is too early at this stage to assess the progress towards the 30% target at the level of biogeographical regions, rather than individual Member States.

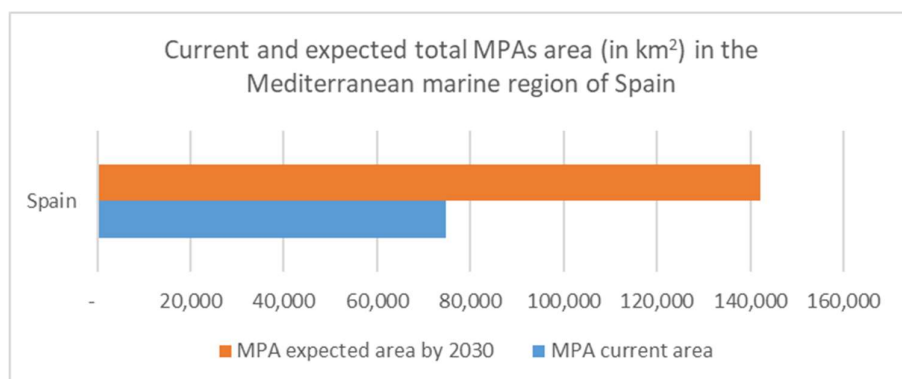


Figure 11 - Current and expected total MPAs area (in km<sup>2</sup>) in the Mediterranean marine region of Spain,

With this information it is also possible to have an overview of the percentage of the marine waters of each Member State covered by protected areas currently and expected by 2030 compared to the 30% target (Figure 12). However, as pledges from all but one Member States in this region have not been submitted yet, it is too early at this stage to assess the progress towards the 30% target at the level of biogeographical regions, rather than individual Member States.



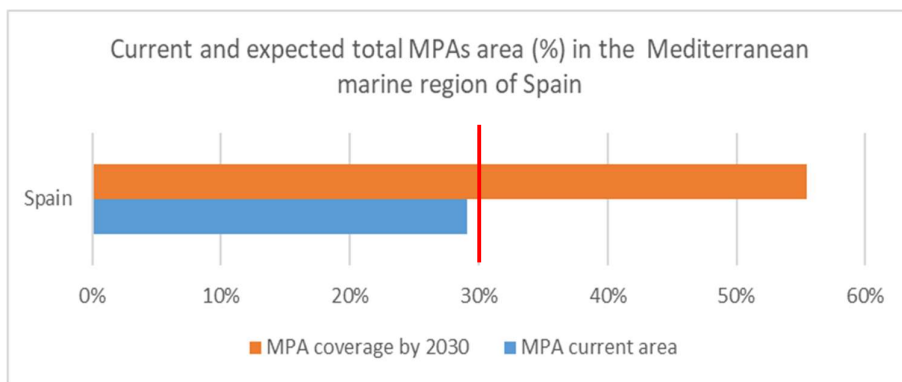


Figure 12 - Current and expected total MPAs area (as percentage) in the Mediterranean marine region of Spain,

Spain reported that the current area of strict protection covers 0,5% of its marine area but hasn't provided expected coverage by 2030.

More detailed analysis will be possible later with, for example, a full set of Member State pledges allowing an assessment of network coherence at the level of marine biogeographical and/or marine region and sub-regions. However, while analysis at the regional level might be limited, it is possible to carry out an additional assessment at the Member State level, looking at what has been reported in terms of site management.

### 4.3. Conservation Status pledges – results by Member State

This section provides a summary of the results of the analysis of Conservation Status pledges for marine habitats and species and for bird species that are largely marine, for Member States in the Mediterranean and Black Sea marine regions that have submitted pledges, namely: Cyprus and Spain. These will be analysed as described above and the following information presented:

- Sankey diagrams setting out the relationship between conservation status and pledges for marine habitats and species and between population trends and pledges for marine bird species
- Brief commentary on key points<sup>35</sup>
- Qualitative overview of proposed measures to deliver the pledges

Where no pledges have been received, a chart summarising current conservation status will be provided.

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<sup>35</sup> Note that as described above a detailed analysis of progress and distance to 30% improvement target is not possible as this depends on combining results of the analysis for both marine and terrestrial pledges and the methodology for such a process has yet to be developed. At this stage, only a brief overview of the extent of conservation status pledges is provided.

### 4.3.1. Cyprus

#### Habitats and species

Figure 13 summarises the relationship between the pledge data received for Cyprus’s habitats (n=4) and species (n=4) within the Mediterranean marine region. This shows that there are improvement pledges for two features only, both of which are marine species with Unfavourable-inadequate status (*Chelonia mydas* and *Monachus monachus*), with no pledges for the features reported as Favourable (*Caretta caretta* and *Tursiops truncatus*, and 1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time, 1120 Posidonia beds and 1170 Reefs) or Unknown (1180 Submarine structures made by leaking gas).

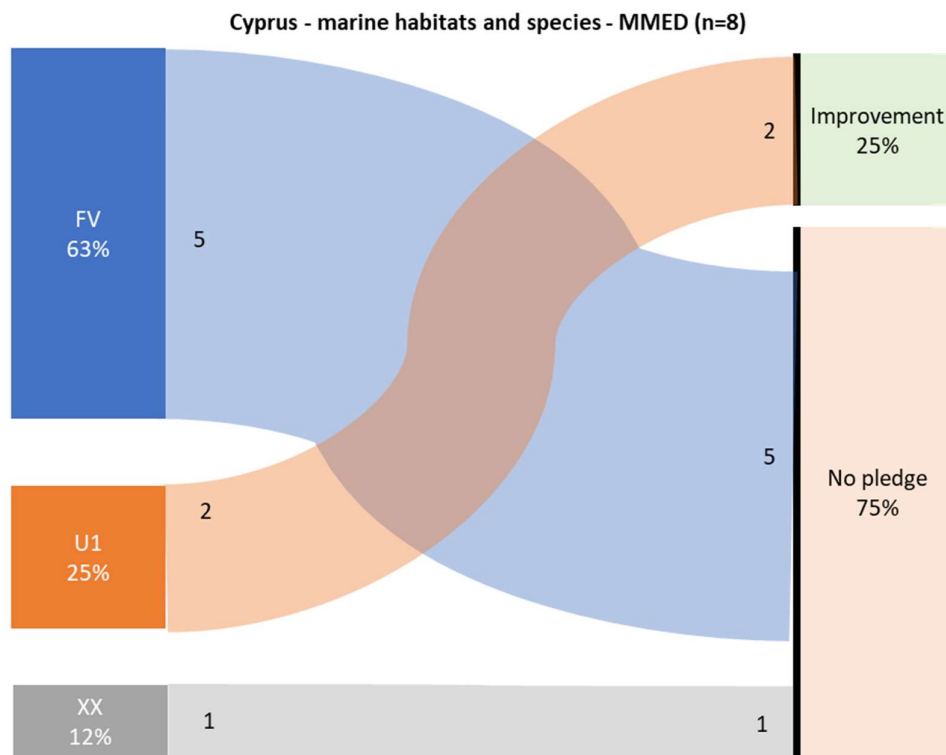


Figure 13 - Sankey diagram summarising analysis of Cyprus’s pledges for marine habitats and species

#### Birds

Figure 14 summarises the relationship between the pledge data received for Cyprus’s marine birds and the population trend data. This shows that only one species (A393 - *Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*) is the subject of an improvement pledge to address a decreasing population. No pledges

are made for any of the remaining ten species, though five have either stable or increasing populations.

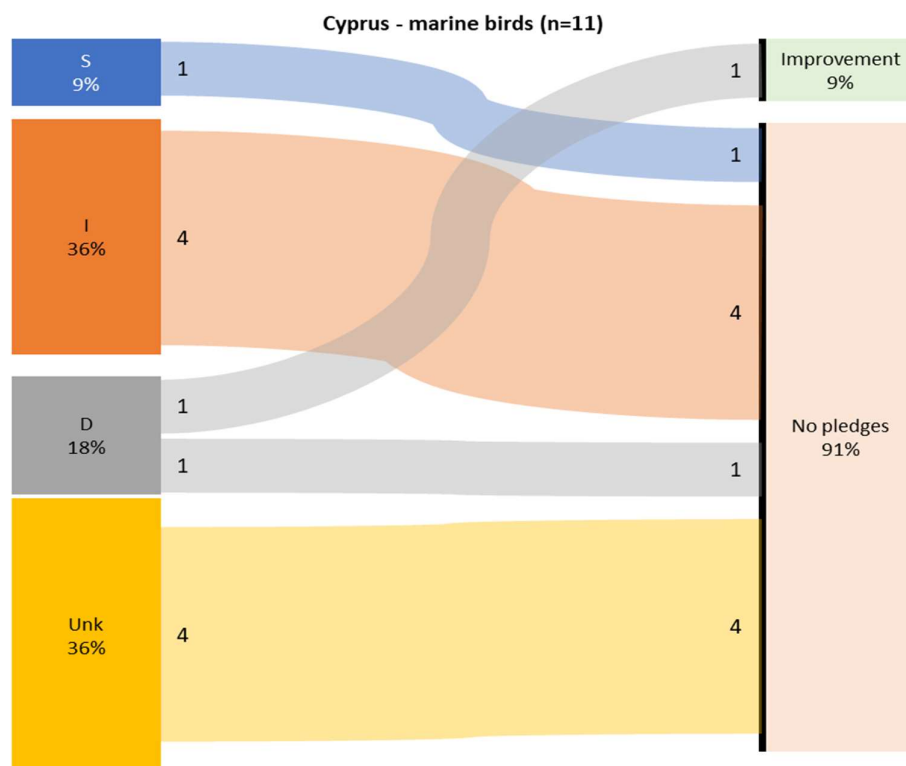


Figure 14 – Sankey diagram summarising analysis of Cyprus’s pledges for marine birds

### Measures

Cyprus reports management measures for the two marine species subject to a pledge to improve conservation status. These involve protection of nests from predation and human disturbance for *Chelonia mydas*, and the designation of a new Natura 2000 site for *Monachus monachus*.

Although no pledges for improving knowledge about specific habitats or species are reported, general measures for all habitats are set out, aiming to reduce the share of national assessments that: conclude an ‘unknown’ conservation status or trend, are based on outdated monitoring data, and that are based on ‘expert opinion’ without underlying data.

Cyprus also reports a management measure for the one seabird species subject to an improvement pledge, *Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*-A392. This refers to the gathering on information about foraging and feeding locations to identify and support active protection measures.

Again, no pledges for improving knowledge about specific marine bird species are reported. However, Cyprus does report that a methodological and monitoring system has been put in place for all bird species, with an emphasis on species considered ‘unknown’ or ‘uncertain’ which will feed data into the 2019-2024 reporting period.

### 4.3.2. Spain

#### Habitats and species

Figure 15 summarises the relationship between the pledge data received for Spain’s habitats (n=8) and species (n=28) within the Mediterranean region. This shows that four features in unfavourable status have pledges for either improvement or non-deterioration, while one (1028 *Pinna nobilis*) is assessed as non-deterioration unlikely to be achieved. The status of most features is assessed as unknown, and of these, most have pledges for status improvement or addressing unknown status. Only six features have no associated pledges.

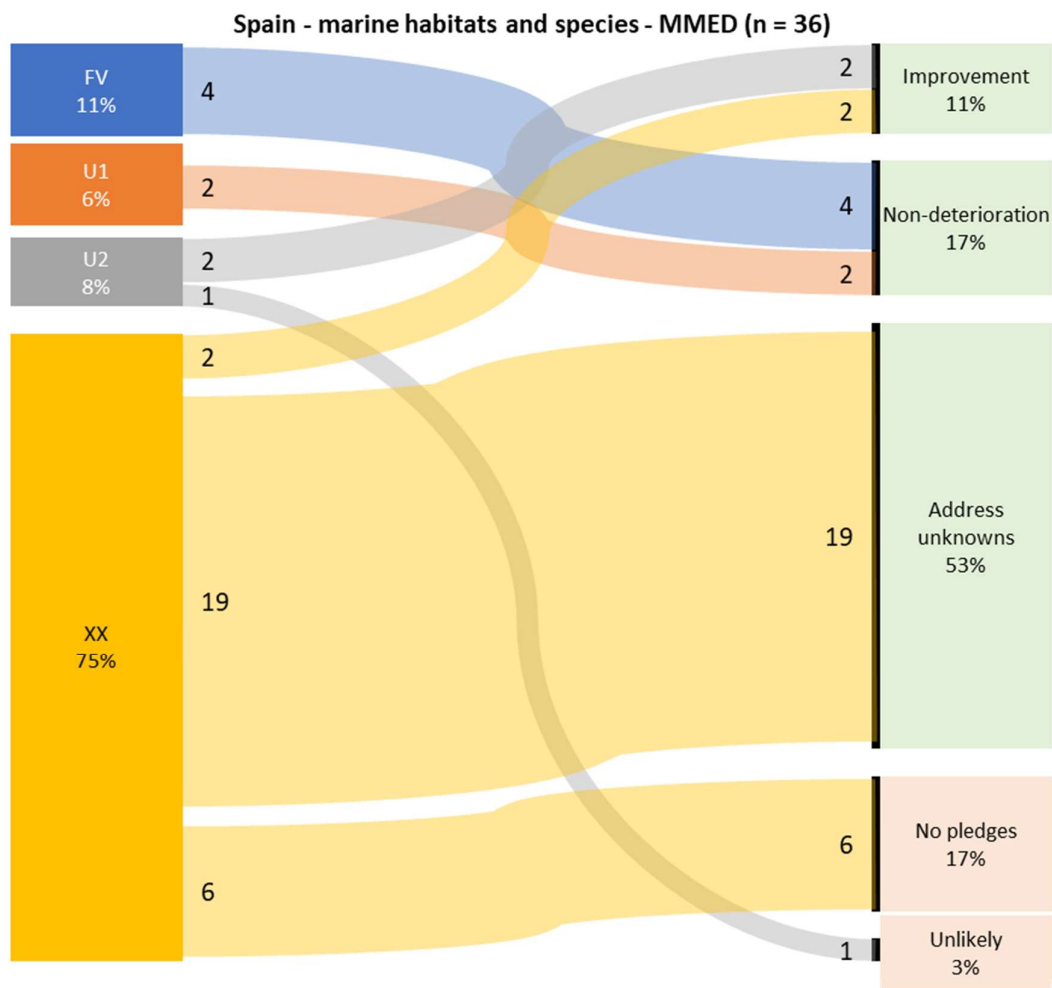


Figure 15 - Sankey diagram summarising analysis of Spain’s pledges for marine habitats and species

#### Birds

Figure 16 summarises the relationship between the pledge data received for Spain’s marine birds and the population trend data from the Spanish mainland. It is not possible to separate data for marine bird species relevant to the Mediterranean marine biogeographical region. The diagram shows that pledges have been made for either improvement, non-deterioration or addressing ‘unknowns’ for around 80% of the marine bird species. Most of the species that have increasing or stable populations

have non-deterioration pledge, while most with declining populations have pledges for improvement or, at least, non-deterioration.

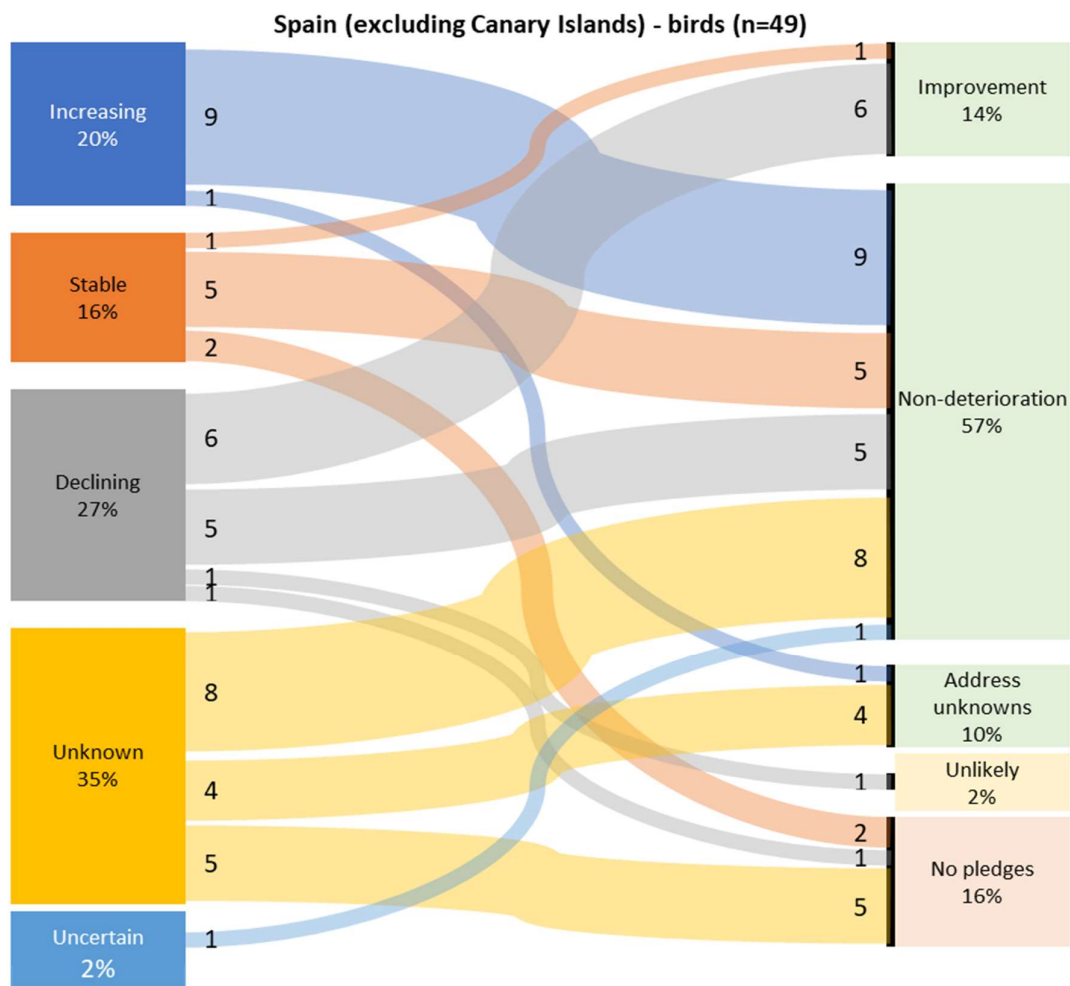


Figure 16 - Sankey diagram summarising analysis of Spain's pledges for marine bird species

### Measures

Spain has reported many management measures aimed at improving the conservation status of habitats and species, though information about which habitat or species each refers to is not provided. However, the descriptions of some of them are noted as applying to coastal habitats, and some are specific to marine species, such as turtles, suggesting that measures relevant to marine habitats and species are intended.

Management measures aimed at improving the conservation status of marine bird species are also reported, including broad actions such as the development of national strategies, or more specific activities such as the control of predation at breeding colonies.

While the detailed explanations of these are still to be defined in many cases, regional approaches to management (e.g. in Catalunya) are indicated.

Management measures aimed at preventing deterioration are also reported for marine habitats and species. These include management of marine aquaculture, commercial fisheries management, reducing the conversion of coastal habitat to agricultural use and reducing the impacts of leisure activities. Measures to implement non-deterioration pledges for marine bird species are also reported, but those are yet to be defined in most cases.

Spain also reports measures to reduce the number of ‘unknowns’ in the assessment data, highlighting the recent development of a new monitoring system for the terrestrial and marine environment.

#### 4.4. Conservation Status – summary by Member State

This section provides a summary of the Conservation Status for marine habitats and species and for bird species that are largely marine, for the Member States in the Mediterranean and Black Sea marine regions which have yet to submit pledge data – Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Romania, and Slovenia. Tables providing full details of current status are presented in Annex 3.

##### 4.4.1. Bulgaria

###### *Habitats and species*

Figure 17 summarises the conservation status of marine habitats (n=6) and species (n=6) in the Bulgarian part of the Black Sea marine region. This shows that 67% of features are in unfavourable condition, with the status of the remaining 33% unknown.

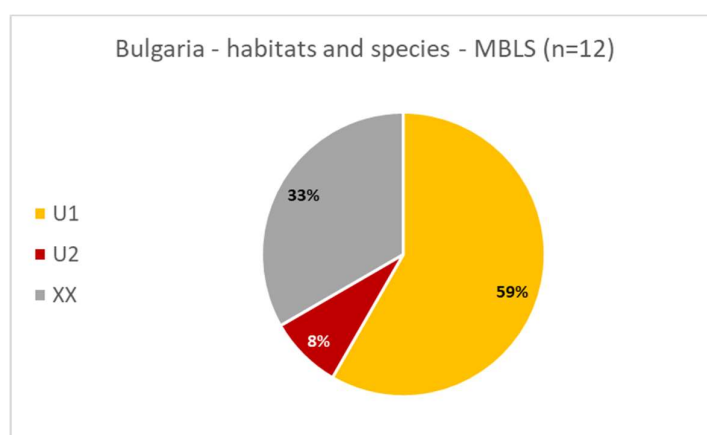


Figure 17 - Summary of current conservation status of marine habitats and species

###### *Birds*

Figure 18 summarises the population trends in Bulgaria for bird species that are largely marine. This shows that only 17% of species have populations that are either stable or increasing, 43% are either fluctuating or declining, while 4% have populations that are unknown. However, there is no data reported for over one third (36%) of marine bird species.

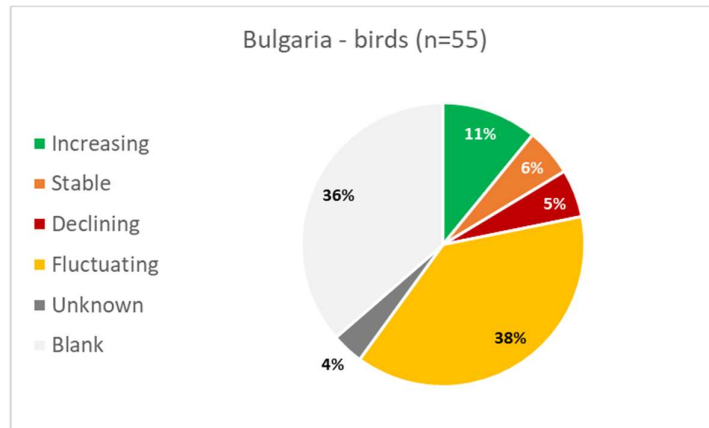


Figure 18 - Summary of population trends for bird species that are largely marine

#### 4.4.2. Croatia

##### Habitats and species

Figure 19 summarises the conservation status of marine habitats (n=7) and species (n=12) in the Croatia part of the Mediterranean marine region. This shows that the status of most of the features (74%) is unknown or have no data reported while 21% are unfavourable-inadequate. One species (1349 – *Tursiops truncatus*) is considered to have a favourable status.

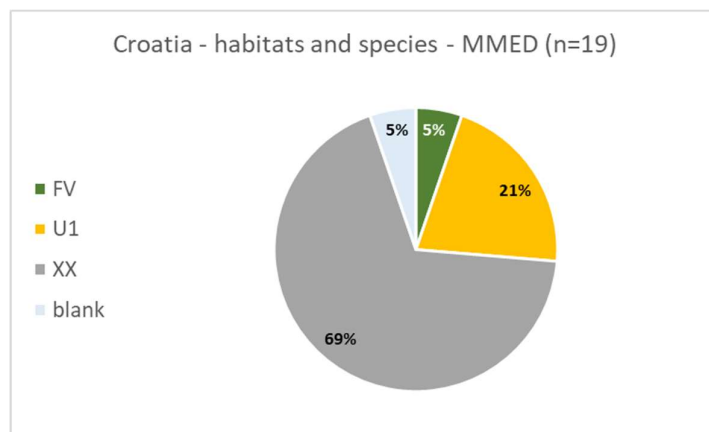


Figure 19 - Summary of current conservation status of marine habitats and species

##### Birds

Figure 20 summarises the population trends in Croatia for bird species that are largely marine. This shows that 69% of species have populations where trends are uncertain or unknown. Most of the species where data are available (22% of the total number of populations) have populations that are either stable or increasing, with the rest (9% of the total number) declining.

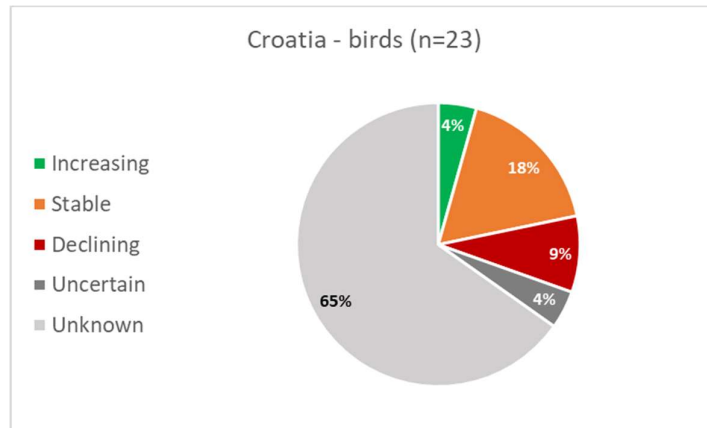


Figure 20 - Summary of population trends for bird species that are largely marine

#### 4.4.3. France

##### Habitats and species

Figure 21 summarises the conservation status of marine habitats (n=7) and species (n=24) in the French part of the Mediterranean marine region. This shows that the status of 61% of features is unknown, while 36% are assessed as either unfavourable-inadequate or unfavourable-bad. Only one feature (1170 – Reefs) is in favourable status.

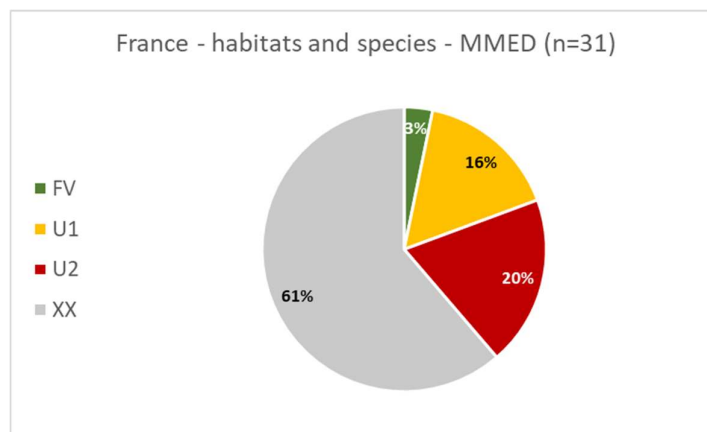


Figure 21 - Summary of current conservation status of marine habitats and species

##### Birds

Figure 22 summarises the population trends in France for bird species that are largely marine. This shows that 39% of species have populations that are increasing or stable, while 26% are fluctuating or declining. 35% have population trends that are uncertain, unknown, or for which there are no data.



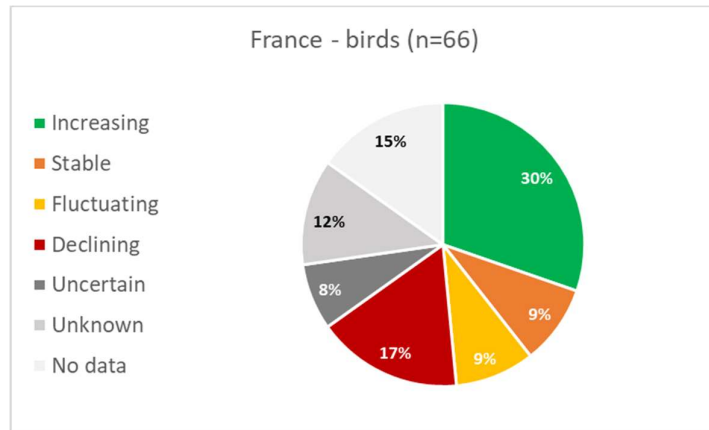


Figure 22 - Summary of population trends for bird species that are largely marine

#### 4.4.4. Greece

##### Habitats and species

Figure 23 summarises the conservation status of marine habitats (n=8) and species (n=22) in the Greek part of the Mediterranean marine region. This shows that most features (70%) are in unfavourable status, while 30% have an unknown conservation status, or no associated data.

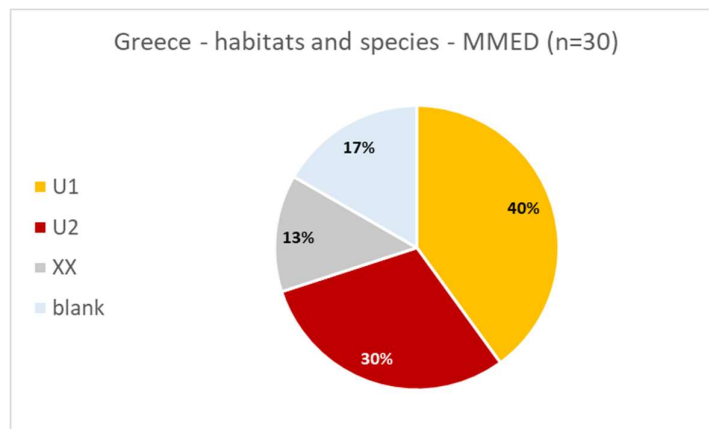


Figure 23 - Summary of current conservation status of marine habitats and species

##### Birds

Figure 24 summarises the population trends in Greece for bird species that are largely marine. This shows that over half the species (55%) have populations that are either stable or increasing, while 8% declining. The remaining 37% have population trends that are uncertain or unknown.

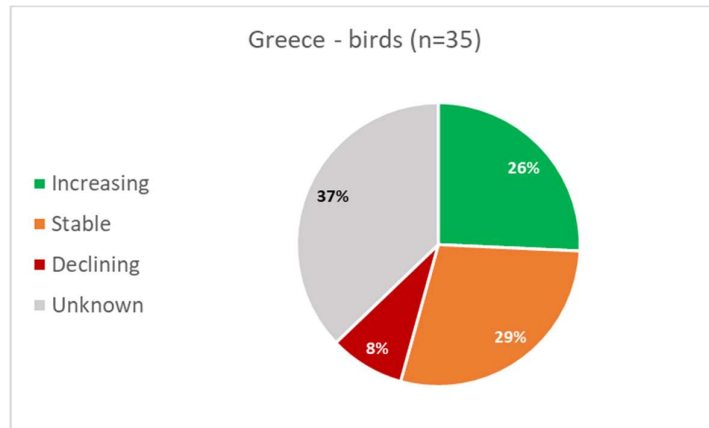


Figure 24 - Summary of population trends for bird species that are largely marine

#### 4.4.5. Italy

##### Habitats and species

Figure 25 summarises the conservation status of marine habitats (n=8) and species (n=27) in the Italian part of the Mediterranean marine region. This shows that over half (55%) of the features either have unknown conservation status or no associated data, while 11% are assessed as unfavourable. 34% of features are in favourable status.

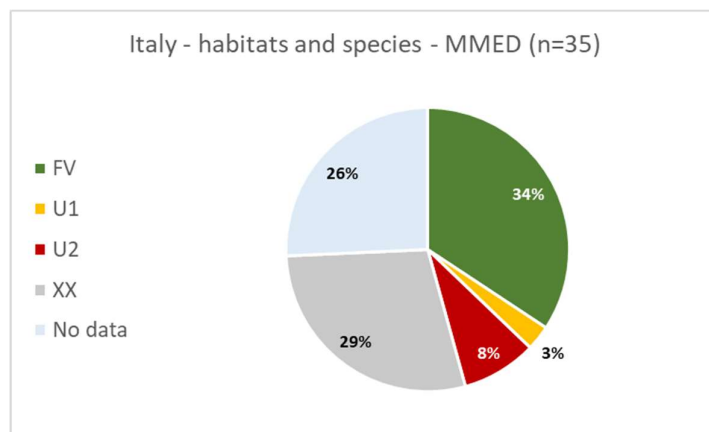


Figure 25 - Summary of current conservation status of marine habitats and species

##### Birds

Figure 26 summarises the population trends in Italy for bird species that are largely marine. This shows that half of the species (50%) have populations that are increasing or stable, while 17% are declining. Trends for the remaining 33% are unknown.

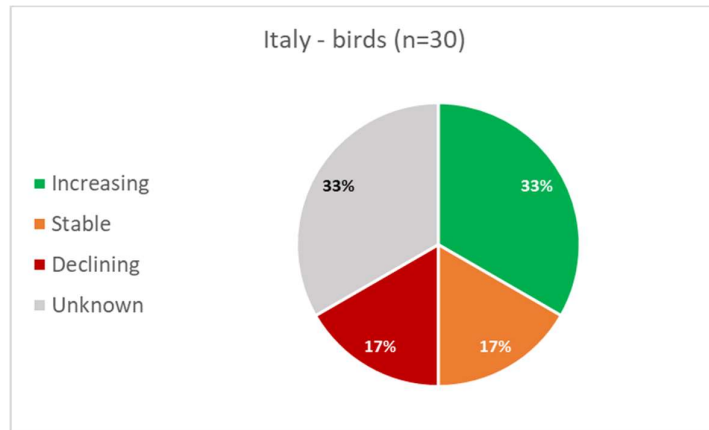


Figure 26 - Summary of population trends for bird species that are largely marine

#### 4.4.6. Malta

##### Habitats and species

Figure 27 summarises the conservation status of marine habitats (n=4) and species (n=20) in the Maltese part of the Mediterranean marine region. This shows that half of the features, including all habitats, have favourable status, while 46% are either of unknown conservation status or have no associated data. One feature (1758 – *Pinna nobilis*) is reported as unfavourable-bad.

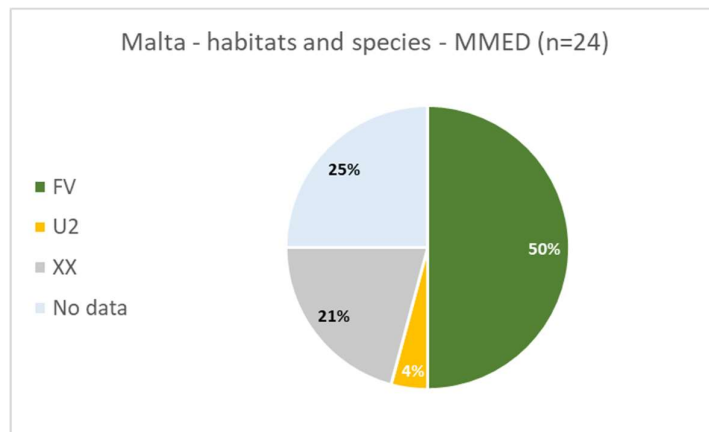


Figure 27 - Summary of current conservation status of marine habitats and species

##### Birds

Figure 28 summarises the population trends in Malta for bird species that are largely marine. This shows that half of the species (50%) have populations that are increasing, 17% are stable and 33% declining. However, Malta is home to considerably fewer seabird species than other member states, a result of its size, the lack of coastal wetlands and estuaries, and its somewhat isolated geographic position.

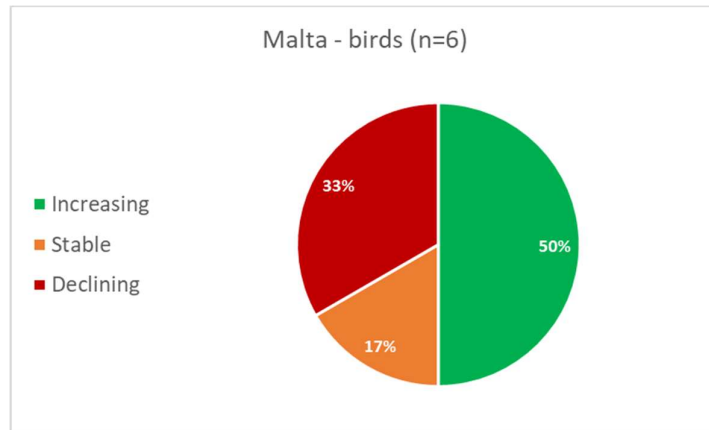


Figure 28 - Summary of population trends for bird species that are largely marine

#### 4.4.7. Romania

##### Habitats and species

Figure 29 summarises the conservation status of marine habitats (n=7) and species (n=8) in the Romanian part of the Black Sea marine region. This shows that a third (33%) of the features have favourable status, while 60% are assessed as unfavourable. The status of 7% of features are unknown.

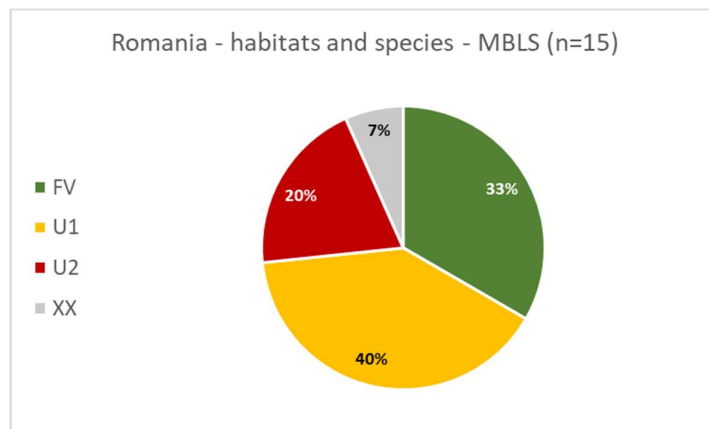


Figure 29 - Summary of current conservation status of marine habitats and species

##### Birds

Figure 30 summarises the population trends in Romania for bird species that are largely marine. This shows that nearly three-quarters of the species (73%) have population trends that are uncertain or unknown, or with no data reported. Only 17% of the populations are either stable or increasing, while 10% are declining.

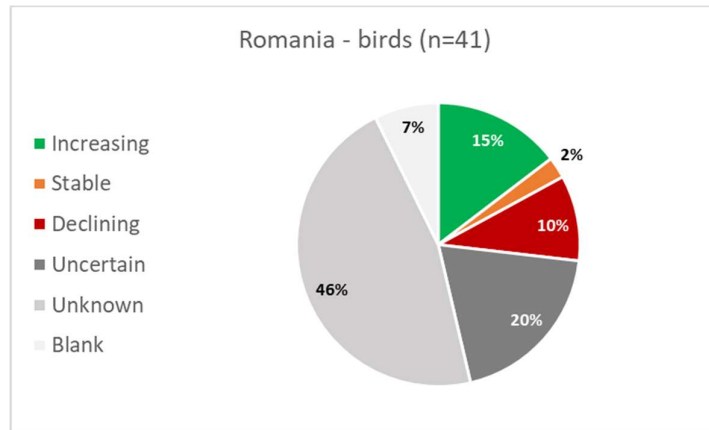


Figure 30 - Summary of population trends for bird species that are largely marine

#### 4.4.8. Slovenia

##### Habitats and species

Figure 31 summarises the conservation status of marine habitats (n=5) and species (n=4) in the Slovenian part of the Mediterranean marine region. This shows that over half (56%) of the features have favourable status, while 33% are assessed as unfavourable. The status of 11% of features are unknown.

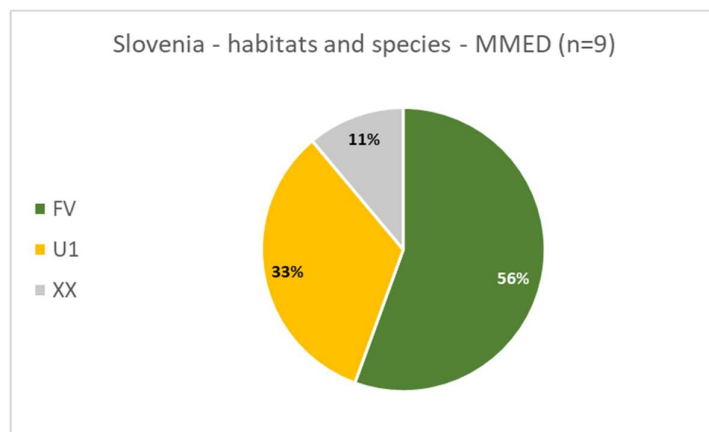


Figure 31 - Summary of current conservation status of marine habitats and species

##### Birds

Figure 32 summarises the population trends in Slovenia for bird species that are largely marine. This shows that around a third of the species (33%) have populations that are increasing or stable, while 26% are decreasing. Population trends for 41% are either uncertain or unknown.

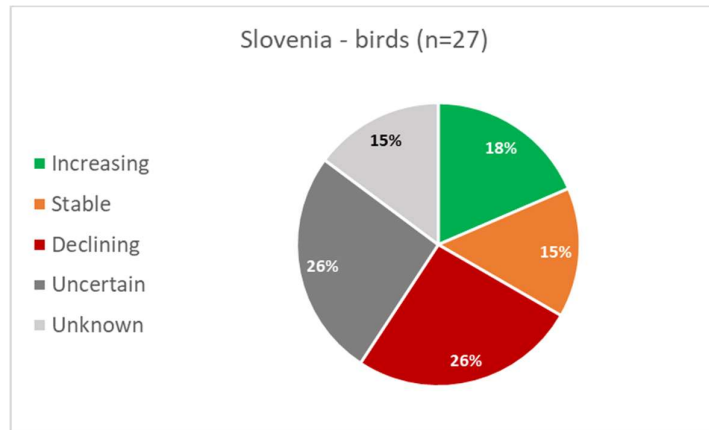


Figure 32 - Summary of population trends for bird species that are largely marine

## 5. Background information in relation to the three discussion themes

In addition to discussion of the progress with the pledge and review process, the third Mediterranean and Black Sea marine seminar will consider three topics that are of common concern across Member States for the implementation of Biodiversity strategy targets and for the management of the Natura 2000 network.

- Theme 1: Role of Natura 2000 sites and other MPAs in marine restoration
- Theme 2: Strict protection in the Mediterranean and Black Sea marine regions
- Theme 3: Renewable energy and marine conservation

The following sections provide a short context and proposed questions for seminar discussions on each theme, along with introductions to relevant case studies.

### 5.1. Theme 1: Role of Natura 2000 sites and other MPAs in marine restoration

An important part of the EU Biodiversity strategy is the EU Nature Restoration Plan. The Strategy underlines that marine restoration will, along with effective protected areas, bring substantial health, social and economic benefits to coastal communities and the EU as a whole. Among other things, it aims to reconcile the use of bottom-contacting fishing gears with biodiversity goals and to reduce the by-catch of protected species so as not to threaten their conservation status. In addition, fisheries-management measures must be established in all marine protected areas according to clearly defined conservation objectives and on the basis of the best available scientific advice. To accelerate the necessary actions, the Commission published an EU Action Plan: Protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries<sup>36</sup>.

The Commission also proposed a Regulation on nature restoration<sup>37</sup> which combines an overarching restoration objective for the long-term recovery of nature in the EU's land and sea areas with binding restoration targets for specific habitats and species, including those in the marine environment. Whilst a provisional agreement between co-legislators has been reached, the adoption procedure is still not finalised.

Against this background, if the restored marine areas comply (or are expected to comply once restoration produces its full effect) with the criteria for protected areas, these restored areas should also contribute towards the EU targets on protected areas.

Equally, protected areas can also provide an important contribution to the restoration targets in the strategy, by creating the conditions for restoration efforts to be successful. It is therefore important to

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<sup>36</sup> [https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/policy/common-fisheries-policy-cfp/action-plan-protecting-and-restoring-marine-ecosystems-sustainable-and-resilient-fisheries\\_en](https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/policy/common-fisheries-policy-cfp/action-plan-protecting-and-restoring-marine-ecosystems-sustainable-and-resilient-fisheries_en)

<sup>37</sup> [https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/nature-and-biodiversity/nature-restoration-law\\_en](https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/nature-and-biodiversity/nature-restoration-law_en)

exchange on the relevant experiences in view of increased efforts and investments in marine restoration and protection in the future, as well as to support the discussions on the national restoration plans that will need to be adopted two years after the entry into force of the Regulation on nature restoration.

### **5.1.1. LIFE Case Study: LIFE21 REEForest - Restoration of *Cystoseira macroalgal* FORESTS to enhance biodiversity along Mediterranean rocky REEFS**

**Coordinating Beneficiary: University of Trieste, Italy**

Marine macroalgae forests are among the most important carbon-rich living benthic structures, extending from shallow to deep waters, and are recognised as special habitats by the IUCN. In particular, the genus *Cystoseira s.l.* is represented by several taxa distributed from the surface to the lower sublittoral zone of the Mediterranean Sea, a hotspot with 30 endemic taxa, and the Atlantic coast.

*Cystoseira s.l.* stands provide a number of important ecosystem services, including high primary productivity and carbon sequestration, harbourage and nursery for fauna, coastal protection, reduction of nutrients and turbidity, direct sources for many traditional and commercial uses, aesthetic beauty and intrinsic evolutionary value. In addition, they play a central role in understory growth by influencing light, desiccation, water movement and the rate of transport and deposition of suspended sediments. Their range along the Mediterranean coasts has shifted in parallel with changes in climate and general environmental conditions and is expected to continue to change. The functioning of marine forest ecosystems is also altered and/or disrupted by more localised effects of human-induced disturbances such as overfishing and its cascading effects, invasive species, over-sedimentation and eutrophication. These changes can affect multiple levels, from genetic diversity, species and community diversity to functional responses, ecosystem functions and interactions, and the goods and ecosystem services available to society.



Left: *Cystoseira s.l.* forest; Right: Loss of macroalgal canopies

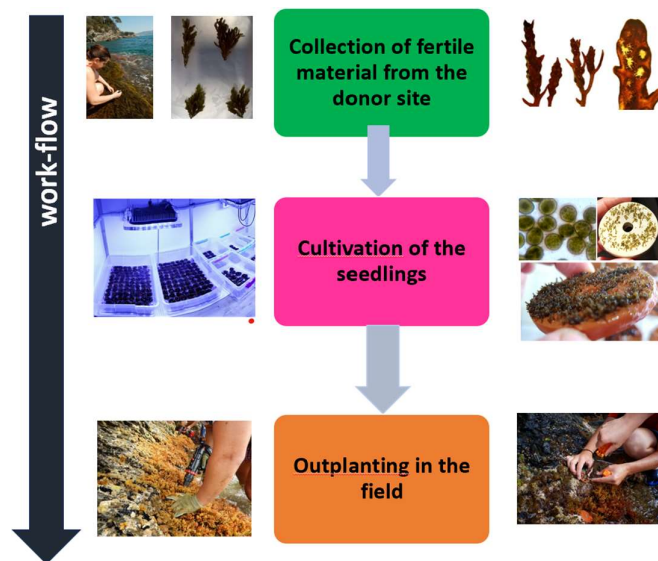


So far, there is little evidence of natural recovery of degraded *Cystoseira* forests, because once losses have occurred, recovery from nearby populations is difficult due to the short dispersal of eggs and zygotes and the low connectivity of populations.

As *Cystoseira* forests are highly threatened, the Mediterranean species has been included in the following lists for the purposes of monitoring, conservation and protection: (i) Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC as a Habitat of Community Interest (code 1170 Reefs): the subtype with *Cystoseira* is listed as endangered and in decline; (ii) the European Red List of Habitats: Habitat Type: A3.13 Photophilic communities with canopy forming algae in Mediterranean infralittoral and upper circalittoral rock, is listed as endangered at EU28 level (European Union Status); (iii) Bern Convention as Strictly Protected; (iv) the Mediterranean Action Plan adopted under the Barcelona Convention (1976) lists the conservation of *Cystoseira* species in the Mediterranean as a priority in a 2009 amendment (SPA /BD Protocol - United Nations Environment Program [UNEP])(Annex II - List of Threatened or Endangered Species).

However, the overall benefit of these conservation measures has been low and more effective measures are urgently needed.

REEForest (LIFE21 NAT/IT/101074309) builds on the positive outcomes of the ended project ROC-POP-LIFE (LIFE16 NAT/IT/000816) and aims to reverse the degradation of rocky reefs, the endangered 1170 Habitat for brown algae (*Cystoseira*), by implementing active restoration of the endangered species and its monitoring in four Mediterranean Natura 2000 / Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) - three in Italy (Sinis Peninsula, Cilento National Park, Bergeggi Island) and one in Greece (Gyaros Island), where the causes of degradation have been addressed.



Workflow of in-situ restoration

The goal is to restore the MPAs' ecological status through the implementation of specific conservation measures and cost-effective/sustainable reforestation activities. The coupling of ecosystem-based management in MPAs and the implementation of restoration measures is the best perspective for the management of *Cystoseira* forests in the Mediterranean.

Restoration is based on ex-situ and in-situ recruitment enhancement through cost-effective techniques first developed and successfully applied in ROC-POP-LIFE. The activities consist of several steps illustrated below.



*Growth of seedlings in the field*

Expected results from monitoring of *Cystoseira* habitat before and after concrete actions in the target areas, to evaluate the success of recolonisation and restoration as well as the improvement of the ecological status, include a water quality index over 0.154 km<sup>2</sup> (10m effectively influenced by restoration x 15,400 stretch of coast) and 60% of waters improved.

The improvement of the environmental status of Habitat 1170, the cascading ecosystem services provided and the natural capital value of the restored habitat are assessed with innovative approaches that can be exported to other protected areas in the Mediterranean to improve conservation measures, early warnings and management plans for the conservation of the *Cystoseira* habitat at a larger scale.

In the light of that, REEForest foresees to raise awareness among citizens and stakeholders on the loss of marine forests in the Mediterranean Sea; to promote knowledge replicability on the conservation, management and restoration of *Cystoseira* habitat through training, capacity building and "decision support" in at least 14 MPAs (in the Natura 2000 network) and support MPA management bodies to formally adopt and update their management plans by including *Cystoseira* as a biodiversity target.

The best practice Guidelines for specific marine forest restoration, Natural Capital assessment, Methodological Protocol on the use of drones for coastal monitoring of *Cystoseira* habitats, and Ecological Status monitoring produced by the project will be made available for the implementation of international policies related to the Biodiversity Strategy to 2030 (Goal 15 - protect, restore and promote sustainable use of ecosystems) and the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, and will also support national policies and strategies such as the implementation of the Marine Strategy Directive and the Recovery and Resilience Plan, in line with the European Green Deal.

### **5.1.2. LIFE Case Study – ECOREST – Ecological restoration of human-impacted benthic marine ecosystems through active strategies and participatory approaches**

**Coordinating Beneficiary: *Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas M.P (SCIC). Instituto de Ciencias del Mar***

Shelf bottoms represent 20% of Mediterranean seafloor, but the marine communities inhabiting the continental shelves and slopes are in a poor conservation state, mainly caused by decades of human impacts. Bottom trawling has greatly contributed to the degradation of deep-water habitats to a point where the abundance of megafauna has declined dramatically even leading to the extinction of some species locally. These once rocky habitats are now vast barren seascapes dominated by sediments with low structural complexity and populated by a reduced number of species that tolerate human impacts (e.g. motile or burrowing species). This severely impact on the ecosystem services provided by the more structurally complex habitats.

The conservation status of the benthic habitats is especially critical in the Catalan continental margin which is identified as a hot spot of ecological importance due to the high concentration of threatened species. Here, more than 90% of the seafloor between 50 and 800 m depth is severely exploited most importantly by trawling. In the Girona and Barcelona provinces, trawling annually extracts more than 22,700 habitat forming sessile organisms. In the central and northern Catalan margin, there are 14 no-take areas (290 km<sup>2</sup>) where the fishing activity has been permanently restricted to recover fish stocks. However, the ability of these habitats to recover from human impacts is extremely slow. Natural recovery may take centuries so, the ECOREST project is actively restoring habitat complexity and reverting degradation.

Coral, Gorgonia and sponges, among other sessile organisms, have an invaluable role as architects and landscapers of sea bottoms as well as providing shelter areas and food to other species. No-fishing areas were established with the full support of the fishing communities. Fishing activities are permanently and entirely forbidden to allow commercial species to recover, such as hake, red shrimp and scampi. However, natural habitat recovery in these zones is very slow and so the process needs to be accelerated through active restoration attempts – made challenging because of the deep-water.

Collaboration with the fishing sector is a cornerstone of the project, a Strategic Commission and a capacity building workshop have been set up with the participation of the fisheries sector. The project recovers a range of sessile species, (protected by the Barcelona Convention and/or included in the Mediterranean IUCN Red List) from the by-catch and provides a means of growing them on to a stage where they can be reintroduced to the deep-water habitats. Aquarium systems have been supplied to fisher's cooperatives together with training on how to look after the different species and prepare them for reintroduction.

The project is undertaking oceanographic surveys in all the no-fishing zones so provide greater insight into the status of the habitats so that restoration efforts can be maximised. The fishing community is

also engaged in the placement of the material once it is sufficiently well established. In fact, the fishing community is so engaged with the project that they are volunteering to carry out the restoration work unassisted by the project team.

In summer 2023, the LIFE ECOREST project released over 250 organisms accidentally caught in fishing nets and rescued by fishermen. This novel approach avoids the need for removal of material from donor sites and relies entirely on material that would otherwise die from being discarded. Specifically, 143 gorgonians belonging to the species *Eunicella cavolini*, *Eunicella singularis*, and *Leptogorgia sarmentosa*, as well as 106 soft corals of the species *Alcyonium palmatum* and some byzoans were returned to the sea at depths ranging from 90 to 140 meters (see Figure 3). Survivorship has been verified using remotely operated underwater vehicles (ROVs) and to check that the units had settled correctly on the seabed.



*Preparation of by-catch for restoration.*

During a one-month campaign, 34 ROV dives were conducted to perform visual inspections of fishing restricted areas and adjacent zones. In a preliminary assessment, the scientific team has observed differences between the current fishing zones and those under one year fishing restriction. In the former, the seafloor is smoother and shows marks from fishing gear, whereas in the protected areas a natural three-dimensional structure has been observed created by the increased diversity of seafloor organisms. Nevertheless, the scientific team has also observed that some areas of seabed in the no-

fishing zones remain flat and featureless and dominated by soft sediments making the job of restoration even more difficult. The need for urgency in management and restoration efforts is highlighted by the fact that one of the commonly occurring target species listed in the Grant Agreement has not appeared once in the by-catch since the project commenced – leading to concerns that it is locally extinct.



*An area of restored seabed*

## **5.2. Theme 2: Strict protection in the Mediterranean and Black Sea marine regions**

The Biodiversity strategy sets a target of at least one third of all protected areas in the EU, representing 10% of EU land and 10% of EU sea, to be under strict protection by 2030. In the context of the 10% target in the Biodiversity Strategy, strictly protected areas are defined as follows: *“Strictly protected areas are fully and legally protected areas designated to conserve and/or restore the integrity of biodiversity-rich natural areas with their underlying ecological structure and supporting natural environmental processes. Natural processes are therefore left essentially undisturbed from human pressures and threats to the area’s overall ecological structure and functioning, independently of whether those pressures and threats are located inside or outside the strictly protected area”*.

The condition that natural processes should be left essentially undisturbed by human pressures and threats means that many strictly protected areas will be non-intervention areas, where only limited and well-controlled activities that either do not interfere with natural processes or enhance them, will be allowed. In addition, strictly protected areas may also be areas in which active management sustains or enhances natural processes. Activities authorised in strictly protected areas should also include those that are necessary for the restoration of the natural values of the areas in question.

The Strategy also stated that significant areas of carbon-rich ecosystems, such as seagrass meadows should be strictly protected and that achieving good environmental status of marine ecosystems,

including through strictly protected areas, must involve the restoration of carbon-rich ecosystems as well as important fish spawning and nursery areas.

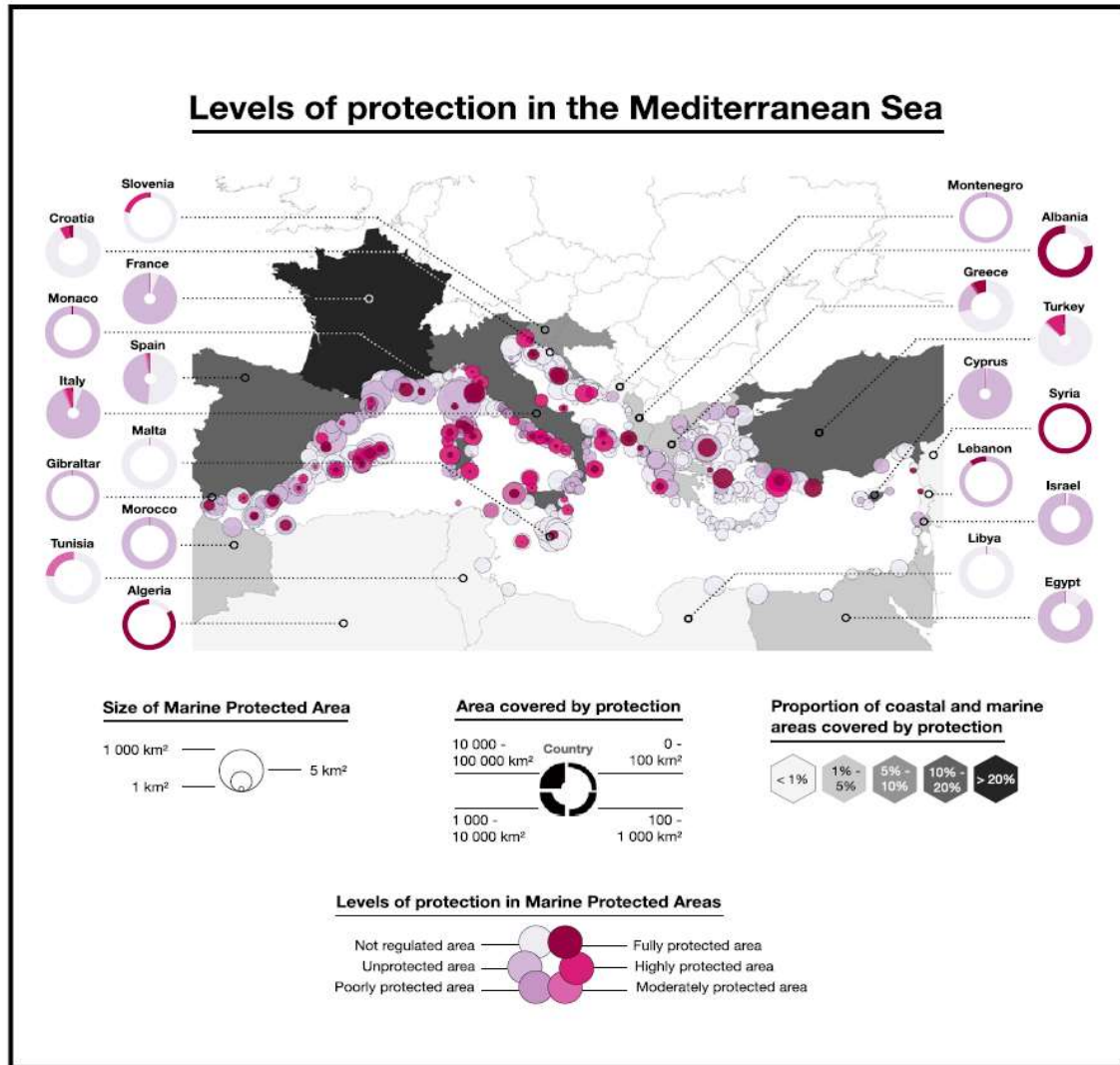
To make progress with the implementation of this target, it is important to identify habitats and areas which are suitable for such protection regime. It is also important to exchange experience in ensuring that these areas deliver benefits to society and economic activities, in particular fisheries. Finally, strictly protected areas also need to be effectively managed which requires proper control and enforcement.

### ***5.2.1. Case study - Ecological and socio-economic benefits of strictly protected MPAs and scientific principles for their establishment***

Ocean and seas face an unprecedented human demands for food, materials and space. Today, 100% of the oceans are impacted by human activities, jeopardizing marine ecosystems capacity to provide goods and services on which human activities rely. To face biodiversity loss and to sustain human activities at sea, Marine Protected Areas (MPA) can be an effective tool, under particular conditions. MPAs are spatially designed zones at sea in which activities are regulated in a way that the integrity of various ecosystem components is maintained, enhancing their capacity to support the entire ecosystem structure and functioning.

However, the current coverage and levels of protection (meaning the capacity of MPA to decrease pressures coming from human activities through dedicated regulations) of MPAs in the Mediterranean Sea do not allow to effectively protect marine ecosystems. To address these gaps in both coverage and levels of protection in MPAs, new objectives have been set for 2030, with 30% of EU marine waters under protection, and 10% under strict protection.

However, implementing strict protection is challenging in the context of a crowded sea. Two methods to help governments and marine managers will be presented, based on systematic conservation planning and cumulative impact assessment. Systematic conservation planning can be applied in the context of strict protection, using spatial distribution of various ecosystem components and spatial data on human activities to prioritize area where trade-offs between ecosystem conservation and strategic economic sectors can be found.



*Levels of protection in the Mediterranean Sea - from Claudet et al., 2020, One Earth 2, 380–384, April 24, 2020*

Cumulative impact assessment is a transparent evaluation of how human activities affect different components of ecosystems. Through the identification of spatial distribution of human activities at sea and the pressures coming from them, and the vulnerability of different ecosystem components to these pressures, this method allows to establish a diagnostic of the impact coming from human activities and can help to prioritize management actions. This approach can also be used to test the capacity of different scenarios of management actions to effectively reduce cumulative impact in particular area, in order to meet the strict protection criteria.

#### **5.2.2. Case study - Strict protection in Aire Marine Protégée de la Côte Agathoise**

The largest integral marine reserve in the Occitania region in France has been recently declared near the city of Agde. It is a pentagon of 310 ha near the island of Brescou. Two decrees were published to legally establish the reserve and to regulate the activities, one ministerial decree for its creation on 27 December 2019 and the other from the Maritime Prefecture of the Mediterranean on 31 January 2020 regulating the use of the area. Initiated by the small-scale fishermen of the region and supported by

the city of Agde, in very close consultation with all the maritime stakeholders, it will protect marine fisheries resources and in particular 45% of the coralligenous habitats in the Natura 2000 site where it is located. In the reserve, any form of professional or recreational fishing, scuba diving, mooring of vessels and dredging are prohibited.



The activities to establish the reserve are undertaken by the city of Agde and supported by the European LIFE MarHa project, led by the French Office for Biodiversity, and by the Occitanie/Pyrénées-Méditerranée Region.

### **5.3. Theme 3: Renewable energy and marine conservation**

More sustainably sourced renewable energy will be essential to fight climate change and biodiversity loss, which are interlinked. The development of offshore renewable energy however provides both opportunities and threats to biodiversity conservation. The biodiversity strategy states that the EU will prioritise solutions such as ocean energy, offshore wind, which also allows for fish stock regeneration. It is therefore essential to explore such technologies and ways of implementing renewable energy projects in the marine environment that can be compatible with or even foster marine conservation and restoration.



The EU Strategy for offshore renewable energy<sup>38</sup> states that the development of offshore renewable energy must comply with the EU environmental legislation and the integrated maritime policy and that designated sea spaces for offshore energy exploitation should be compatible with biodiversity protection, consider socio-economic consequences for sectors relying on good health of marine ecosystems and integrate as much as possible other uses of the sea.

In this context, maritime spatial planning is an essential and well-established tool to anticipate change, prevent and mitigate conflicts between policy priorities while also creating synergies between economic sectors. Offshore renewable energy can and should coexist with many other activities, especially in crowded areas. To this end, national maritime spatial planning should adopt a holistic, multi-use/multipurpose approach.

### ***5.3.1. LIFE Case Study – LIFE16 IPE/FR/000001 - LIFE IP Marine Habitats MarHa (Nature Integrated Project for effective and equitable management of marine habitats in France)***

#### **Coordinating Beneficiary: Office Français de la Biodiversité (OFB)**

The cross-cutting objective of the LIFE Integrated Project, MarHa, is to achieve or maintain a favourable conservation status for marine habitats listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive. One extremely important aspect of the project concerns improving human capacity, and developing of tools, for implementing Natura 2000 policy. With the rapid development of offshore renewable energy (ORE) and particularly offshore wind farms (OWF) together with the lack of clear guidance on co-location of ORE alongside important areas for biodiversity, the Office Français de la Biodiversité has produced a reference document for the protection of marine habitats in projects installing OWF. Published in December 2023, this technical framework covers offshore wind turbine projects, which are expected to develop over the coming decades in mainland French waters, and their potential effects on the marine environment. To consolidate the integration of environmental aspects, the repository centralizes and synthesizes the information available to date in two documents. Volume 1 (National and European context of the Supervision of Activities Related to Wind Energy) concerns the development of offshore wind energy and the supervision of these activities; it can serve as an aid to the management and implementation of environmental public policies at different scales. It includes all phases of the development from design, through construction and exploitation to decommissioning.

Volume 2 (Benthic Habitats in Mainland France and Natura 2000 Species) focuses on the interactions between the marine environment and OWFs. It considers the pressures and risks of impacts which have been mapped against the species and habitats of European concern in both the Atlantic and

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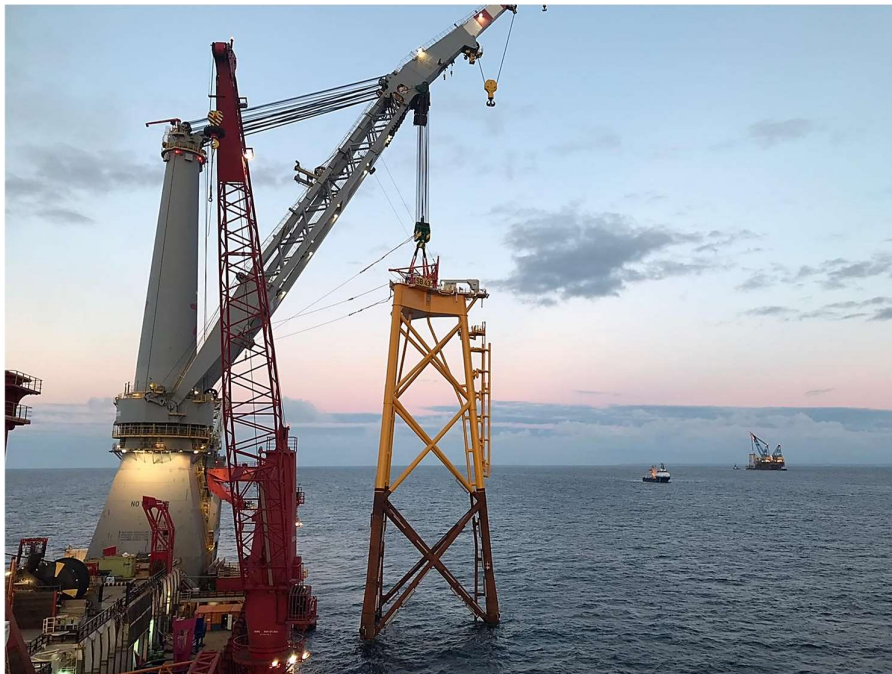
<sup>38</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2020:741:FIN&qid=1605792629666>

Mediterranean realms. The reference volume promotes the sequence "avoid - reduce – compensate" when addressing mitigation of proposed developments:

- Avoidance should be favoured as being the only phase which guarantees non-harm to the environment in question.
- Failing this, reduction measures to reduce impacts that could not be sufficiently avoided.
- Compensation should only intervene as a last resort, when all the impacts could neither be avoided nor reduced sufficiently.

The document includes a series of ‘Summary Measures Sheets’ designed to provide information on the various existing measures/actions, which it may be possible to implement to avoid or reduce the potential impacts of offshore wind farms on marine ecosystems. These sheets are categorized according to the type of measures (avoid, reduce, monitor, support), the phase of a project, the components of the ecosystem exposed, and the pressures generated. There follows a series of detailed data sheets for habitats and species in both the Mediterranean and Atlantic which outline the main threats to the different ecosystems.

The OFB recognise that the reference documents are complex and potentially difficult to follow for those stakeholders who need to implement them. Accordingly, they are in the process of developing a webtool, based on the UK marine database MarLin, to simplify their use; this will make the documents more accessible to the target audience.



Installation of foundation jackets - crédit @Ailes Marines

The reference documents have been prepared in collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders which, importantly, include industry partners. Most notably: Electricity Transmission Network (RTE), Electricity of France (EDF), and French Renewable Energy Trade Association (SER).



Wind turbines on jacket-type foundations. *Beatrice* offshore wind farm in north-east Scotland  
(photo : B. Guichard / Office français de la biodiversité)

## ANNEXES

- Annex 1 – Conservation status of marine birds – EU combined assessment
- Annex 2 – Conservation status pledge tables – analysis by Member State
- Annex 3 – Conservation status tables – analysis by Member State
- Annex 4 – Pledge tables – by Member State
- Annex 5 – List of relevant LIFE projects

### Annex 1 – Conservation status marine birds – EU combined assessment

Species code	Species name	Season assessed	Red list category	CS conclusion
A200	<i>Alca torda</i>	B	LC	Secure
A203	<i>Alle alle</i>	W	NE	Not Evaluated
A062	<i>Aythya marila</i>	B	EN A2bcde+3bcde+4bcde; C1	Threatened
A067	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	B	LC	Secure
A387	<i>Bulweria bulwerii</i>	B	LC	Unknown
A202	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	B	LC	Depleted
A064	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	W	LC	Depleted
A204	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	B	LC	Secure
A009	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	B	EN A4abcde	Threatened
A002	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	B	LC	Secure
A003	<i>Gavia immer</i>	W	LC	Secure
A001	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	B	LC	Secure
A014	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	B	LC	Unknown
A862	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	B	LC	Secure
A184	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	B	VU A2bcde+3bcde+4bcde	Threatened
A181	<i>Larus audouinii</i>	B	VU A3bce+4abce	Threatened
A182	<i>Larus canus</i>	B	LC	Declining
A183	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	B	LC	Secure
A180	<i>Larus genei</i>	B	LC	Unknown
A185	<i>Larus glaucooides</i>	W	LC <sup>oo</sup>	Unknown
A186	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	W	LC <sup>oo</sup>	Unknown
A187	<i>Larus marinus</i>	B	NT A2bcde+3bcde+4bcde	Near Threatened
A176	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	B	LC	Secure
A604	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	B	LC	Unknown
A179	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	B	VU A2bcde	Threatened
A066	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	B	VU A2abcde	Threatened
A070	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	B	LC	Secure
A069	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	B	NT A2bcde+3bcde+4bcde	Near Threatened
A016	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	B	LC	Secure
A389	<i>Pelagodroma marina</i>	B	EN B2ab(iii,v)	Threatened

A392	<i>Phalacrocorax a. desmarestii</i>	B	LC	Unknown
A018	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	B	LC	Depleted
A017	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	B	LC	Secure
A170	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	B	LC	Declining
A007	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	B	VU C1	Threatened
A005	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	B	LC	Secure
A006	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	B	VU A2bcde+3bcde+4bcde	Threatened
A008	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	B	LC	Secure
A506	<i>Polysticta stelleri</i>	W	EN A2bcd+3bcd+4bcd; C1	Threatened
A385	<i>Pterodroma madeira</i>	B	EN D	Threatened
A693	<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>	B	CR A4abcde	Threatened
A013	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	B	LC	Unknown
A464	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>	B	VU A2abcde	Threatened
A188	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	B	EN A2abcd+3bcd+4abcd	Threatened
A063	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	B	VU A2abcde+A3abcde+A4abcde	Threatened
A174	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	B	LC	Secure
A173	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	B	EN A2bcd+3bce+4bce	Threatened
A192	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	B	LC	Secure
A193	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	B	LC	Secure
A194	<i>Sterna paradiseae</i>	B	LC	Secure
A885	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	B	LC	Secure
A862	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	B	LC	Secure
A419	<i>Uria aalge ibericus</i>	B	CR (PE) D	Threatened
A199	<i>Uria aalge</i>	B	LC	Secure

The following marine bird species were not listed in the Art.12 reporting and so have had to be excluded from the assessment:

<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>
<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>
<i>Pterodroma feae</i>
<i>Puffinus griseus</i>
<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>
<i>Stercorarius skua</i>
<i>Sterna nilotica</i>

## Annex 2 – Conservation Status pledge tables

### Cyprus

#### Marine habitats – Habitats Directive

##### MMED

Habitat code	Habitat	Status	Pledge
1110	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	FV	N
1120	<b>Posidonia beds (<i>Posidonia oceanica</i>)<sup>39</sup></b>	FV	<b>N</b>
1170	Reefs	FV	N
1180	Submarine structures made by leaking gases	XX	N

#### Marine species – Habitats Directive

##### MMED

Species code	Species	Status	Pledge
1224	<i>Caretta caretta</i> <sup>40</sup>	FV	N
1227	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	U1	30%
1366	<i>Monachus monachus</i>	U1	30%
1349	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	FV	N

#### Marine bird species – Birds Directive

Species code	Species	Trends	Pledge
A850	<i>Calonectris diomedea s. str.</i>	Unk	N
A798	<i>Larus armenicus</i>	Unk	N
A181	<i>Larus audouinii</i>	S	N
A180	<i>Larus genei</i>	Unk	N
A176	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	Unk	N
A604	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	I	N
A179	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	D	N
A069	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	I	N
A392	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii</i>	D	30%
A193	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	I	N
A885	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	I	N

<sup>39</sup> Priority habitat under the Habitats Directive

<sup>40</sup> Priority species under the Habitats Directive

## Spain

### Marine habitats – Habitats Directive

#### MMED

Habitat code	Habitat	Status	Pledge <sup>41</sup>
1110	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	XX	UNKN
1120	<b>Posidonia beds (<i>Posidonia oceanica</i>)</b>	XX	30%
1130	Estuaries	U1	Non-det
1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	XX	N
1160	Large shallow inlets and bays	XX	N
1170	Reefs	XX	UNKN
1180	Submarine structures made by leaking gases	XX	N
8330	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	XX	30%

### Marine species – Habitats Directive

#### MMED

Species code	Species	Status	Pledge
1001	<i>Corallium rubrum</i>	U2	30%
1008	<i>Centrostephanus longispinus</i>	XX	UNKN
1012	<i>Patella ferruginea</i>	U2	30%
1027	<i>Lithophaga lithophaga</i>	FV	Non-det
1028	<i>Pinna nobilis</i>	U2	Unlikely
1090	<i>Scyllarides latus</i>	XX	UNKN
1223	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	XX	UNKN
<b>1224</b>	<b><i>Caretta caretta</i></b>	<b>XX</b>	<b>UNKN</b>
1226	<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	XX	UNKN
<b>1227</b>	<b><i>Chelonia mydas</i></b>	<b>XX</b>	<b>UNKN</b>
1345	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	XX	UNKN
1349	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	XX	UNKN
1350	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	XX	UNKN
1351	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	XX	UNKN
<b>1366</b>	<b><i>Monachus monachus</i></b>	<b>XX</b>	<b>N</b>
1376	<i>Lithothamnium coralloides</i>	FV	Non-det
1377	<i>Phymatholiton calcareum</i>	FV	Non-det
2027	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	FV	Non-det
2028	<i>Pseudorca crassidens</i>	XX	UNKN

<sup>41</sup> 30% - 30% targets for improving trends, Non-det – non-deterioration target, ND unlikely – non-deterioration unlikely to be achieved; UNKN – reducing unknowns; N – no pledge

2029	<i>Globicephala melas</i>	U1	Non-det
2030	<i>Grampus griseus</i>	XX	N
2034	<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>	XX	UNKN
2035	<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>	XX	UNKN
2618	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	XX	UNKN
2619	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	XX	N
2621	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	XX	UNKN
2624	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	XX	UNKN
5033	<i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i>	XX	UNKN

Marine bird species – Birds Directive

Species code	Season	Species	Trend	Pledge
A200	W	<i>Alca torda</i>	Unk	UNKN
A850	B	<i>Calonectris diomedea s. str.</i>	Unk	UNKN
A002	W	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	D	Non-det
A003	W	<i>Gavia immer</i>	I	Non-det
A001	W	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Unk	Non-det
A014	B	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	Unk	UNKN
A181	B	<i>Larus audouinii</i>	D	30%
A181	P	<i>Larus audouinii</i>	D	30%
A181	W	<i>Larus audouinii</i>	D	30%
A489	B	<i>Larus fuscus all others</i>	D	N
A489	P	<i>Larus fuscus all others</i>	Unk	N
A489	W	<i>Larus fuscus all others</i>	Unk	N
A180	B	<i>Larus genei</i>	I	Non-det
A180	P	<i>Larus genei</i>	Unk	Non-det
A187	B	<i>Larus marinus</i>	I	Non-det
A187	P	<i>Larus marinus</i>	I	Non-det
A187	W	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Unk	Non-det
A176	B	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	I	Non-det
A176	W	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	S	Non-det
A604	B	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	Unk	Non-det
A604	P	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	Unk	N
A604	W	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	Unk	N
A179	B	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	S	Non-det
A179	P	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	I	Non-det
A179	W	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	I	Non-det
A900	W	<i>Melanitta nigra s. str.</i>	I	UNKN
A069	W	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	D	Non-det
A684	W	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis aristotelis</i>	S	30%
A684	B	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis aristotelis</i>	D	30%
A683	W	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo carbo</i>	S	N
A391	B	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>	I	Non-det
A391	W	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>	S	Non-det



A007	W	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	S	N
A005	B	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	U	Non-det
A005	W	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	I	Non-det
A008	B	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	S	Non-det
A008	W	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	S	Non-det
A693	B	<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>	D	30%
A693	P	<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>	D	30%
A188	B	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	D	Non-det
A188	W	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Unk	Non-det
A063	W	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Unk	N
A193	B	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	D	Non-det
A193	P	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Unk	Non-det
A194	P	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Unk	Non-det
A885	B	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	D	Non-det
A885	P	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	Unk	Non-det
A887	W	<i>Uria aalge all others</i>	Unk	UNKN
A419	B	<i>Uria aalge ibericus</i>	D	Unlikely

### Annex 3 – Conservation status tables – by Member State

#### Bulgaria

##### Marine habitats – Habitats Directive

MBLS

Habitat code	Habitat	Status
1110	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	U1
1130	Estuaries	U1
1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	U1
1160	Large shallow inlets and bays	U1
1170	Reefs	U1
8330	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	XX

##### Marine species – Habitats Directive

MBLS

Species code	Species	Status
1349	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	U2
1350	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	U1
1351	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	U1
2488	<i>Acipenser stellatus</i>	XX
2489	<i>Huso huso</i>	XX
5040	<i>Acipenser gueldenstaedtii</i>	XX

##### Marine bird species – Birds Directive

Species code	Species	Season	Trend
A062	<i>Aythya marila</i>	W	F
A067	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	W	S
A067	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	P	-
A064	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	W	Unk
A002	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	W	I
A002	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	P	-
A001	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	W	F
A459	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	W	Unk
A182	<i>Larus canus</i>	W	F
A182	<i>Larus canus</i>	P	-
A640	<i>Larus fuscus fuscus</i>	W	F
A640	<i>Larus fuscus fuscus</i>	P	-
A180	<i>Larus genei</i>	P	-

A180	<i>Larus genei</i>	W	F
A180	<i>Larus genei</i>	B	F
A176	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	P	-
A176	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	W	F
A176	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	B	F
A604	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	B	I
A179	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	B	F
A179	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	P	-
A179	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	W	I
A066	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	W	F
A900	<i>Melanitta nigra s. str.</i>	W	F
A070	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	P	-
A070	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	B	I
A070	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	W	F
A069	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	W	D
A069	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	P	-
A392	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii</i>	B	F
A391	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>	P	-
A391	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>	W	F
A391	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>	B	I
A170	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	P	-
A007	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	W	S
A005	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	P	-
A005	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	W	I
A005	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	B	S
A006	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	W	F
A006	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	B	D
A006	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	P	-
A008	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	W	F
A008	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	P	-
A008	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	B	D
A464	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>	P	-
A063	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	W	F
A193	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	P	-
A193	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	B	F
A885	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	P	-
A885	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	B	F

## Croatia

### Marine habitats – Habitats Directive

#### MMED

Habitat code	Habitat	Status
1110	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	XX
1120	<i>Posidonia</i> beds	U1
1130	Estuaries	U1
1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by sea water at low tide	XX
1160	Large shallow inlets and bays	XX
1170	Reefs	U1
8330	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	U1

### Marine species – Habitats Directive

#### MMED

Species code	Species	Status
1227	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	XX
1349	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	FV
1350	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	XX
1366	<i>Monachus monachus</i>	
1376	<i>Lithothamnium coralloides</i>	XX
1377	<i>Phymatholiton calcareum</i>	XX
2028	<i>Pseudorca crassidens</i>	XX
2030	<i>Grampus griseus</i>	XX
2034	<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>	XX
2035	<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>	XX
2621	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	XX
2624	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	XX

### Marine bird species – Birds Directive

Species code	Species	Season	Trend
A067	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	W	Unk
A850	<i>Calonectris diomedea s. str.</i>	B	S
A002	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	W	Unk
A001	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	W	Unk
A862	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	W	Unk
A181	<i>Larus audouinii</i>	B	U
A176	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	P	Unk
A604	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	B	Unk

A179	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	B	Unk
A070	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	B	I
A070	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	W	Unk
A069	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	W	Unk
A392	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii</i>	B	S
A391	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>	B	D
A391	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>	W	Unk
A005	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	W	Unk
A005	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	B	Unk
A008	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	W	Unk
A008	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	B	S
A464	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>	B	S
A193	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	B	Unk
A885	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	B	D
A863	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	W	Unk

France

Marine habitats – Habitats Directive

MMED

Habitat code	Habitat	Status
1110	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	U1
1120	<i>Posidonia</i> beds	U1
1130	Estuaries	U2
1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by sea water at low tide	U2
1160	Large shallow inlets and bays	U2
1170	Reefs	FV
8330	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	XX

Marine species – Habitats Directive

MMED

Species code	Species	Status
1001	<i>Corallium rubrum</i>	U1
1008	<i>Centrostephanus longispinus</i>	XX
1012	<i>Patella ferruginea</i>	XX
1027	<i>Lithophaga lithophaga</i>	XX
1028	<i>Pinna nobilis</i>	U2
1090	<i>Scyllarides latus</i>	U1
1223	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	U2
1224	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	U2
1227	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	XX
1345	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	XX
1349	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	XX
1350	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	XX
1376	<i>Lithothamnium coralloides</i>	XX
1377	<i>Phymatholiton calcareum</i>	U1
2027	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	XX
2028	<i>Pseudorca crassidens</i>	XX
2029	<i>Globicephala melas</i>	XX
2030	<i>Grampus griseus</i>	XX
2033	<i>Steno bredanensis</i>	XX
2034	<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>	XX
2035	<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>	XX
2618	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	XX
2621	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	XX
2624	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	XX

Marine bird species – Birds Directive

Species code	Species	Season	Trend
A200	<i>Alca torda</i>	B	I
A062	<i>Aythya marila</i>	W	D
A067	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	B	I
A067	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	W	D
A850	<i>Calonectris diomedea s. str.</i>	B	S
A064	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	W	U
A204	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	B	I
A009	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	B	S
A002	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	W	U
A003	<i>Gavia immer</i>	W	Unk
A001	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	W	F
A014	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	B	I
A862	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	W	Unk
A894	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	P	No data
A895	<i>Larus argentatus argenteus</i>	B	D
A181	<i>Larus audouinii</i>	B	D
A182	<i>Larus canus</i>	B	F
A182	<i>Larus canus</i>	W	D
A489	<i>Larus fuscus all others</i>	B	Unk
A180	<i>Larus genei</i>	B	I
A180	<i>Larus genei</i>	W	I
A186	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	W	F
A187	<i>Larus marinus</i>	B	I
A187	<i>Larus marinus</i>	W	F
A176	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	B	i
A176	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	W	I
A604	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	B	D
A179	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	B	Unk
A066	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	W	U
A900	<i>Melanitta nigra s. str.</i>	P	No data
A900	<i>Melanitta nigra s. str.</i>	W	U
A070	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	B	I
A070	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	W	I
A069	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	B	I
A069	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	P	No data
A069	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	W	D
A016	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	B	S
A684	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis aristotelis</i>	B	I
A392	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii</i>	B	Unk
A683	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo carbo</i>	B	D
A683	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo carbo</i>	W	Unk
A391	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>	B	I

A391	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>	W	I
A007	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	W	S
A005	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	B	Unk
A005	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	W	S
A006	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	B	F
A008	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	B	Unk
A008	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	W	D
A693	<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>	P	No data
A013	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	B	I
A464	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>	B	U
A188	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	B	S
A063	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	B	F
A063	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	W	D
A192	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	B	D
A192	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	P	No data
A193	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	B	D
A193	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	P	No data
A194	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	P	No data
A885	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	B	I
A885	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	P	No data
A887	<i>Uria aalge all others</i>	B	I



Greece

Marine habitats – Habitats Directive

MMED

Habitat code	Habitat	Status
1110	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	U1
1120	<i>Posidonia</i> beds	U1
1130	Estuaries	U1
1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by sea water at low tide	U1
1160	Large shallow inlets and bays	U1
1170	Reefs	U2
1180	Submarine structures made by leaking gases	XX
8330	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	U1

Marine species – Habitats Directive

MMED

Species code	Species	Status
1001	<i>Corallium rubrum</i>	U1
1008	<i>Centrostephanus longispinus</i>	U1
1027	<i>Lithophaga lithophaga</i>	U1
1028	<i>Pinna nobilis</i>	U2
1090	<i>Scyllarides latus</i>	U1
1101	<i>Acipenser sturio</i>	XX
1223	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	U2
1224	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	U2
1227	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	U2
1345	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	
1349	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	U1
1350	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	U2
1351	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	U2
1366	<i>Monachus monachus</i>	
2028	<i>Pseudorca crassidens</i>	
2030	<i>Grampus griseus</i>	U1
2033	<i>Steno bredanensis</i>	
2034	<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>	XX
2035	<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>	U2
2618	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	
2621	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	XX
2624	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	U2

Marine bird species – Birds Directive

Species code	Species	Season	Trend
A062	<i>Aythya marila</i>	W	Unk
A067	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	W	S
A850	<i>Calonectris diomedea s. str.</i>	B	S
A002	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	W	Unk
A001	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	W	Unk
A014	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	B	Unk
A862	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	P	-
A894	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	B	I
A894	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	P	-
A181	<i>Larus audouinii</i>	B	D
A182	<i>Larus canus</i>	W	Unk
A489	<i>Larus fuscus all others</i>	W	Unk
A180	<i>Larus genei</i>	W	I
A180	<i>Larus genei</i>	B	I
A176	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	P	-
A176	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	B	D
A176	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	W	I
A604	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	B	I
A179	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	W	Unk
A066	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	W	Unk
A070	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	B	S
A070	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	W	Unk
A069	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	W	S
A392	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii</i>	B	S
A391	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>	W	I
A391	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>	B	I
A170	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	P	Unk
A007	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	W	Unk
A005	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	B	S
A005	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	W	I
A006	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	W	Unk
A008	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	B	I
A008	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	W	D
A464	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>	P	Unk
A464	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>	B	S
A193	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	B	S
A885	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	B	S
A863	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	B	S

## Italy

### Marine habitats – Habitats Directive

#### MMED

Habitat code	Habitat	Status
1110	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	XX
1120	<i>Posidonia</i> beds	FV
1130	Estuaries	FV
1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by sea water at low tide	XX
1160	Large shallow inlets and bays	FV
1170	Reefs	FV
1180	Submarine structures made by leaking gases	XX
8330	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	FV

### Marine species – Habitats Directive

#### MMED

Species code	Species	Status
1001	<i>Corallium rubrum</i>	FV
1008	<i>Centrostephanus longispinus</i>	FV
1012	<i>Patella ferruginea</i>	FV
1027	<i>Lithophaga lithophaga</i>	FV
1028	<i>Pinna nobilis</i>	U2
1090	<i>Scyllarides latus</i>	U2
1223	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	
1224	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	U1
1225	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	
1226	<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	
1227	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	
1345	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	
1349	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	FV
1350	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	XX
1366	<i>Monachus monachus</i>	U2
1376	<i>Lithothamnium coralloides</i>	XX
1377	<i>Phymatholiton calcareum</i>	XX
2027	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	
2028	<i>Pseudorca crassidens</i>	
2029	<i>Globicephala melas</i>	XX
2030	<i>Grampus griseus</i>	XX
2033	<i>Steno bredanensis</i>	
2034	<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>	FV
2035	<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>	XX
2618	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	

2621	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	FV
2624	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	XX

Marine bird species – Birds Directive

Species code	Species	Season	Trend
A062	<i>Aythya marila</i>	W	D
A067	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	W	D
A850	<i>Calonectris diomedea s. str.</i>	B	Unk
A002	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	W	D
A001	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	W	I
A014	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	B	Unk
A862	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	W	I
A894	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	P	Unk
A181	<i>Larus audouinii</i>	B	S
A180	<i>Larus genei</i>	B	Unk
A176	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	B	S
A604	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	B	I
A179	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	B	I
A066	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	W	D
A900	<i>Melanitta nigra s. str.</i>	W	D
A070	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	B	I
A069	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	W	S
A392	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii</i>	B	Unk
A391	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>	B	Unk
A391	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>	W	I
A007	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	W	Unk
A005	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	W	S
A005	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	B	Unk
A008	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	W	I
A464	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>	B	Unk
A063	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	W	S
A063	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	B	Unk
A193	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	B	I
A885	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	B	I
A863	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	B	I

## Malta

### Marine habitats – Habitats Directive

#### MMED

Habitat code	Habitat	Status
1110	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	FV
1120	<i>Posidonia</i> beds	FV
1170	Reefs	FV
8330	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	FV

### Marine species – Habitats Directive

#### MMED

Species code	Species	Status
1001	<i>Corallium rubrum</i>	FV
1008	<i>Centrostephanus longispinus</i>	FV
1027	<i>Lithophaga lithophaga</i>	FV
1028	<i>Pinna nobilis</i>	U2
1090	<i>Scyllarides latus</i>	XX
1223	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	
1224	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	FV
1349	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	FV
1350	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	XX
1376	<i>Lithothamnium coralloides</i>	FV
1377	<i>Phymatholiton calcareum</i>	FV
2028	<i>Pseudorca crassidens</i>	
2029	<i>Globicephala melas</i>	
2030	<i>Grampus griseus</i>	
2033	<i>Steno bredanensis</i>	
2034	<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>	XX
2035	<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>	XX
2578	<i>Gibbula nivosa</i>	FV
2621	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	XX
2624	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	

### Marine bird species – Birds Directive

Species code	Species	Season	Trend
A850	<i>Calonectris diomedea s. str.</i>	B	D
A014	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	B	S
A176	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	W	I

A604	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	B	I
A069	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	W	D
A464	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>	B	I

## Romania

### Marine habitats – Habitats Directive

MBLS

Habitat code	Habitat	Status
1110	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	U1
1130	Estuaries	FV
1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by sea water at low tide	U1
1160	Large shallow inlets and bays	FV
1170	Reefs	U1
1180	Submarine structures made by leaking gases	FV
8330	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	XX

### Marine species – Habitats Directive

MBLS

Species code	Species	Status
1349	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	U1
1350	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	U1
1351	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	U1
2488	<i>Acipenser stellatus</i>	U2
2489	<i>Huso huso</i>	U2
4125	<i>Alosa immaculata</i>	FV
4127	<i>Alosa tanaica</i>	FV
5040	<i>Acipenser gueldenstaedtii</i>	U2

### Marine bird species – Birds Directive

Species code	Species	Season	Trend
A062	<i>Aythya marila</i>	W	D
A067	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	W	D
A067	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	B	S
A002	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	W	U
A001	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	W	U
A862	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	P	UNK
A894	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	P	UNK
A459	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	B	UNK
A459	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	W	U
A459	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	P	-
A182	<i>Larus canus</i>	B	I
A182	<i>Larus canus</i>	P	UNK

A180	<i>Larus genei</i>	P	UNK
A800	<i>Larus ichthyaetus</i>	B	I
A176	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	P	UNK
A176	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	B	D
A604	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	B	I
A179	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	P	UNK
A179	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	B	I
A066	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	W	U
A070	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	B	I
A070	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	W	D
A069	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	W	U
A391	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>	W	U
A391	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>	P	-
A391	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>	B	UNK
A170	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	P	UNK
A007	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	W	U
A005	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	B	UNK
A006	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	W	U
A006	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	B	UNK
A008	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	W	I
A008	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	P	-
A008	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	B	UNK
A464	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>	P	UNK
A193	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	B	UNK
A193	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	P	UNK
A885	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	P	UNK
A885	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	B	UNK
A863	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	B	UNK
A863	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	P	UNK



## Slovenia

### Marine habitats – Habitats Directive

MMED

Habitat code	Habitat	Status
1110	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	FV
1120	<i>Posidonia</i> beds	FV
1130	Estuaries	U1
1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by sea water at low tide	FV
1170	Reefs	U1

### Marine species – Habitats Directive

MMED

Species code	Species	Status
1027	<i>Lithophaga lithophaga</i>	FV
1028	<i>Pinna nobilis</i>	FV
1224	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	XX
1349	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	U1

### Marine bird species – Birds Directive

Species code	Species	Season	Trend
A062	<i>Aythya marila</i>	W	U
A067	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	W	S
A064	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	W	U
A002	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	W	D
A001	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	W	U
A862	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	P	D
A182	<i>Larus canus</i>	W	D
A640	<i>Larus fuscus fuscus</i>	W	Unk
A176	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	P	D
A604	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	P	D
A604	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	B	S
A179	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	B	I
A066	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	W	U
A900	<i>Melanitta nigra s. str.</i>	W	Unk
A070	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	B	I
A070	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	W	I
A069	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	W	D
A392	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii</i>	W	D

A391	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>	W	S
A007	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	W	Unk
A005	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	B	I
A006	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	B	S
A008	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	B	U
A063	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	W	Unk
A193	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	B	I
A885	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	B	U
A863	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	W	U

## Annex 4 – Pledge tables – by Member State

### Protected area pledges

Member State	MPA Target (figures in ha)											
	Region code	Area of marine waters	MPA Area Current	MPA Area Expected	Gain	MPA % current	MPA % new	Strict Protection Current	Strict Protection Expected	Gain	Strict protection % current	Strict protection % new
Spain	MMED	25,655,500	7,673,468	14,224,388	6,550,920	30%	55%	130,470	Not reported	N/A	0.5%	N/A

### Conservation status pledges

Member State	Biodiversity Target			
	30% target for improving trends	Non-deterioration target	Non-deterioration unlikely to be achievable	Reducing unknowns
Cyprus	MMED			
	Chelonia mydas-1227 Monachus monachus-1366			1180-Submarine structures made by leaking gases
	<i>Birds</i>			
	Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii-A392		Larus audouinii-A181 Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii-A392	
Spain	MMED			
	1120-Posidonia beds (Posidonion oceanicae) 8330-Submerged or partially submerged sea caves Corallium rubrum-1001 Patella ferruginea-1012	1130-Estuaries Globicephala melas-2029 Grampus griseus-2030 Lithophaga lithophaga-1027 Lithothamnium coralloides-1376 Orcinus orca-2027 Phymatholithon calcareum-1377	Pinna nobilis-1028	1110-Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time 1170-Reefs Balaenoptera acutorostrata-2618 Balaenoptera physalus-2621 Caretta caretta-1224 Centrostephanus longispinus-1008 Chelonia mydas-1227 Delphinus delphis-1350 Dermochelys coriacea-1223 Hyperoodon ampullatus-5033 Lepidochelys kempii-1226 Megaptera novaeangliae-1345

Member State	Biodiversity Target			
	30% target for improving trends	Non-deterioration target	Non-deterioration unlikely to be achievable	Reducing unknowns
				Phocoena phocoena-1351 Physeter macrocephalus-2624 Pseudorca crassidens-2028 Scyllarides latus-1090 Stenella coeruleoalba-2034 Tursiops truncatus-1349 Ziphius cavirostris-2035
<i>Birds</i>				
	Larus audouinii-A181 Phalacrocorax aristotelis aristotelis-A684 Puffinus mauretanicus-A693	Gavia arctica-A002 Gavia immer-A003 Gavia stellata-A001 Larus genei-A180 Larus marinus-A187 Larus melanocephalus-A176 Larus michahellis-A604 Larus ridibundus-A179 Mergus merganser-A070 Mergus serrator-A069 Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis-A391 Podiceps cristatus-A005 Podiceps nigricollis-A008 Rissa tridactyla-A188 Sterna hirundo-A193 Sterna paradisaea-A194 Sternula albifrons-A885	Uria aalge ibericus-A419	Alca torda-A200 Calonectris diomedea s. str.-A850 Hydrobates pelagicus-A014 Larus michahellis-A604 Melanitta nigra s. str.-A900 Puffinus puffinus-A013 Uria aalge all others-A887

## Annex 5 – List of relevant LIFE projects

Reference	Project Acronym	Project Title	Website	Habitats	Species	Summary
LIFE14 CCM/ES/000957	LIFE Blue Natura	Andalusian blue carbon for climate change mitigation: quantification and valorization mechanisms	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4217">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4217</a>		Neptune grass (Posidonia oceanica)	Quantifying the carbon deposits and the sequestration rates of marsh and seagrass meadow habitats in Andalusia
LIFE14 CCM/ES/001209	LIFE DEMOWAVE	Demonstration of the efficiency & environmental impact of wave energy converters (WEC) in high-energy coasts	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4220">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4220</a>			Demonstrating the feasibility of the use of wave power for electric generation in order to mitigate the climate change and to reduce greenhouse gases' emissions.
LIFE14 ENV/ES/000852	LIFE SEACAN	Reducing the pressure of fish canneries on the marine environment with novel effluent treatment and ecosystem monitoring	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4237">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4237</a>			Demonstrating the feasibility of applying biofilm-based wastewater treatment systems to reduce the environmental impact of the effluents generated from fish canneries located in coastal zones
LIFE14 ENV/IT/000461	Life4MarPiccolo	A New Life for Mar Piccolo	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4331">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4331</a>			Restoring of Mar Piccolo in Taranto through the recovery of a contaminated portion of the seabed and seawater using a purification pilot plant.

LIFE14 NAT/ES/001213	CONVIVE-LIFE	Integration of human activities in the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 Network in the littoral of Cantabria	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4269">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4269</a>	1110 - Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time 1130 - Estuaries 1140 - Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide 1310 - Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand 1320 - Spartina swards (Spartinion maritimae) 1330 - Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) 1420 - Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (Sarcocornetea	sea myrtle (Baccharis halimifolia), spatula (Platalea leucorodia), grey heron (Ardea cinerea), purple heron (Ardea purpurea), little bittern (Ixobrychus minutus), pied avocet (Recurvirostra avosetta)	Improving the conservation status of habitats and species of Community interest by restoring ecological and hydrodynamic functioning - also modelled impact of climate change
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				fruticosi) 2110 - Embryonic shifting dunes		
LIFE14 NAT/MT/000991	LIFE Arcipelagu Garnija	LIFE Arcipelagu Garnija - Securing the Maltese islands for the Yelkouan Shearwater Puffinus yelkouan	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4279">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4279</a>		Yelkouan shearwater (Puffinus yelkouan)	Ensuring the long-term recovery of the species in the central Mediterranean islands of Malta, by increasing the knowledge of colony sites, number of breeding pairs by approximately 10% and reproductive output of the majority of the breeding colonies by 25%, and prevalent terrestrial threats
LIFE15 ENV/ES/000252	LIFE LEMA	Intelligent marine LittEr removal and Management for local Authorities	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4464">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4464</a>			Defining a management service for local authorities for tackling the problem of floating marine litter (FML) before it arrives at shore areas with difficult access, or it sinks
LIFE15 ENV/IT/000391	LIFE MARINAPLAN PLUS	Reliable and innovative technology for the realization of a sustainable MARINe And coastal seabed management PLAN	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4491">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4491</a>			Scaling up an innovative and environmentally sustainable technology for marine and coastal management in order to avoid the traditional collection of littoral materials near the entrance of harbours
LIFE15 ENV/IT/000417	LIFE Paint-it	A new environment-friendly manufacturing approach for	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4497">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4497</a>			Demonstrating a new manufacturing process at the pre-industrial scale capable of producing safe and innovative high-

		marine antifouling coating				quality anti-fouling paints for naval applications with positive environmental benefits for the marine environment
LIFE15 GIE/IT/000999	Clean Sea LIFE	Clean Sea Life	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4520">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4520</a>			Supporting the application of the MSFD and EU biodiversity policy relating to marine litter
LIFE15 IPE/ES/000012	LIFE-IP INTEMARES	Integrated, Innovative and Participatory Management for N2000 network in the Marine Environment	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4611">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4611</a>			Implementing the PAF for Natura 2000 in the Spanish marine Natura 2000 network and ensuring that, upon completion, Spain has a consolidated network of marine Natura 2000 sites managed in a demonstrative, effective and integrated way
LIFE15 NAT/ES/000987	LIFE REMoPaF	Recovery of Endangered Mollusc Patella Ferruginea Population by Artificial Inert Mobile Substrates in Mediterranean Sea	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4554">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4554</a>		Mediterranean ribbed limpet (Patella ferruginea)	designing, testing and implementing new techniques and methods for the management of the Mediterranean ribbed limpet, based on knowledge of the biology and ecology of the species, and on previous scientific experience
LIFE15 NAT/HR/000997	LIFE EUROTURTLES	Collective actions for improving the conservation status of the EU sea turtle populations	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4563">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4563</a>		Loggerhead sea turtle (Caretta caretta), green sea turtle (Chelonia mydas)	Improving the conservation status of the EU populations of two priority sea turtle species, the loggerhead turtle and the green turtle



LIFE15 NAT/IT/000771	RE.LIFE	Re-establishment of the Ribbed Limpet ( <i>Patella ferruginea</i> ) in Ligurian MPAs by Restocking and Controlled Reproduction	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4545">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4545</a>		Mediterranean ribbed limpet ( <i>Patella ferruginea</i> )	Reintroducing the ribbed Mediterranean limpet to the Portofino MPA and to other Ligurian MPAs (Bergeggi and Cinque Terre) included in four Natura 2000 network sites and raising awareness of the importance of conserving this species
LIFE16 IPE/MT/000008	RBMP Malta	Optimising the implementation of the 2nd RBMP in the Maltese River Basin District	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4816">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4816</a>			Supporting the implementation of the second RBMP through the establishment of an integrated framework for the optimised management of all water resources on the Maltese islands
LIFE16 NAT/FR/000593	LIFE HABITATS CALANQUES	Integrated management in Mediterranean on remarkable coastal habitats suburban of Calanques related to southern Europe	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4743">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4743</a>			Restoring and managing coastal habitats listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive, along with their associated rare and endemic species

LIFE16 NAT/IT/000589	LIFE REDUNE	Restoration of dune habitats in Natura 2000 sites of the Veneto coast	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4715">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4715</a>	2110 - Embryonic shifting dunes 2120 - Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes") 2130 - Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes") 2250 - Coastal dunes with <i>Juniperus</i> spp.	<i>Stipa veneta</i>	Restoring and maintaining the ecological integrity of a full set of dune habitats listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive, along with the populations of <i>Stipa veneta</i>
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LIFE16 NAT/IT/000663	LIFE LAGOON REFRESH	Coastal lagoon habitat (1150*) and species recovery by restoring the salt gradient increasing fresh water input	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4663">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4663</a>	1150 - Coastal lagoons	great reed warbler (Acrocephalus arundinaceus), common kingfisher (Alcedo atthis), purple heron (Ardea purpurea), great bittern (Botaurus stellaris), western marsh harrier (Circus aeruginosus), hen harrier (Circus cyaneus), common reed bunting (Emberiza schoeniclus), common little bittern (Ixobrychus minutus), Savi's warbler (Locustella luscinioides), bearded reedling (Panurus biarmicus), pygmy cormorant (Phalacrocorax pygmeus), Canestrini's Goby (Pomatoschistus canestrinii)	Restoring small tidal coastal lagoons in the Venice's northern lagoon and conserving coastal lagoons to exploit the ecosystem services provided by this habitat
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LIFE16 GIE/IT/000761	LIFE SEPOSSO	Supporting Environmental governance for the POSidonia oceanica Sustainable transplanting Operations	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4704">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4704</a>	1120 - Posidonia meadows habitat (Posidonia oceanicae)	Neptune grass (Posidonia oceanica)	Carrying out activities supporting the restoration of P. oceanica meadows that have been destroyed by infrastructural marine works, using in particular information systems and information tools
LIFE16 IPE/FR/000001	LIFE IP Marine Habitats	Nature Integrated Project for effective and equitable management of marine habitats in France	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4812">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4812</a>	1120 - Posidonia meadows habitat (Posidonia oceanicae)	Neptune grass (Posidonia oceanica)	Achieving or maintaining a favourable conservation status for marine habitats listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive by ensuring effective and transparent management of the sites
LIFE16 NAT/CY/000832	RELIONMED-LIFE	Preventing a LIONfish invasion in the MEDiterranean through early response and targeted Removal	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4756">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4756</a>		lionfish (Pterois miles)	Making Cyprus the 'first line of defence' against the invasion of the lionfish in the Mediterranean
LIFE16 NAT/GR/000606	LIFE Andros Park	Conservation of priority species and habitats of Andros Island protected area integrating socioeconomic considerations	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4662">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4662</a>		Mediterranean monk seal (Monachus monachus), Mediterranean shag (Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii), Audouin's gull (Larus audouinii) and	Implementing conservation and restoration actions to significantly restore and improve the conservation status of the priority terrestrial habitat, as well as the priority marine species

					Eleonora's Falcon (Falco eleonora)	
LIFE16 NAT/IT/000816	ROC-POP-LIFE	Promoting biodiversity enhancement by Restoration Of Cystoseira POPulations	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4748">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4748</a>	1170 - Reefs	Brown algae (Cystoseira)	Triggering the restoration of the habitat type 1170 in two Natura 2000 sites - Cinque Terre and Miramare by reintroduction of Cystoseira specimens
LIFE17 ENV/FR/000233	LIFE-AGESCIC	Achieve Good Environmental Status for Coastal Infrastructures Construction	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4897">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4897</a>			Addressing the negative impact on biodiversity of coastal construction by testing in real-world conditions new technology that is designed to reduce the acoustic and turbidity impacts of such construction
LIFE17 NAT/BG/000558	the Lagoon of LIFE	Maintain the Man-Lake Symbiosis for the Benefit of Species and Habitats of EU conservation concern	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4949">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4949</a>		Great bittern (Botaurus stellaris)	Demonstrating solutions for enhancing the conservation status of 'coastal lagoons' in the Atanasovsko Lake Natura 2000 site in Bulgaria and delivering improved conditions for the many bird species reliant on coastal lagoons
LIFE17 NAT/HR/000594	LIFE Artina	LIFE Artina - seabird conservation network in the Adriatic	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4873">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4873</a>		Yelkouan shearwater (Puffinus yelkouan), Audouin's gull (Larus audouinii), Scopoli's shearwater (Calonectris diomedea)	Designating marine Special Protection Areas in Croatia and drawing up a list of proposed SPAs and suggested management measures for them

LIFE17 CCM/IT/000121	SeaForest LIFE	Posidonia Meadows as carbon sinks of the Mediterranean	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4966">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4966</a>	1120 - Posidonia meadows habitat (Posidonia oceanicae)	Posidonia oceanica	Aiming to increase the capacity of the carbon reservoirs of Posidonia meadows by reducing erosion and subsequently consolidating habitats. Viable method for carbon credits - establishing a portal for trade
LIFE17 NAT/IT/000565	LIFECALLIOPE	Coastal dune habitats, sublittoral sandbanks, marine reefs: conservation, Protection, and threats mitigation	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4983">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4983</a>			Maintaining, protecting and mitigating anthropogenic threats in coastal environments
LIFE17 ENV/ES/000396	LIFE iBATHWATER	Advanced urban water management to efficiently ensure bathing water quality	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4923">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4923</a>			Demonstrating how better technology and interoperability can reduce pollution levels in water bodies located near urban centres

LIFE17 NAT/ES/000184	LIFE-SALINAS	Conservacin de los hbitats y aves acuticas en el LIC y ZEPA ES0000175 "Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar"	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4869">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4869</a>	2250 - Coastal dunes with Juniperus spp.	Audouin's gull ( <i>Larus audouinii</i> ), Spanish toothcarp ( <i>Aphanius iberus</i> ), avocet ( <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> ), Kentish plover ( <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i> ), gull-billed tern ( <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i> ), common tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ), little tern ( <i>Sterna albifrons</i> ), Sandwich tern ( <i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i> ), sentry plant ( <i>Agave americana</i> ), Elands sourfig ( <i>Carpobrotus acinaciformis</i> ), river red gum ( <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> ), tree tobacco ( <i>Nicotiana glauca</i> ), waterbush ( <i>Myoporum acuminatum</i> )	Aiming at the conservation of Audouin's gull ( <i>Larus audouinii</i> ) and two priority habitat types of the Habitats Directive, Mediterranean salt steppes and Coastal dunes with <i>Juniperus</i> spp., in the Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar Natura 2000 network site
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LIFE17 NAT/FR/000519	LIFE SALLINA	Sustainable Actions on Loire Lagoons for Improvement and Assessment	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4856">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/4856</a>	1150 - Coastal lagoons 1330 - Atlantic salt meadows (Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae)	Pied avocet (Recurvirostra avosetta)	Restoring salt marshes in three targeted Natura 2000 sites and initiating a range of conservation actions aimed at ensuring appropriate long-term management of these habitats
LIFE18 ENV/FR/000308	LIFE PIAQUO	Underwater noise impact reduction of the maritime traffic and real-time adaptation to ecosystems	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/5120">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/5120</a>			Objectives are to develop and test different tools to reduce underwater noise pollution and their impacts on Mediterranean aquatic biodiversity. It is structured around five goals, the first two target the shipping industry while the other three concern public stakeholders such as governments, harbours and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)
LIFE18 NAT/IT/000942	LIFE DELFI	Dolphin Experience: Lowering Fishing Interactions	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/5160">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/5160</a>		Dolphin (Tursiops truncatus)	Reduction of dolphin mortality caused by fishing activities. The project minimizes interactions between dolphins and professional fishing in 6 MPAs and 5 harbours in Italy and Croatia (10 Natura 2000 sites involved)
LIFE18 NAT/IT/000846	LIFE ELIFE	Elasmobranchs Low-Impact Fishing Experience	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/5152">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/5152</a>		Carcharhinidae (Carcharhinus plumbeus)	The project aims at improving the conservation of elasmobranch species (sharks and rays) by promoting best conservation practices in EU professional fishing in the Mediterranean Sea, including



						both bottom trawl and longline fishing
LIFE18 NAT/IT/000103	LIFE MEDTURTLES	Collective actions for improving the conservation status of the eu sea turtle populations: bordering areas	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/5166">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/5166</a>		Sea Turtles (Caretta caretta and Chelonia mydas)	Aiming to improve the conservation status of the EU populations of the Habitats Directive priority sea turtle species Caretta caretta and Chelonia mydas
LIFE18 CCA/FR/001184	LIFE ADAPT'ISLAND	LIFE ADAPT'ISLAND	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/5068">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/5068</a>		Coral (Acropora palmata and Acropora cervicornis), mangroove Rhizophora mangle, Avicenia germinans, Conocarpus erectus), sea grass (Thalassia testudinum)	The project will restore and protect coastal and marine ecosystems and their ecological connections, and improve the quality of goods and services that these ecosystems provide
LIFE18 CCA/ES/001160	LIFE ADAPTA BLUES	Adaptation to climate change through management and restoration of European estuarine ecosystems	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/5067">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/5067</a>			Aiming to demonstrate the potential of conserving and restoring European estuaries following an ecosystem-based approach to climate change adaptation, decreasing risks to coastal areas while contributing to climate change mitigation

LIFE19 NAT/MT/000982	LIFE PanPuffinus!	Improving the conservation status of endemic Balearic and Yelkouan shearwaters by ensuring safe land and sea	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/LIFE19-NAT-MT-000982/improving-the-conservation-status-of-endemic-balearic-and-yelkouan-shearwaters-by-ensuring-safe-land-and-sea">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/LIFE19-NAT-MT-000982/improving-the-conservation-status-of-endemic-balearic-and-yelkouan-shearwaters-by-ensuring-safe-land-and-sea</a>		Puffinus mauretanicus and Puffinus yelkouan	Overall aim is to improve the conservation status of two endangered shearwater species across the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic coast of Portugal, by tackling two major threats on land and at sea through transboundary conservation efforts
LIFE19 NAT/BG/000804	LIFE FOR POMORIE LAGOON	Conservation of Pomorie Lake coastal lagoon	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/5272">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/5272</a>	1150 - Coastal lagoons	avocet, little, sandwich, and common terns	Pomorie Lake is part of the most valuable wetland complex along the Bulgarian Black sea coast. It has great EU importance as a rare ecosystem type and as a place where 40% of all European bird species can be observed. Project will aim to restore these habitats
LIFE19 NAT/IT/000264	LIFE TRANSFER	Seagrass transplantation for transitional Ecosystem Recovery	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/5383">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/5383</a>	1150 - Coastal lagoons	Zostera marina (eelgrass), Zostera noltii (dwarf eelgrass), Ruppia cirrhosa (spiral ditchgrass) and the seagrass Cymodocea nodosa	The project will favour the process of recolonisation of aquatic phanerogams in the 8 sites by transplanting small sods and rhizomes of species previously present in each area - covers Italy Greece and Spain

LIFE20 NAT/ES/001270	LIFE ECOREST	Ecological restoration of human-impacted benthic marine ecosystems through active strategies and participatory approach	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/5625">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/5625</a>	1170 - Reefs	Aplysina spp, Axinella polypoides, Corallium rubrum, Dendrophyllia cornigera, Leiopathes glaberrima, Lophelia pertusa, Madrepora oculata, Tethia spp. Sarcotragus foetidus, Spongia lamella, Spongia officinalis, Isidella elongata, Desmophyllum dianthus	Active restoration of 14 no-take areas along the coast of Girona and Barcelona (more than two thirds of the Catalan coast); Retrieval of around 76 000 organisms from bycatch (e.g. sponges, mussels), suitable for restoration actions; Successful return into the sea of 75 000 individuals (survival rates covering 98% of bycatch); Restoration of species protected by the Barcelona Convention and/or included in the Mediterranean IUCN Red List
LIFE20 NAT/ES/001265	LIFE PINNARCA	Protection and restoration of <i>Pinna nobilis</i> populations as a response to the catastrophic pandemic started in 2016	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/5761">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/5761</a>	1150 - Coastal lagoons	<i>Pinna nobilis</i>	Trying to prevent the extinction of the Mediterranean fan mussel ( <i>Pinna nobilis</i> ) in the short-to-medium term. The project will carry out urgent measures within the framework of an international collaborative consortium of experts to enable the application of coherent trans-boundary measures.
LIFE20 GIE/FR/000114	LIFE SeaBiL	Saving SeaBirds from marine Litter	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/5705">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/5705</a>			Aiming to reduce the direct and indirect impact of marine litter on seabirds which depend on the coastline and offshore environment. This will be achieved through better

						information and governance. The project involves 5 pilot sites in France, Portugal and Spain.
LIFE20 NAT/IT/000067	STRONG_ SEA LIFE	Survey and TReament ON Ghost Nets Sea LIFE	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/5764">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/5764</a>	1120 - Posidonia beds (Posidonia oceanicae) 1170 - Reefs		Preservation, conservation and improvement of Posidonia beds and reef habitats threatened by the presence of ALDFG; Recovery of ALDFG, by assessing potential damage that retrieval could cause compared to making safe or deactivating submerged fishing gear; Recovery of ALDFG, by assessing potential damage that retrieval could cause compared to making safe or deactivating submerged fishing gear; Design and development of a virtuous supply chain, starting from recovery and selecting materials for fishing gear that allows correct disposal and, where possible, recycling
LIFE20 GIE/IT/000763	<a href="#">LIFE SEA NET</a>	<a href="#">Urgent actions for the implementation of marine Natura 2000 Network - LIFE SEA.NET</a>	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/5664">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/5664</a>			Improving the governance and management of marine Natura 2000 sites, using a replicable approach ensuring coherence among sites, and to ensure that the sites have adequate regulation and are managed to reach the

						objectives of various EU directives and policies
LIFE20 NAT/IT/001122	LIFE PINNA	Conservation and re-stocking of the <i>Pinna nobilis</i> in the western Mediterranean and Adriatic sea	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/5706">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/5706</a>		Pinna nobilis	Aiming to conserve fan mussels in the Western Mediterranean and the Adriatic Sea. It aims to achieve this by applying specific conservation and repopulation actions in pilot areas, that are transferable to other regions.
LIFE20 GIE/IT/001352	LIFE A-MAR NATURA2000	Knowing and loving the Natura 2000 marine sites to protect them	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/5663">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/5663</a>			Involving marine Natura 2000 sites in the Mediterranean, in particular in Italy (288 sites) and Spain (272), with replication sites in France, Greece, Malta and Albania. The aim is to reduce impacts and pressures on these sites and change the behaviour of local stakeholders (fishermen, divers, tour operators, boaters, local organisations, residents, tourists, etc.)

LIFE20 NAT/IT/001371	LIFE CONCEPTU MARIS	CONservation of CEtaceans and Pelagic sea TUrTles in Med: Managing Actions for their Recovery In Sustainability	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/5707">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/details/5707</a>		Delphinus delphis; Grampus griseus; Tursiops truncatus; Balaenoptera physalus; Physeter macrocephalus; Ziphius cavirostris; Globicephala melas; Stenella coeruleoalba; Dermochelys coriacea; Chelonia mydas; Caretta caretta	Improving the conservation status of species of cetaceans and pelagic sea turtles (CEPTU), listed in Annex II-IV of the EU Habitats Directive, in the Mediterranean Sea. It will do this by filling the information gap on spatiotemporal ecological needs, to identify important offshore marine sites, and by establishing an internationally- agreed approach to support and further develop the surveillance of CEPTU conservation status and to assess the impact of human activities.
LIFE21 NAT/FR/101070722	LIFE- SEADETECT	Marine automated DETECTion and anti-collision system with cetaceans	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/LIFE21-NAT-FR-LIFE-SEADETECT-101070722/marine-automated-detection-and-anti-collision-system-with-cetaceans">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/LIFE21-NAT-FR-LIFE-SEADETECT-101070722/marine-automated-detection-and-anti-collision-system-with-cetaceans</a>		Cetaceans	Halting the biodiversity loss due to shipstrikes with cetaceans - being the first non-natural threat to large cetaceans' lives - by implementing and developing new technologies. To considerably reduce this risk of collision, the SEADETECT project aims to develop two innovative systems that can ensure the detection of the cetaceans with a radius range of 1km in most of the weather conditions, day and night in real-time.

LIFE21 NAT/IT/101074309	REEForest	Restoration of Cystoseira macroalgal FORESTs to enhance biodiversity along Mediterranean rocky REEFs	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/LIFE21-NAT-IT-REEForest-101074309/restoration-of-cystoseira-macroalgal-forests-to-enhance-biodiversity-along-mediterranean-rocky-reefs">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/LIFE21-NAT-IT-REEForest-101074309/restoration-of-cystoseira-macroalgal-forests-to-enhance-biodiversity-along-mediterranean-rocky-reefs</a>	1170 - Reefs	Brown algae (Cystoseira)	Capitalising outcomes of ROC-POP-LIFE, the project aims to reverse the degradation of the endangered Cystoseira Habitat 1170 by implementing active restoration and setting up monitoring plans in four marine protected areas (Italy: Sinis Peninsula, Cilento National Park, Bergeggi Island; Greece: Gyaros island) where the causes of degradation have been addressed. Operating through restoration of the ecological status in the target MPAs through the implementation of specific conservation measures and cost-effective/sustainable reforestation activities (i.e. ex-situ and in-situ recruitment enhancement). In addition, REEForest will - provide concrete and robust methods that can be used to replicate and scale up restoration activities in other areas and with other species - propose Guidelines for Mediterranean marine forest restoration that are relevant to EU policies, and support researchers and stakeholders to take correct decisions considering
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						cost-effectiveness, ecological conditions and potential threats; - raise awareness among citizens and stakeholders on the loss of marine forests in the Mediterranean Sea; - promote knowledge replicability on the conservation, management and restoration of Cystoseira habitat through training, capacity building and "decision support" in at least 14 MPAs (Natura2000) and support MPA management bodies to formally adopt and update their management plans by including Cystoseira as a biodiversity target.
LIFE21 NAT/IT/101074547	LIFE DREAM	Deep REef restoration And litter removal in the Mediterranean sea	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE-DREAM-101074547/deep-reef-restoration-and-litter-removal-in-the-mediterranean-sea">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE-DREAM-101074547/deep-reef-restoration-and-litter-removal-in-the-mediterranean-sea</a>	1170 - Reefs	Corallium rubrum	Improving the knowledge base on Deep Reefs and the stressors threatening this habitat. Extending the N2000 network by integrating the previous knowledge and acquiring new data. Facilitate and promote the passive and active restoration of the Deep Reefs. Prevent further litter accumulation. Foster the circular economy concepts by recycling and reuse the removed marine litter. Increase the public awareness about ocean health and human wellbeing.



LIFE21 NAT/IT/101074584	LIFE TURTLENEST	LIFE TURTLENEST - Caretta caretta* nesting range expansion under climate warming: urgent actions to mitigate threats at emerging nesting sites in the Western Mediterranean	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE-TURTLENEST-101074584/life-turtlenest-caretta-caretta-nesting-range-expansion-under-climate-warming-urgent-actions-to-mitigate-threats-at-emerging-nesting-sites-in-the-western-mediterranean">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE-TURTLENEST-101074584/life-turtlenest-caretta-caretta-nesting-range-expansion-under-climate-warming-urgent-actions-to-mitigate-threats-at-emerging-nesting-sites-in-the-western-mediterranean</a>		Caretta caretta	Improving the conservation of the loggerhead turtle by mitigating threats to the species in Italy (in 7 regions along 4,800 km of sandy coasts), Spain (1,600 km, corresponding to the country's full coastline) and France (1,500 km) in order to protect new nesting habitats and foster successful sea turtle reproduction.
LIFE22 NAT-IT- 101113742	NaturReef	Nature-based reef solution for coastal protection and marine biodiversity enhancement	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/LIFE22-NAT-IT-LIFE-NaturReef-101113742/nature-based-reef-solution-for-coastal-protection-and-marine-biodiversity-enhancement">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/LIFE22-NAT-IT-LIFE-NaturReef-101113742/nature-based-reef-solution-for-coastal-protection-and-marine-biodiversity-enhancement</a>			Applying at demonstration level the best practices available to the restoration of native oyster and sabellariid reefs, seeding the native species in a rare non-urbanized coastal stretches of the northern Adriatic coasts: the Bevano river mouth (Ravenna municipality, Emilia-Romagna Region, Italy), which is a SCI, SAC and SPA under the EU Natura 2000. <i>Ostrea edulis</i> and <i>Sabellaria alveolata</i> and <i>S. spinulosa</i> are native ecosystem engineers able to create three-dimensional reefs that retain sediments and dissipate wave energy, counteracting coastal erosion, which is particularly intense here, and creating ecological niches allowing for high

						<p>biodiversity and nursery habitats. The restored reefs will enhance marine biodiversity, also providing a number of ecosystem services.</p>
LIFE22 101113792	NAT-EL- LIFE MareNatura	Conservation of priority species of marine megafauna in Greece and Italy	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/LIFE22-NAT-EL-LIFE-MareNatura-101113792/conservation-of-priority-species-of-marine-megafauna-in-greece-and-italy">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/LIFE22-NAT-EL-LIFE-MareNatura-101113792/conservation-of-priority-species-of-marine-megafauna-in-greece-and-italy</a>			<p>Providing the means for the mitigation of threats for 9 of the most threatened EU priority species of seabirds, marine turtles and marine mammals at the Ionian, South Adriatic and Aegean seas, hosting the strongholds of target species populations in 44 N2K project sites.</p>
LIFE22 101113629	NAT-FR- LIFE MMS	LIFE Mobile Marine Species	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/LIFE22-NAT-FR-LIFE-MMS-101113629/life-mobile-marine-species">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/LIFE22-NAT-FR-LIFE-MMS-101113629/life-mobile-marine-species</a>			<p>Aiming to improve the conservation of four marine taxa: 5 elasmobranchs, 4 marine mammals, 12 seabirds and 2 sea turtles and their representative species.</p>

LIFE22 101114031	GIE-IT-	LIFE EU Sharks	European Sharks	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/LIFE22-GIE-IT-LIFE-EU-SHARKS-101114031/european-sharks">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/LIFE22-GIE-IT-LIFE-EU-SHARKS-101114031/european-sharks</a>		Elasmobranchs (sharks and rays)	Engaging European citizens and marine stakeholders in a joint effort to safeguard Mediterranean sharks and rays, the most endangered group of marine species in Europe, threatened by unsustainable levels of accidental captures, pollution and habitat destruction. The long-term goal is to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of Mediterranean elasmobranchs, encouraging co-responsibility and promoting behaviour change as a key factor in reversing their decline across the basin. A white paper will include the project's co-created, evidence-based and locally-tested solutions and key policy recommendations.
LIFE22 101114177	ENV-IT-	GREENLIFE4SEAS	GREen ENgineering solutions: a new LIFE for SEDiments And Shells	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/LIFE22-ENV-IT-LIFE-GREENLIFE4SEAS-101114177/green-engineering-solutions-a-new-life-for-sediments-and-shells">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/LIFE22-ENV-IT-LIFE-GREENLIFE4SEAS-101114177/green-engineering-solutions-a-new-life-for-sediments-and-shells</a>			GREENLIFE4SEAS stems from the urgent need to find out sustainable solutions for two strong environmental concerns: the fate of 200 millions of m3 of sediments, often contaminated, dredged in EU every year and the disposal of 490,000 tons/year of shells, as one of the most impacting EU aquaculture wastes. GREENLIFE4SEAS aims at

						demonstrating the technical feasibility, full safety and commercial viability of breakthrough solutions for in-situ recovery and reuse of dredged harbour sediments and shells, that are used as secondary raw materials for the realisation of sustainable by-products by means of an optimised mixing technology. Results will epitomise a contribution to improve the EU environmental policy for waste management, circular blue economy and aquaculture.
LIFE22 CCA-ES-101113851	COSAdapta	Soft systems for progressive coastal adaptation to climate change	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/LIFE22-CCA-ES-LIFE-COSTAdapta-101113851/soft-systems-for-progressive-coastal-adaptation-to-climate-change">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/public/Website/project/LIFE22-CCA-ES-LIFE-COSTAdapta-101113851/soft-systems-for-progressive-coastal-adaptation-to-climate-change</a>			The objective is to provide a validated adaptation solution to sea level rise in island and outermost territories, which share similar characteristics. To this end, during the project, a prototype of an innovative adaptation measure co-designed with participatory processes will be implemented in Quintanilla (Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy) . The prototype is based on the re-conceptualisation of tidal pools into tidal pool-reef, a more holistic and adaptive view of cultural elements on islands. The multifactorial

						validation of the prototype will allow the project to provide a new measure of coastal adaptation in the Nature-Based Flood Defense (Nbfd, within Nature-Based Solutions) group in addition to a new cataloging of coastal blue infrastructure.
LIFE21 NGO/FR/10105899 3 LIFE22 NGO-OG- FR-101111969	MedPAN	Mediterranean Protected Areas Network	<a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/projects-details/43252405/101058993/LIFE2027">https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/projects-details/43252405/101058993/LIFE2027</a>			The overall objective is to ensure a strong and dynamic network of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas to support the effectiveness of their management and contribute to improving policies at European, Mediterranean and international levels for a better marine environment. A strong and dynamic network relying on good communication and relations between members, partners and stakeholders, functioning governance bodies, sufficient and stable financial and human resources. Actions are amplified by the involvement and leverage of members and the strengthened cooperation with MPA users and other networks of MPA managers. MedPAN thus improves the management of MPAs by

						<p>participating in the dissemination of information and good practices, notably through training activities, group work and the improvement of available data.</p> <p>The network also contributes to the improvement of European policies relating to MPAs by acting as a channel of transmission between managers, civil society and the European Commission.</p> <p>Finally, the network participates in the improvement of MPA management policies at the Mediterranean and global level by promoting cooperation between EU countries and other countries, by cooperating directly with other MPA networks and by participating in major international event.</p>
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