

# Building the marine Natura 2000 network

State of implementation:  
from designation to good  
management



DG Environment

Nature unit



State of nature in the EU

Marine Natura 2000 network: state of play

Integration with the EU Common Fisheries Policy



# 7<sup>th</sup> Environment Action Program

## “Living well, within the limits of our planet”

- **2020** timeframe, **2050** vision, **9** priority objectives
- Commitment by EU and its **Member States**

### THEMATIC OBJECTIVES:

- **Protect, conserve and enhance the EU's natural capital**  
Fully implement the EU Biodiversity Strategy
- **Green & competitive growth – low-carbon, resource-efficient economy**
- **Health & environment, human well-being**

### LOCAL, REGIONAL, GLOBAL DIMENSION:

- **Urban environment**
- **International**

### ENABLING FRAMEWORK:

- **Implementation**
- **Information, knowledge base**
- **Investment**
- **Integration, coherence**





# EU biodiversity strategy to 2020

## "Our life insurance, our natural capital"

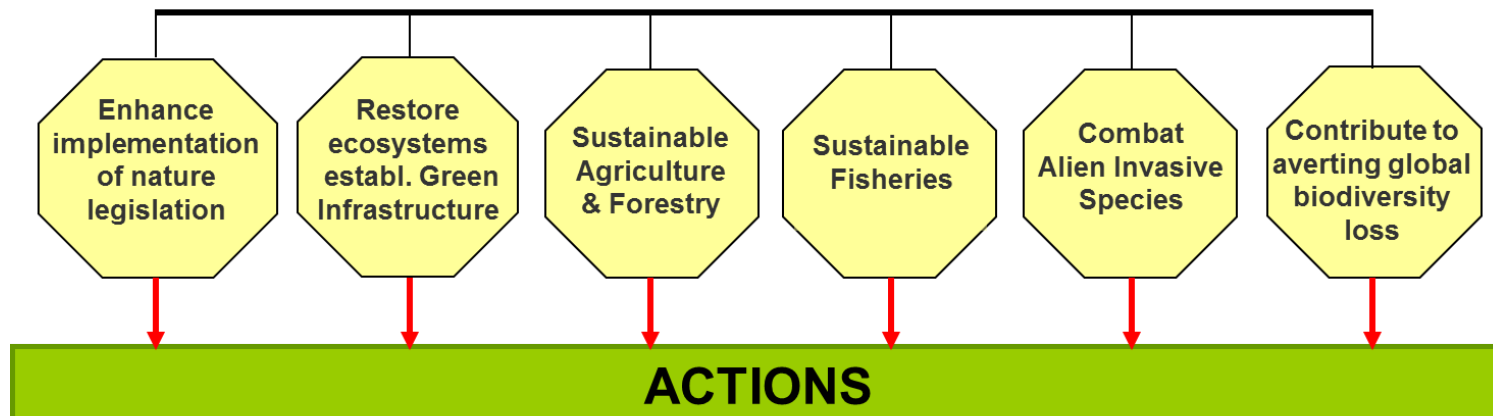
### A 2050 VISION

*European Union biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides – its natural capital – are protected, valued and appropriately restored.*

### A 2020 HEADLINE TARGET

*Halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU and restore them insofar as feasible, and step up the EU's contribution to averting global biodiversity loss.*

#### 6 TARGETS



# EU Biodiversity Strategy

## *Target 1 - Nature conservation*

➤ *To halt the deterioration in the status of all species and habitats covered by EU nature legislation and achieve a significant and measurable improvement in their status by 2020*

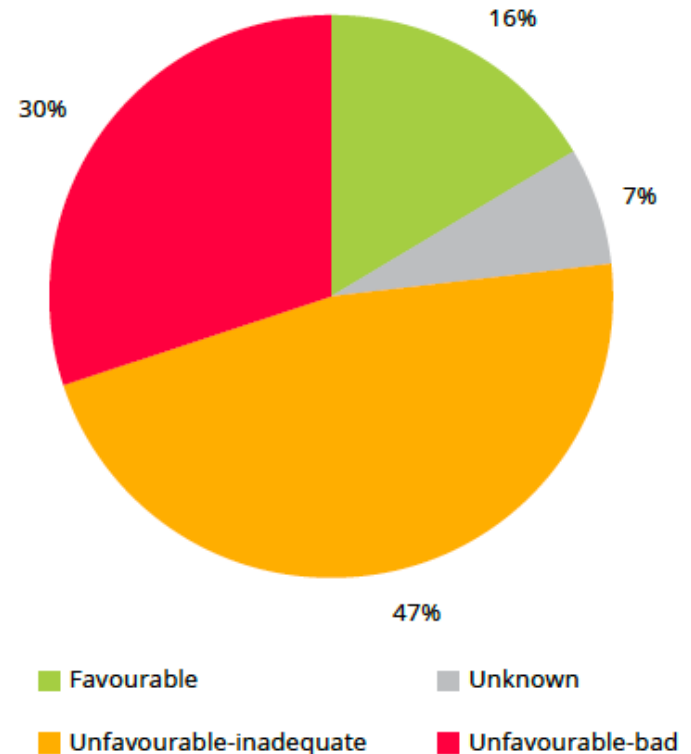
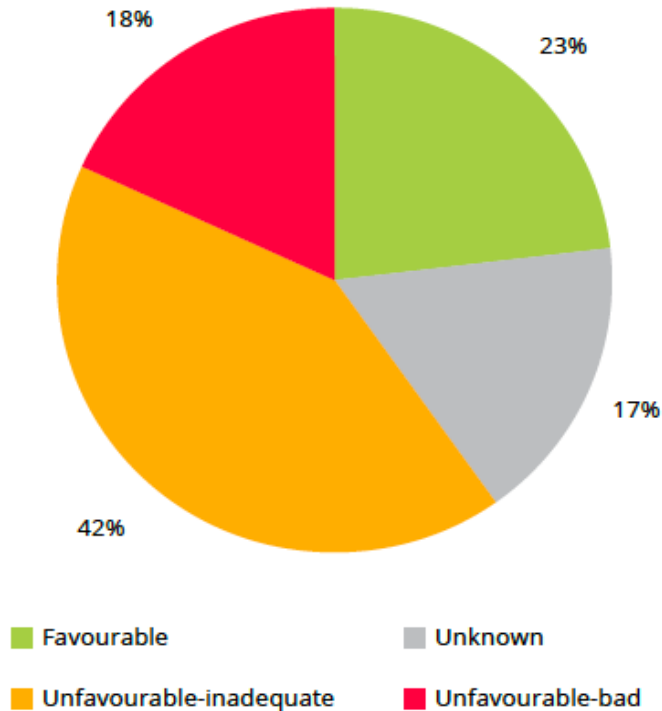
- Complete the establishment of the Natura 2000 network, incl. in the marine part, and ensure good management
- Ensure adequate financing of Natura 2000 sites
- Increase stakeholder awareness and involvement and improve enforcement
- Improve and streamline monitoring and reporting

# State of nature in the EU

Results from reporting under Birds and Habitats directives 2007–2012

Only one quarter of EU non-bird species has favourable conservation status, while 60% has unfavourable status

Conservation status of habitats, EU level  
77% unfavourable



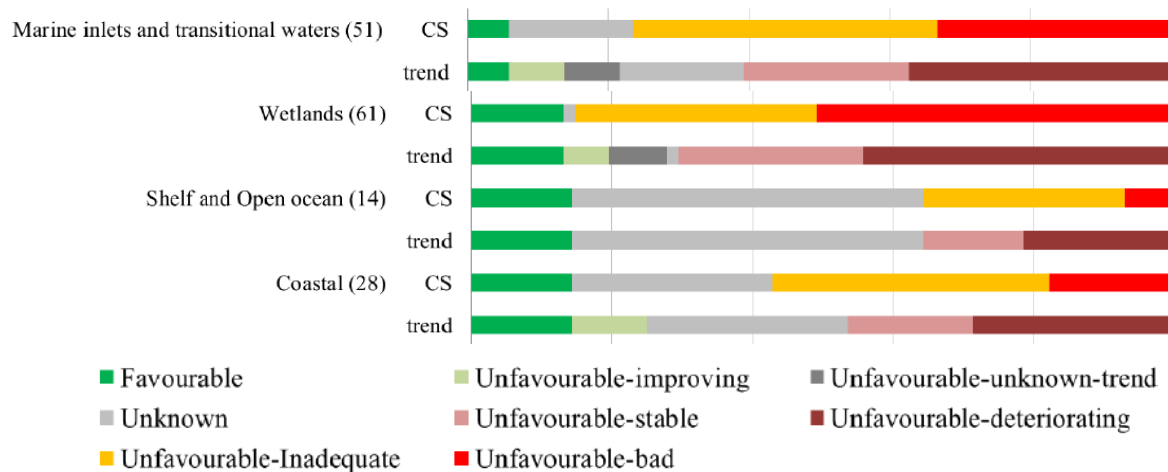
Conservation status of **non-bird species**, EU level

# State of nature in the EU

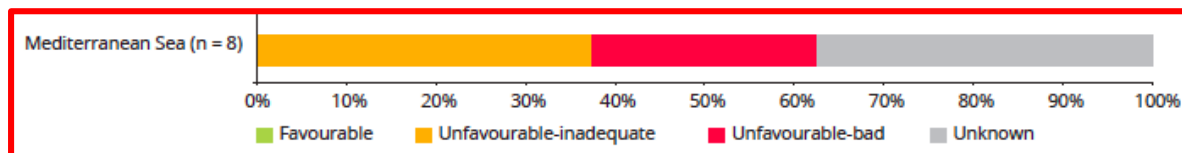
## Results from reporting under Birds and Habitats directives 2007–2012

### Conservation status (CS) of habitats and trends

The share of **favourable assessments** of marine habitats is **very low** and for some the status is still **unknown**.

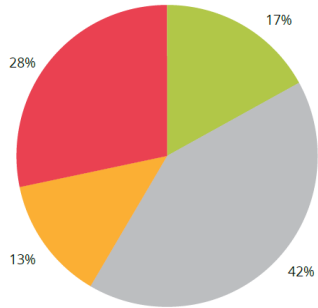


The Mediterranean Sea:

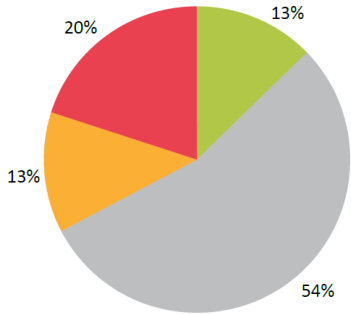
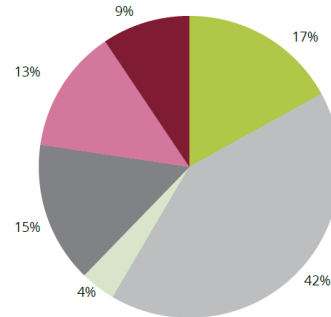


## Conservation status

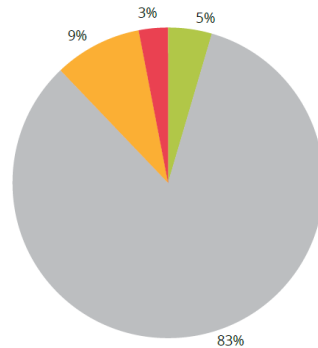
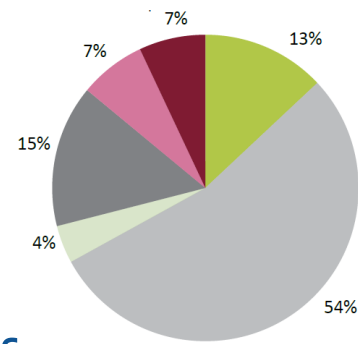
## Short-term trend



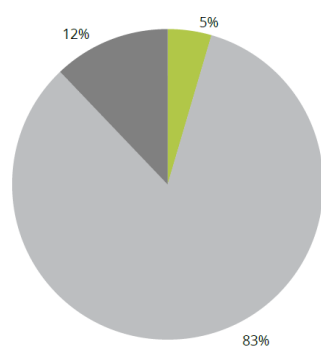
### Coastal



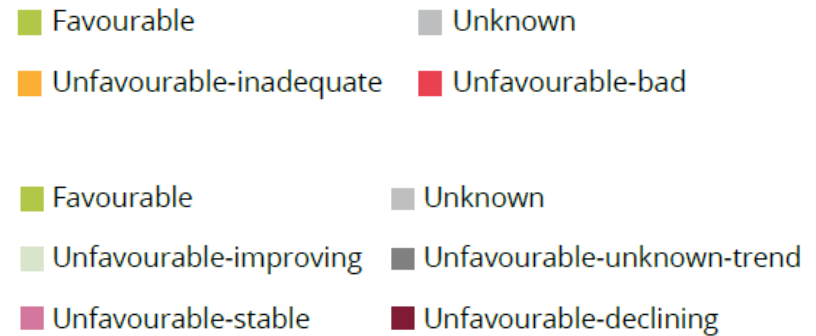
### Shelf



### Open ocean



# Conservation status and trend of (non-bird) species associated with marine ecosystems

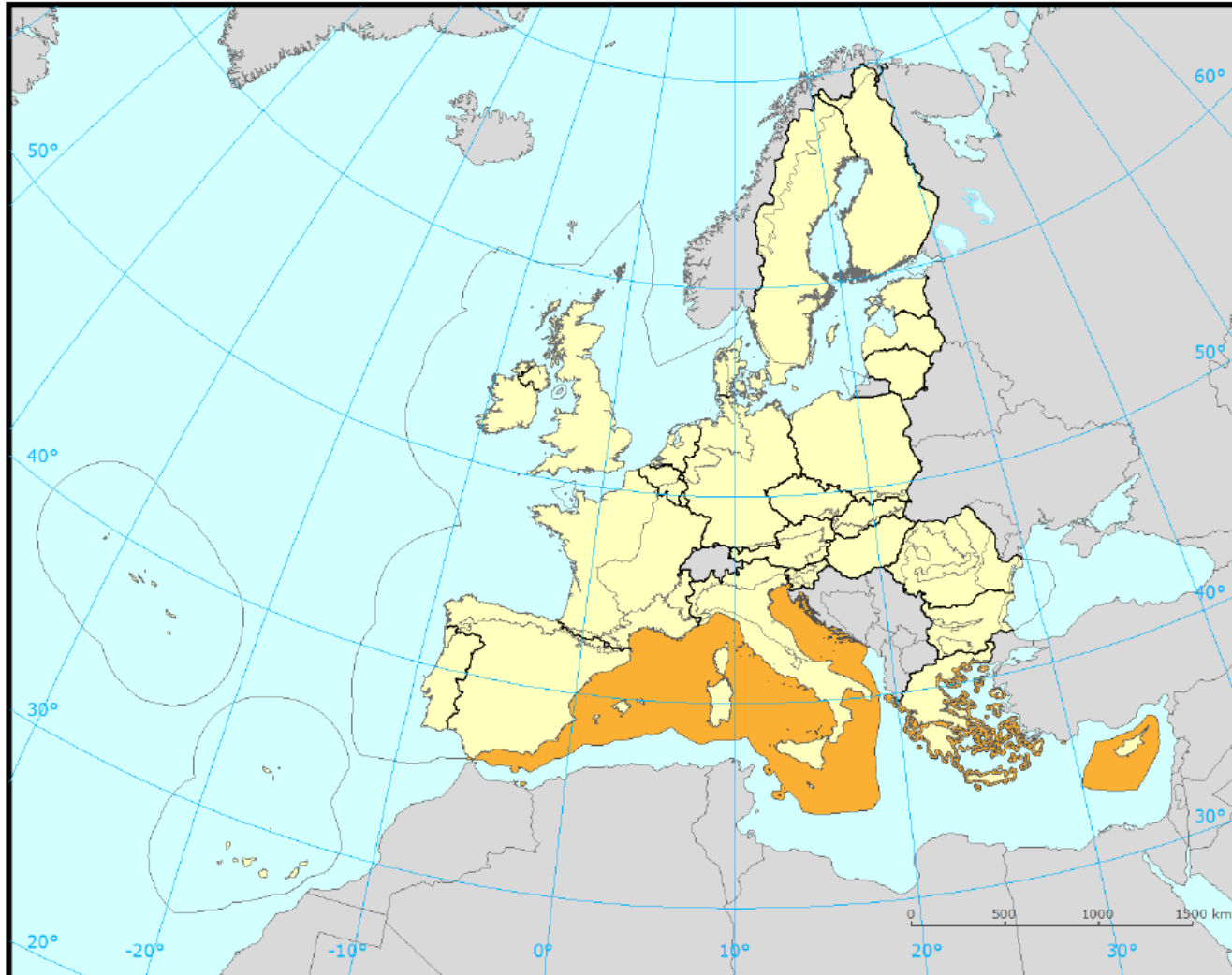




# Conservation status








Latest reporting under the Habitats directive

## *Posidonia oceanica* meadows



**Habitat:**  
**1120**

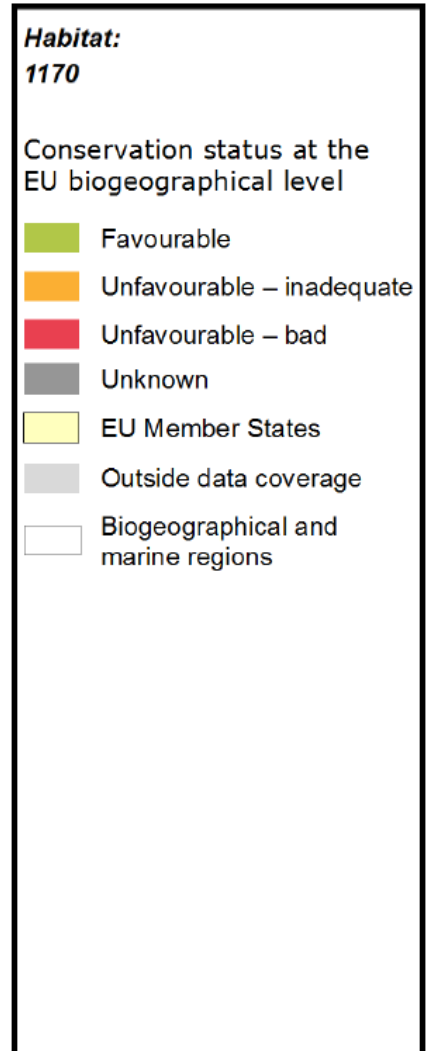
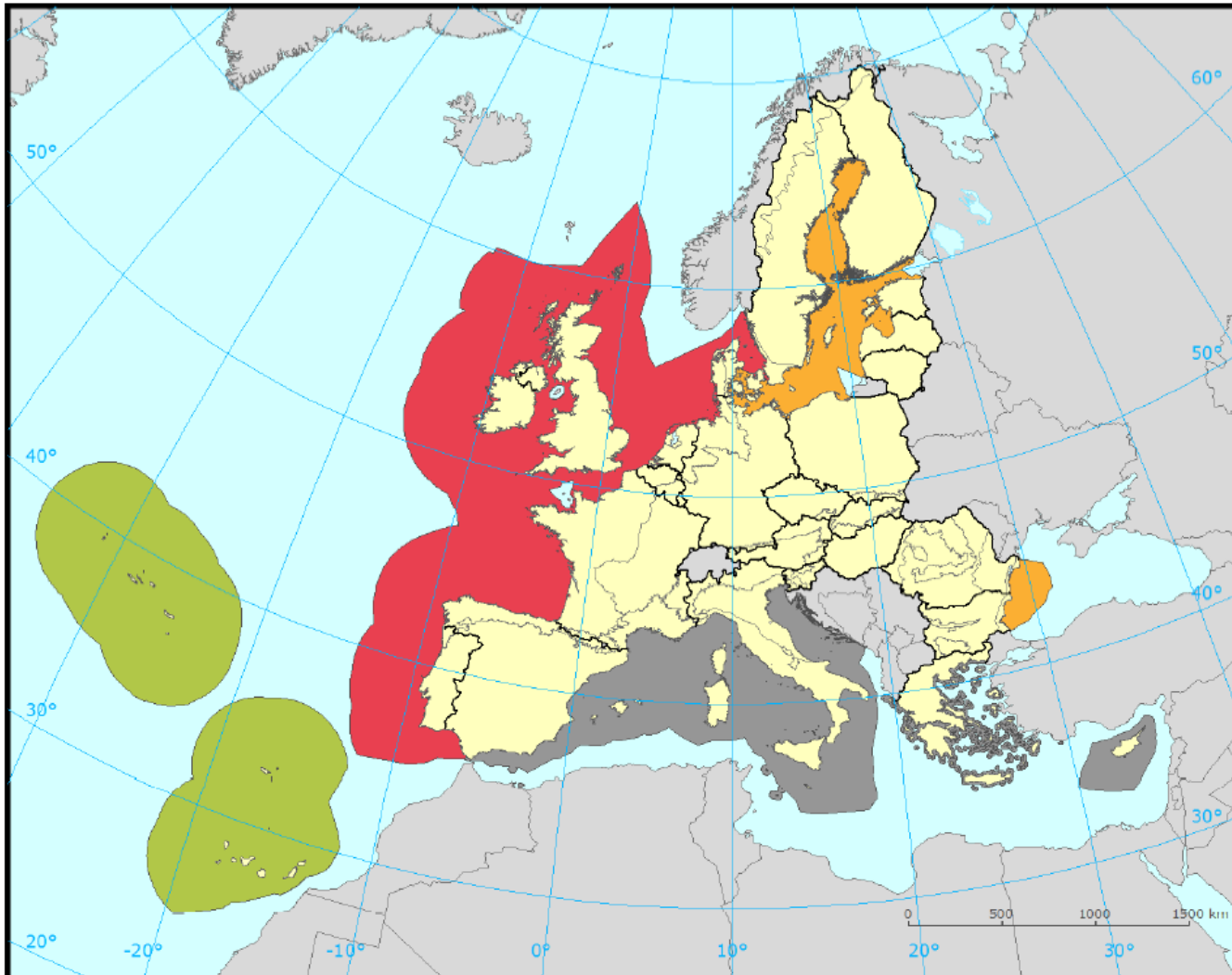
Conservation status at the  
EU biogeographical level

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

# Conservation status

Latest reporting under the Habitats directive

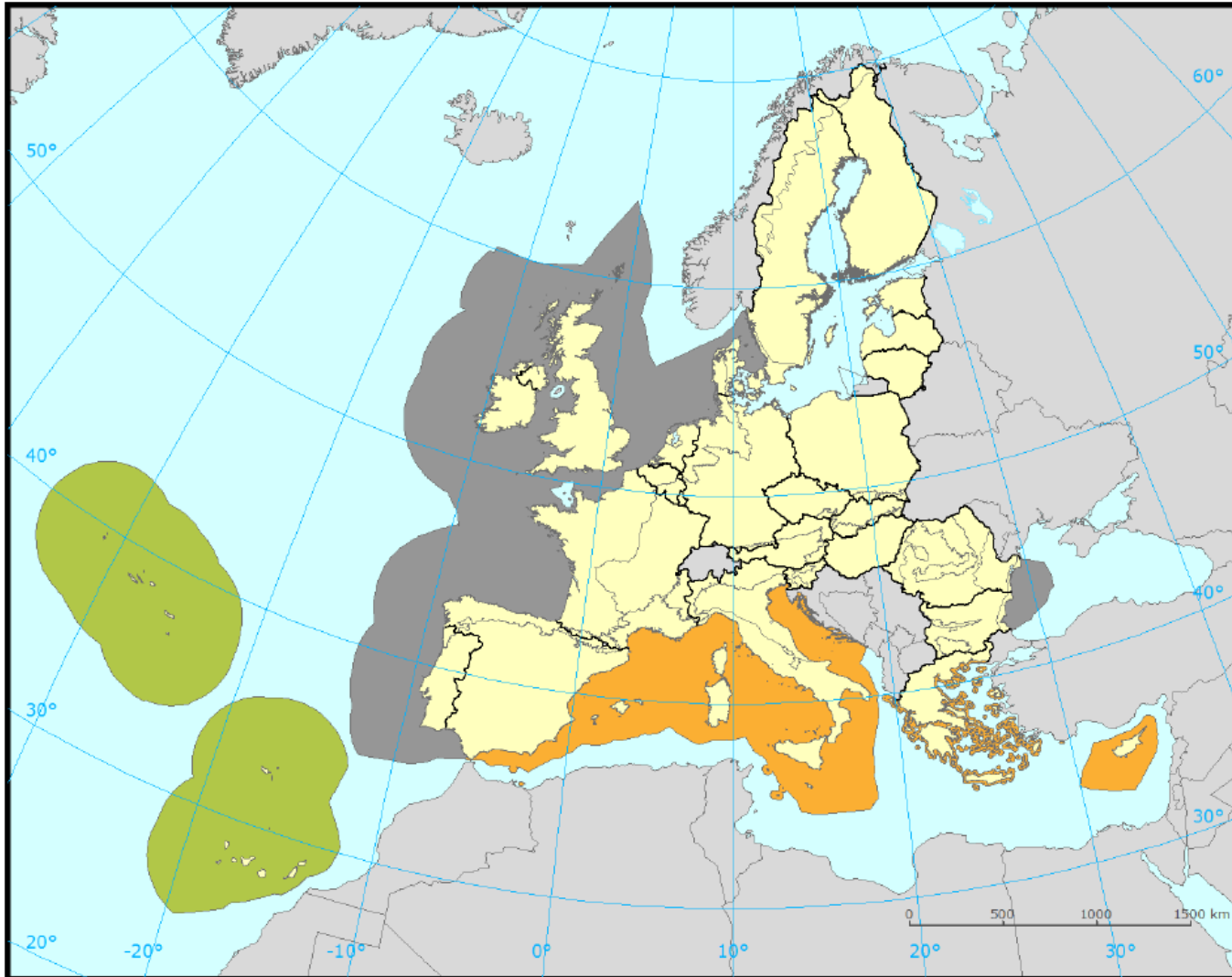
## Reefs



# Conservation status








Latest reporting under the Habitats directive

## *Tursiops truncatus*



### *Tursiops truncatus*

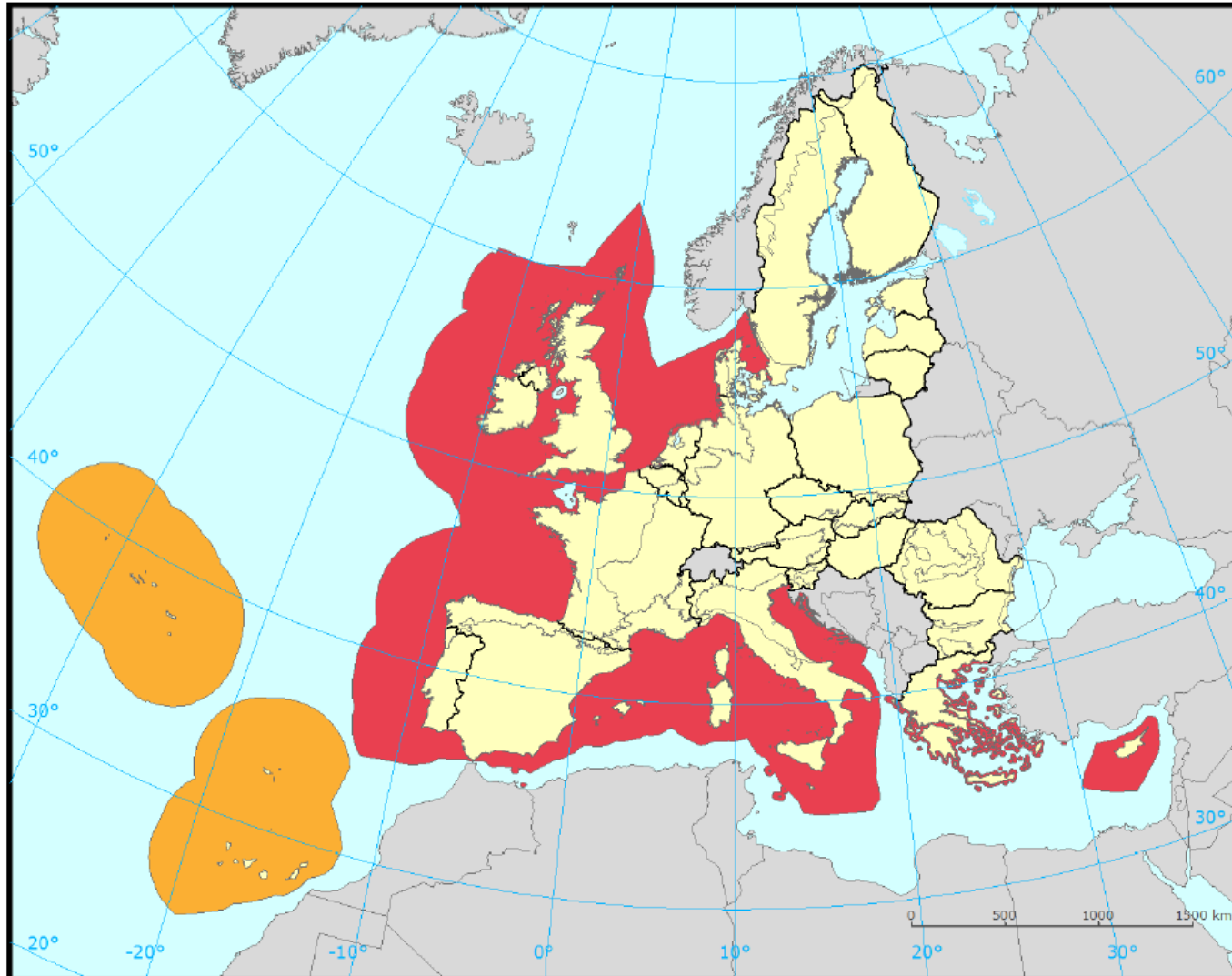
Conservation status at the EU biogeographical level

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# Conservation status








Latest reporting under the Habitats directive

## *Caretta caretta*

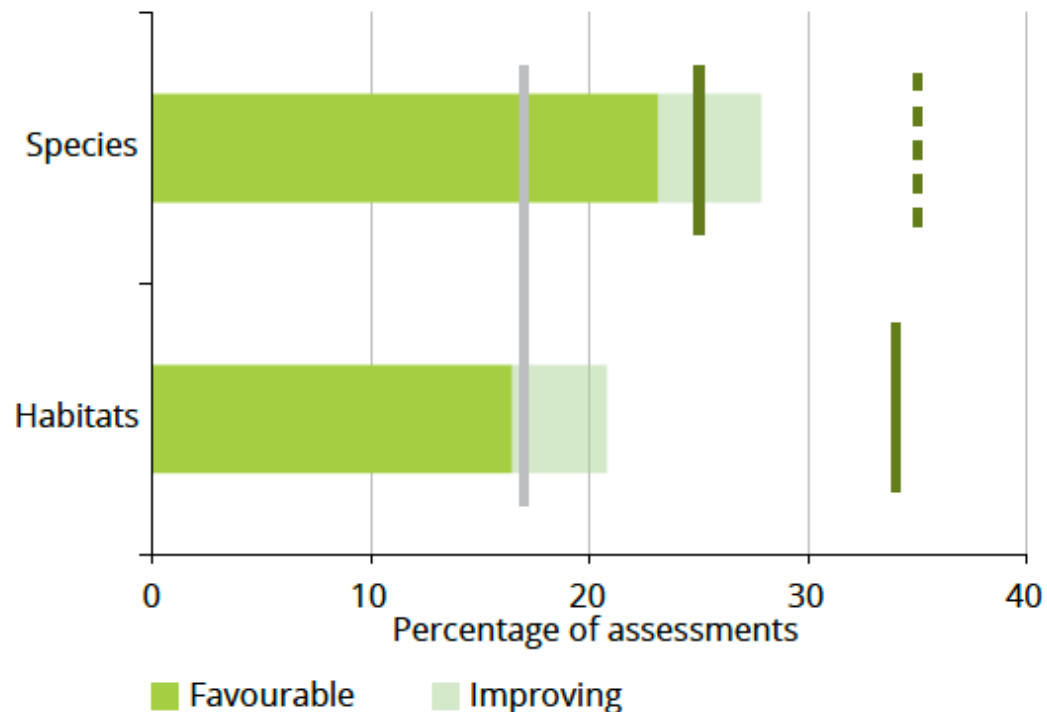


### *Caretta caretta*

Conservation status at the EU biogeographical level

-  Favourable
-  Unfavourable – inadequate
-  Unfavourable – bad
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# Progress to 2020 targets for species and habitats



## Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources and pollution of marine waters are top two pressures/threats for habitats and species associated with coastal/shelf ecosystems

Figure 4.48 Top 10 (% of frequency) reported high-ranked pressures and threats for habitats associated with coastal ecosystem

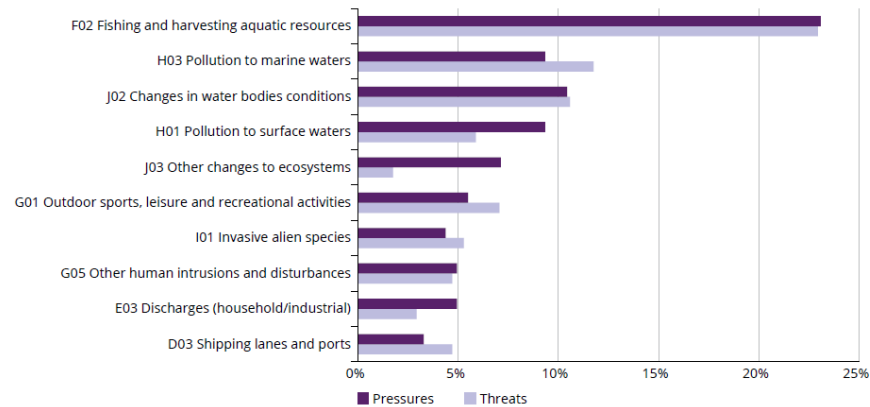
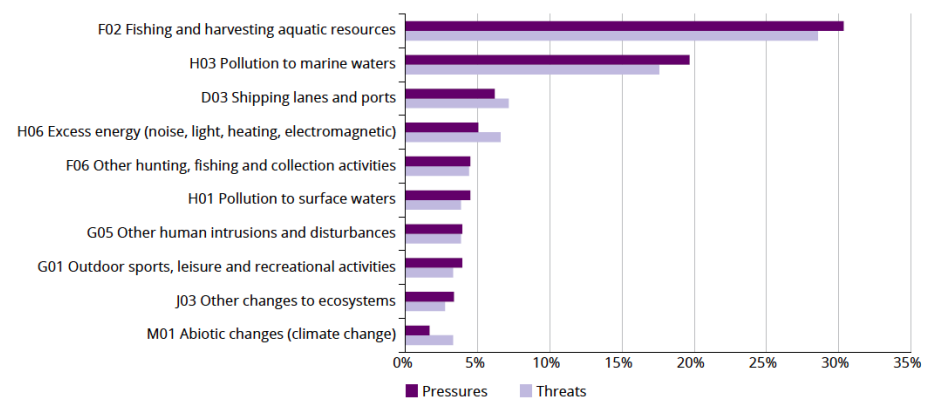


Figure 4.52 Top 10 (% of frequency) reported high-ranked pressures and threats for species (Habitats Directive) associated with shelf ecosystem



The two most common types of reported conservation measures for species are **'legal protection of habitats and species'** and **'establish protected areas/sites'**.

# Natura 2000: pan-European network of protected areas based on two EU Directives

## HABITATS DIRECTIVE

National List of proposed sites (pSCI)

Sites of Community Importance (SCI)

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

## BIRDS DIRECTIVE

Special Protection Areas (SPA)



# EU Habitats Directive:

## two pillars of protection

- **Natura 2000 sites**

For marine habitat types listed in Annex I (e.g. *Posidonia meadows*, *Reefs*), marine species listed in Annex II of the Habitats Directive (e.g. *Tursiops truncatus*, *Caretta caretta*), and bird species listed in Annex I (+ migratory bird species) of the Birds Directive, marine **Natura 2000 sites need to be designated, protected and managed** to ensure that these features can be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a **favourable conservation status**.

- **Strict protection of species**

**A strict protection regime** (e.g. for all cetaceans) must be applied **across their entire natural range** within the EU, both within and outside Natura 2000 sites.



# Objective of both Directives

Within all Natura 2000 sites:

- ❖ Avoid damaging activities that could significantly disturb the species and/or habitats for which the site has been designated;
- ❖ Positive measures are taken, where necessary to maintain and restore those habitats and species to a favourable conservation status in their natural range

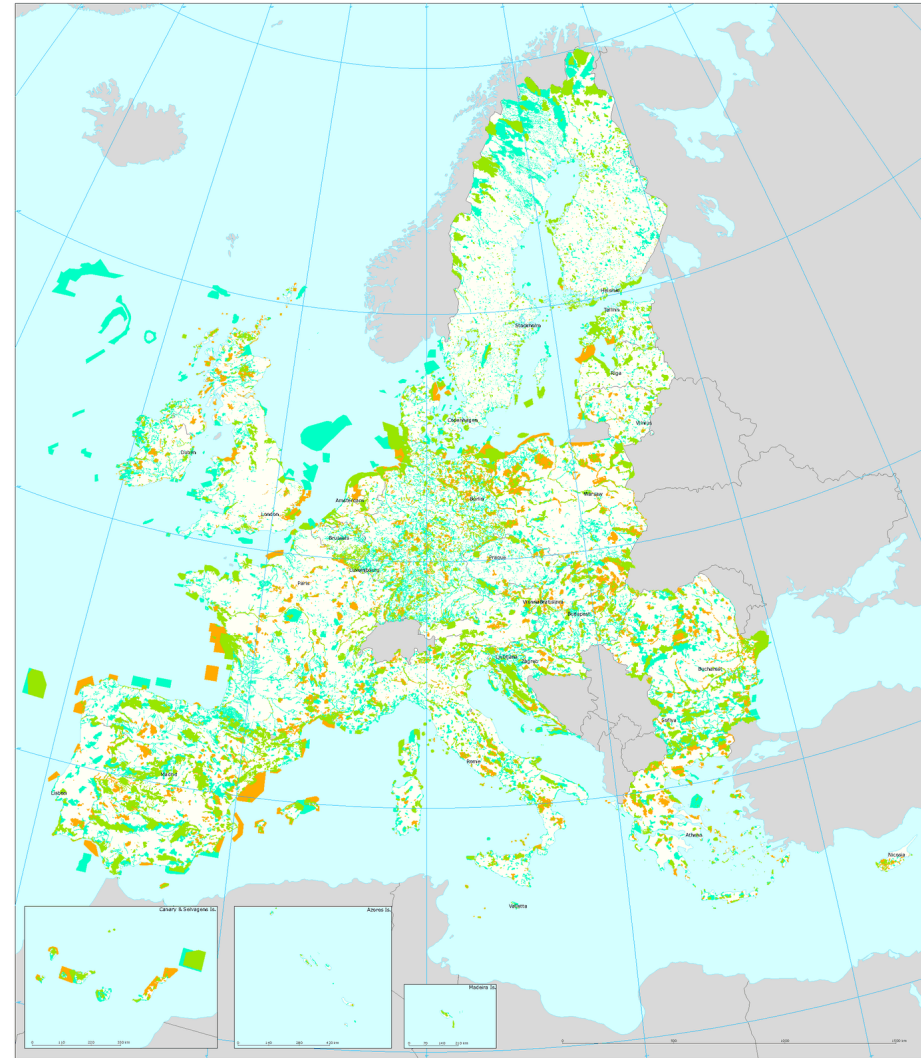


The ultimate objective is to ensure that the species and habitats reach "**favourable conservation status**"

# Marine Natura 2000 Network

## State of play

- More than **3000** marine sites (out of **>27000**)
- Covers **over 5% of EU seas** (>**300.000** km<sup>2</sup>)
- Network is not complete in the **offshore** area
- Differences across **regional seas**
- Cornerstone of EU nature protection policy: aims to ensure long-term survival of Europe's most valuable/threatened **species and habitats**
- Human activities can take place if they are compatible with **nature conservation objectives**
- Conservation measures in the sites help maintain and restore habitats and species to a **favourable conservation status**
- **Economic benefits** (whole network): 200-300 billion €/year, in the marine e.g. benefit to fish stocks (current coverage): 1,4-1,5 billion €/year



NATURA 2000

- Birds Directive sites (SPA)
- Habitats Directive sites pSCI, SCI, SAC
- Sites - or parts of sites - belonging to both Directives

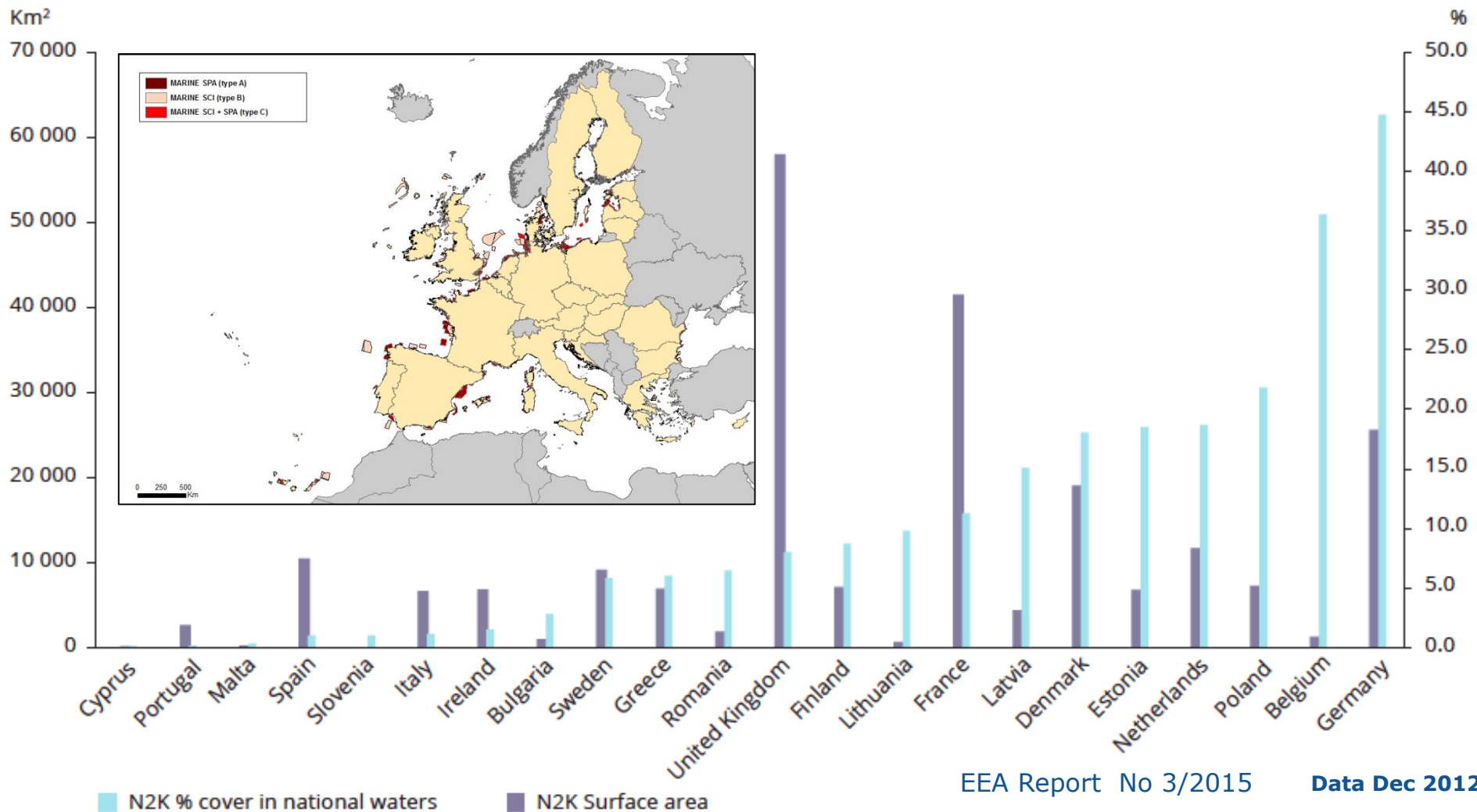
European Environment Agency



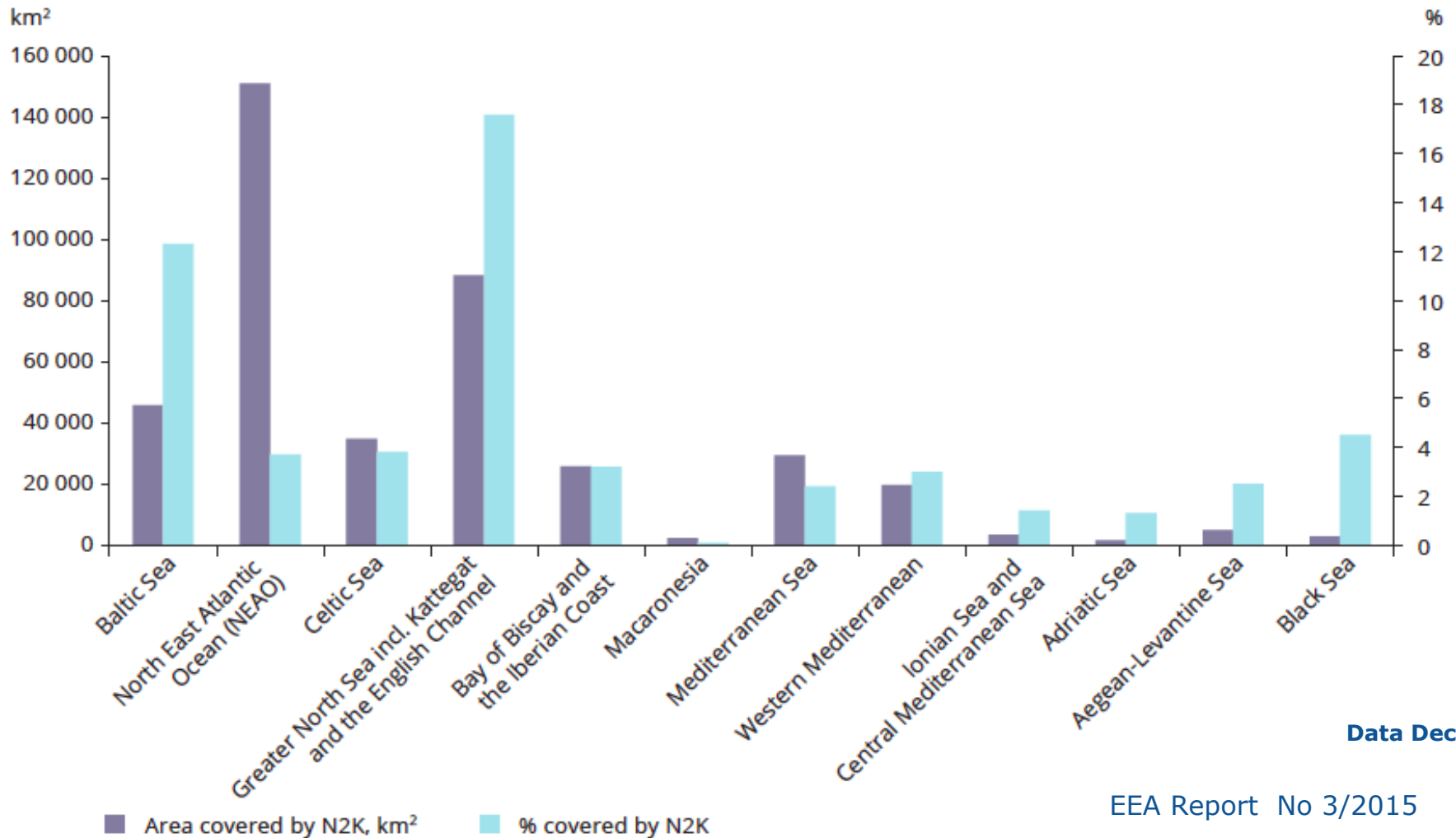
Report:  
NATURA 2000 - 04 ENK compiled from databases from the Member States.  
Source: background map: © EuroGeographics/Corine and GIS 03/04.  
Source of NATURA 2000 sites for: Denmark, Iceland 2004.  
Properties: L'Institut Français de l'Environnement.

\*Baines under UNEP/ICR 04/03/97

# Marine Natura 2000 in EU Member States



# Area of regional seas covered by N2000



Data Dec 2012

# Sufficiency of marine SCI network

| Marine Region | Habitats          |     |       | Species           |     |       |
|---------------|-------------------|-----|-------|-------------------|-----|-------|
|               | N.<br>Conclusions | SUF | % SUF | N.<br>Conclusions | SUF | % SUF |
| Atlantic      | 31                | 16  | 51,61 | 70                | 38  | 54,29 |
| Baltic        | 20                | 12  | 60,00 | 34                | 19  | 55,88 |
| Mediterranean | 39                | 17  | 43,59 | 37                | 8   | 21,62 |
| Black Sea     | 8                 | 3   | 37,50 | 8                 | 3   | 37,50 |
| Macaronesian  | 7                 | 0   | 0,00  | 7                 | 1   | 14,29 |

## Marine conclusions 2015 by MS

