



Update on the implementation of the Habitats Directive and actions of the European Commission relevant for HP conservation plan

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European **Green Deal** – Environment and Oceans

- Lead the world in protecting biodiversity
- EU Biodiversity strategy for 2030
- Environment, blue economy and fisheries - an integral part of the Green Deal
- Full implementation of the CFP and its evaluation by 2022
- Implementation and enforcement of EU law

EU Habitats Directive:

two pillars of protection

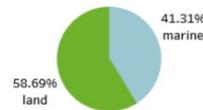
- **Strict protection of species**

For species listed in Annex IV (includes **all cetaceans**), **a strict protection regime** must be applied **across their entire natural range** in the EU (both within and outside Natura 2000 sites).

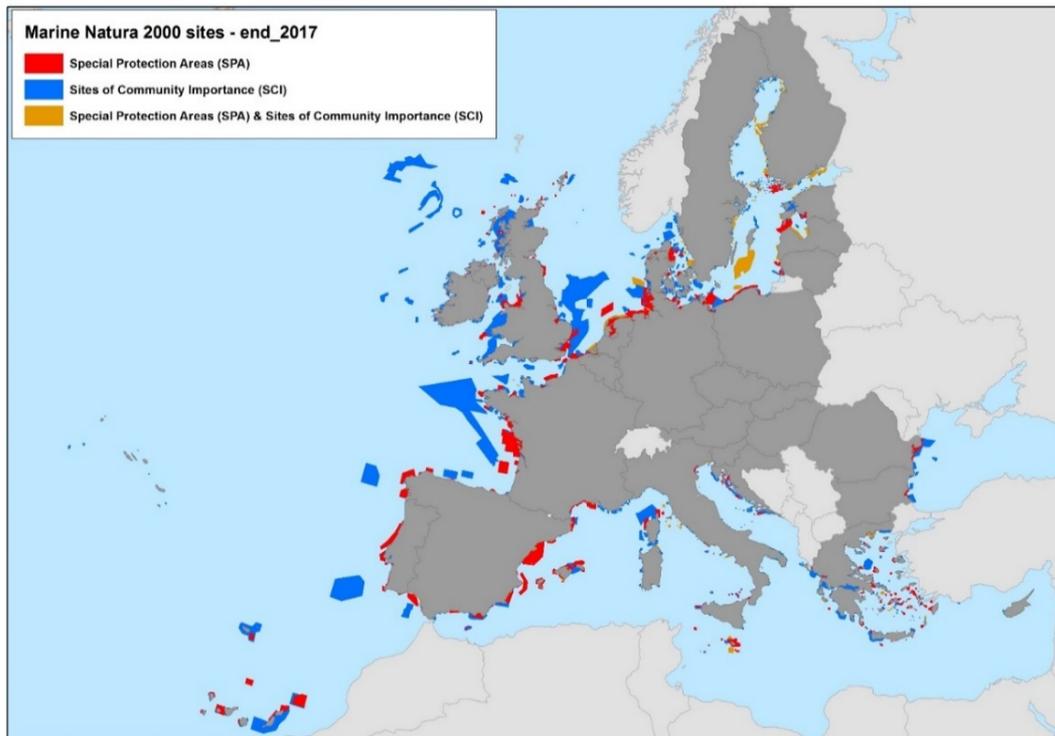
- **Natura 2000 sites**

For species listed in Annex II (includes *Tursiops truncatus* and *Phocoena phocoena*) **special areas of conservation (SAC)** should be **designated, protected and managed** - **conservation measures** should be in accordance with **the ecological requirements** of the species and appropriate to reach the sites' conservation objectives.

Marine Natura 2000 – state of play



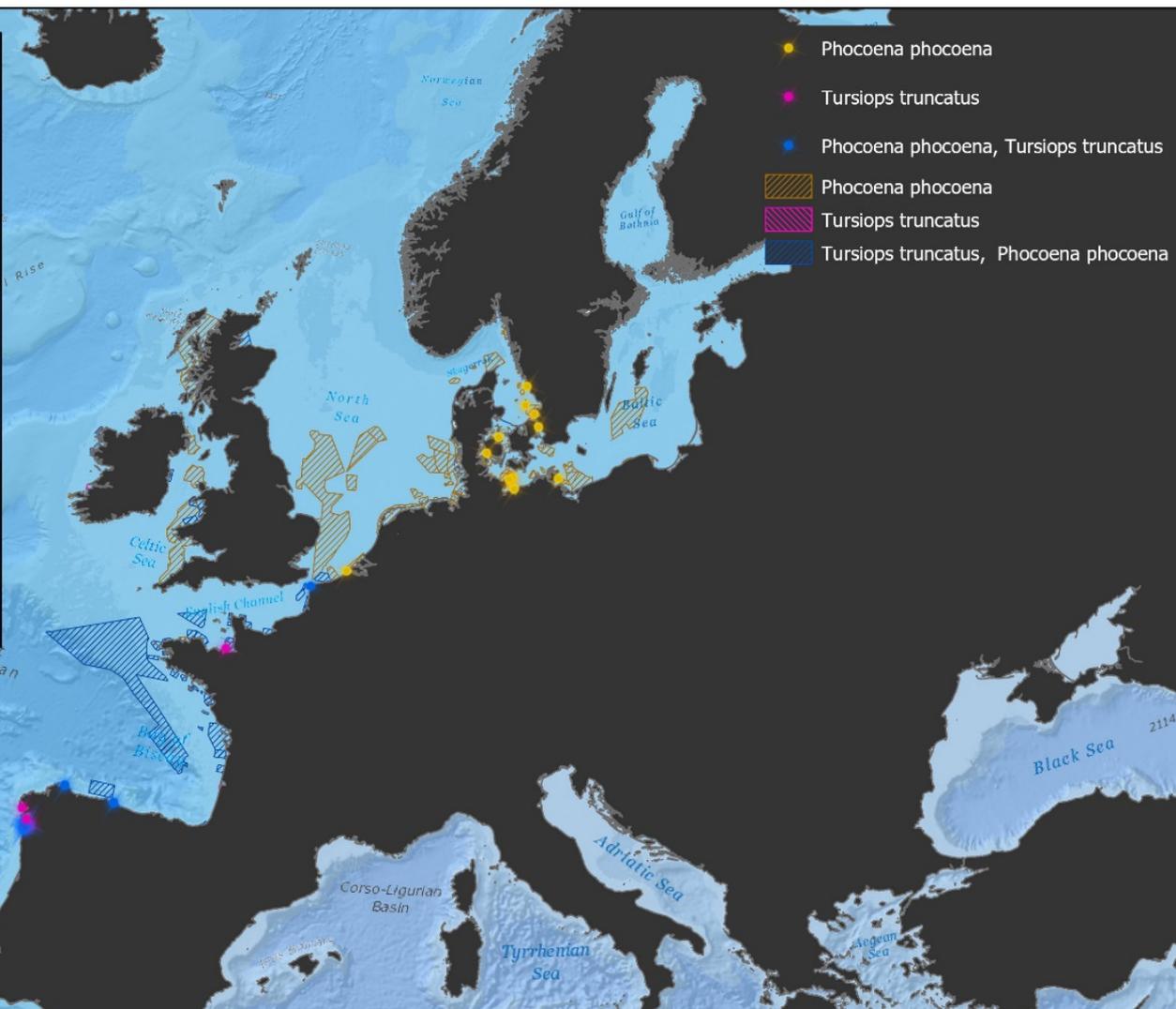
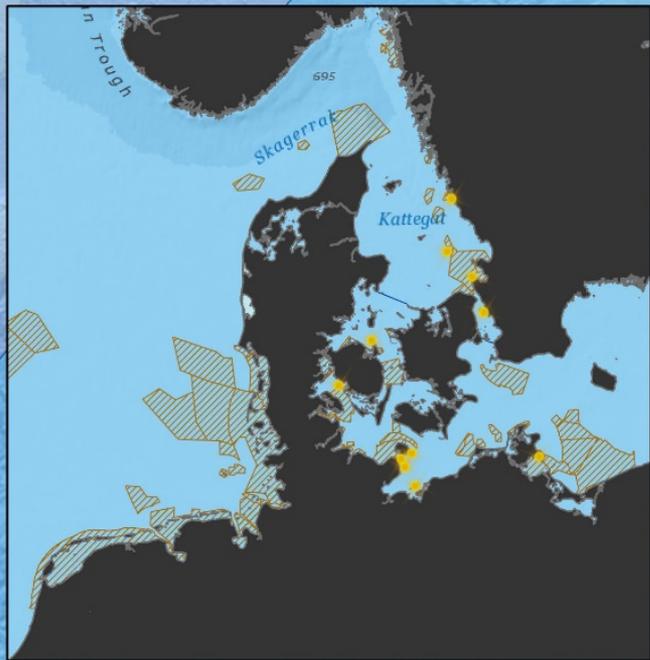
- More than **3200** marine sites (out of **>27000**)
- Covers **>9.5% of EU seas** (**551899 km²**)
Greater Northern Sea - **>23%**
- Network is not complete in the **offshore** area and big differences across **regional seas**
- **Collective EU effort: the area under marine Natura 2000 doubled in the last 5 years!**
- Marine Natura 2000 is the main driver of MPA designation in the EU and makes **the main contribution to reaching international targets** ('Aichi Target 11' and SDG 14)



Marine Natura 2000

Natura 2000 sites designated for the protection of *Phocoena phocoena* in NE Atlantic: **89** sites covering **195 101** km²

- Still **gaps in designation**. Management plans/implementation of conservation measures?
- Priority of the Nature action plan: **complete the designation and establish conservation objectives and measures for all sites**
- Legal action against Poland and Portugal (site **designation**)
- Legal action against Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom (site **management**-general case for all sites)
- Investigations in other Member States



- *Phocoena phocoena*
- *Tursiops truncatus*
- *Phocoena phocoena*, *Tursiops truncatus*
- ▨ *Phocoena phocoena*
- ▨ *Tursiops truncatus*
- ▨ *Tursiops truncatus*, *Phocoena phocoena*

Natura 2000 sites

Supporting the cooperation in Natura 2000 management

- ✓ **Marine Expert Group**
- ✓ Marine **Natura 2000 seminars** – working together for Natura 2000 management
- ✓ **Second marine seminar**: Palma de Mallorca, Spain, 13-15 November 2018
 - ✓ Themes: setting conservation objectives, favourable reference values, conservation measures – for particular species/habitats
 - ✓ *Phocoena phocoena* in the Baltic, *Tursiops truncatus* in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean (for details see [report](#))

Reporting under the Habitats Directive

- ✓ **New reports** on the conservation status (**2013-2018**) of habitats and species [delivered](#), analysis of results by mid-2020, EEA/COM: **“State of nature” report**
- ✓ **Synergies with the MSFD** reporting-more efforts in 2020

Article 17 national summary dashboards

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/biodiversity/state-of-nature-in-the-eu/article-17-national-summaries>

Dashboard (Tableau) — Prod-ID: DAS-110-en — Published 22 May 2019

Article 17 dashboards providing summary of results for each Member State (national summaries)

1. Conservation status | 2. Trend in conservation status | 3. List of habitats & species re...

Conservation status/trend with reason for change reported for habitats and species - **DRAFT**

(based on data as reported by Member States prior to quality analysis and harmonisation)

Description	Region	Country	Presence	Conclusion of assessment	Reason for change - CS	Conclusion of assessment trend	Reason for change - trend in CS	Natura 2000 trend	
Phocoena phocoena	MATL	BE	PRE	XX	improved knowledge	NA	no info provided	=	
		DE	PRE	U1	no change	=	no change	=	
		DK	PRE	FV	no change	=	no change	-	
		ES	PRE	U1	genuine change	-	genuine change	-	
		FR	PRE	U1	no change	=	no change	+	
		IE	PRE	FV	no change	=	no change		
		NL	PRE	FV	no change	=	no change	=	
		PT	PRE	U2	genuine change	-	no change	x	
		SE	PRE	FV	improved knowledge	=	different method	x	
	UK	PRE	XX	different method	x	no change	x		
	MBAL	DE	PRE	U2	no change	+	genuine change	=	
		DK	PRE	U2	no change	=	genuine change		
		FI	OCC	NA	expert revision needed	NA	expert revision needed		
		LV	MAR	NA	expert revision needed	NA	expert revision needed		
		PL	PRE	U2	no change	=	improved knowledge	x	
	SE	PRE	U2	no change	x	no change	x		
	MBLS	RO	PRE	U1	no change	=	improved knowledge	=	
	MMAC	ES	MAR	XX	no info provided	NA	no info provided	x	
MMED	ES	MAR	XX	no info provided	NA	no info provided	x		
	GR	PRE	U2	no change	-	no change	x		

Bycatch - what is required under the Habitats Directive?

Habitats Directive requires the establishment of a **system to monitor the incidental capture and killing** of the animal species listed in Annex IV(a) and **further research or conservation measures** as required to ensure that incidental capture and killing **does not have a significant negative impact** on the species concerned.

The Directive requires **effective measures** to **prevent** the negative impact of fishing activities on cetaceans – primarily **bycatch (incidental catch)**. Two essential conditions for ensuring compliance:

- **systematic and robust monitoring** of the level of incidental capture and killing
(all relevant fisheries and areas adequately covered by appropriate sampling)
- establishment of **threshold values**

This should lead to an appropriate **assessment of impact** on the species concerned and to the implementation of the necessary **preventive measures (enforcement)**.

Links with the CFP: Data collection (DCF) and management tools (TM)

The data collection and implementation of measures require **close inter-sectoral and inter-institutional cooperation**, enforcement of rules and adequate support for and by fishers.

For wide ranging species like cetaceans, the **cooperation with other countries** in the species range is essential, as well as the **support of scientific organisations**. ---the importance of good knowledge and surveillance of the conservation status---

The Commission is currently looking into the **compliance** of Member States with the legal requirements under the Habitats Directive related to bycatch of protected species.

Links with the common fisheries policy

Data collection

- ✓ The **EU data collection framework** ([DCF](#), 2017): rules on the collection, management and use of biological, environmental, technical and socio-economic data
- ✓ **New requirements** on collection of data to assess the impact of EU fisheries on **marine ecosystems**, in particular on **incidental bycatch of birds, mammals, reptiles and fish protected under Union legislation** and international agreements
- ✓ Aims to fill the existing **data gaps** and facilitate **compliance** with provisions of Article 12 of the Habitats Directive
- ✓ **Multiannual union programme** for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors for the period 2017-2019

Data collection - methods

Data collection **methods and quality** - appropriate for the intended purposes, follow the **best practices** and relevant methodologies advised by the **relevant scientific bodies**

- ✓ For **all types of fisheries and vessels**: incidental bycatch of **all protected species**, including absence in the catch - collected during scientific observer trips or by the fishers themselves through logbooks (+ **additional methods** if needed)
- ✓ The selection of these methodologies shall be coordinated at **marine region level** and be based on **end-user needs**
- ✓ The discussion: **Regional Coordination Groups** for data collection, scientific institutions, data users.

Links with the common fisheries policy

Management tools

Multiannual plans

- ✓ Entered into force: Baltic and North Sea MAP
- ✓ Proposed: demersals in the Western Mediterranean and Western Waters, pelagics in the Adriatic
- ✓ MAPs may contain technical measures

Measures to comply with the obligations under the environmental legislation

- ✓ Article 11 CFP for Natura 2000 sites and MSFD purposes
- ✓ Adopted measures
- ✓ Guidance: COM staff working document

Technical Measures Regulation

- ✓ New “**Technical Measures Regulation**” - [Regulation 2019/1241](#)
- ✓ Completes the framework for the implementation of horizontal conservation measures required under Article 12 of the Habitats Directive, therefore also outside Natura 2000 sites and other MPAs
- ✓ Contains **targets – link with the Habitats Directive (FCS)**
- ✓ **Baseline** mitigation measures in Annex XIII
- ✓ **Regionalisation:** Member States can submit **joint recommendations** to the Commission to adopt delegated acts containing additional mitigation measures
- ✓ MS can take measures for their own fleets



Thank you

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/>
<http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/>

Information Document 6c (AC 25)