European Environment Agency
European Topic Centre on
Biological Diversity

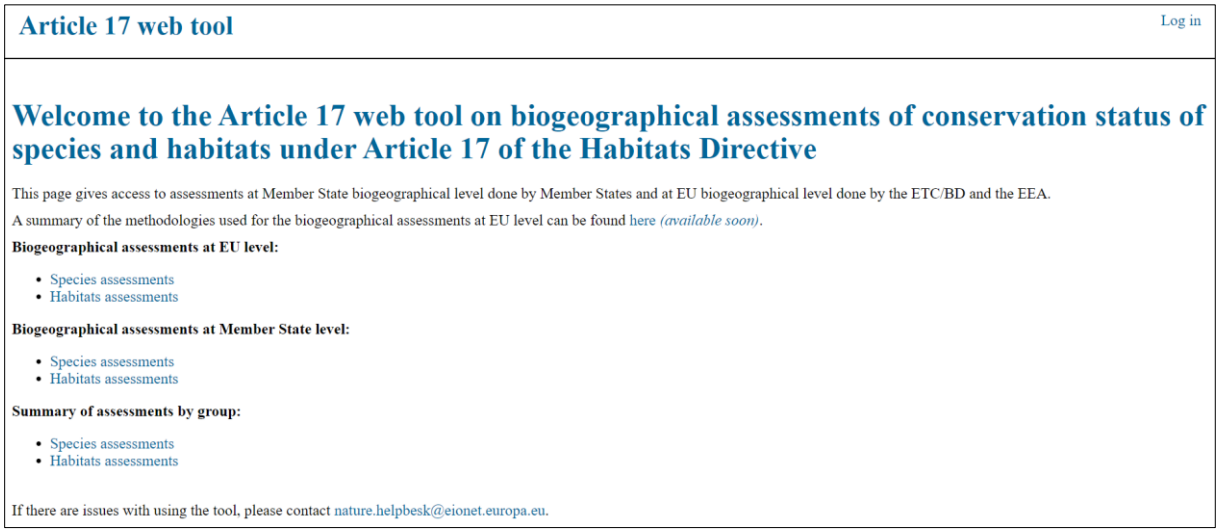
Guidance on using the Article 17 Biogeographical Assessment tool

The following is a step-by-step manual guide to using the Article 17 Biogeographic Assessment Tool.

The screen-shots below refer to a species assessment however the same process is applicable to a habitats assessment.

1. Accessing the tool

The assessment tool is accessed at https://nature-art17.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/



There is no 'Log in' required to use the tool

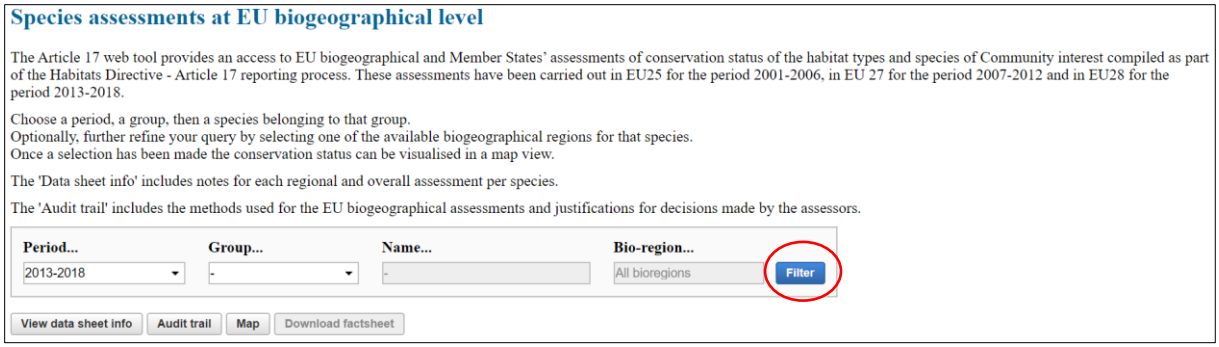
Both the habitats and species assessments are accessible from the same home page

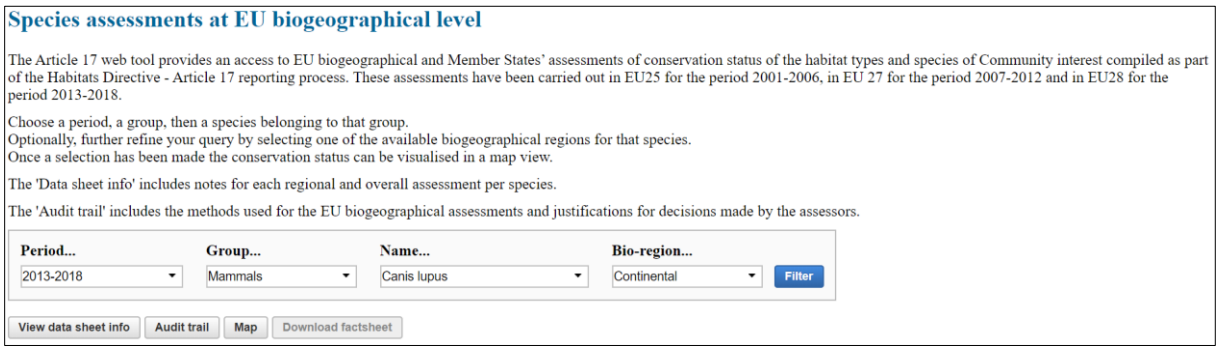
The assessments can be viewed in 3 ways:
- EU level
- Member State level
- By habitat or species group

To view the overall EU Conservation Status assessment for a habitat or species, and hence the progress to Target 1, this is accessed through the 'Biogeographical assessments at EU level'.

2. Assessments at EU Biogeographical level

Selecting 'Biogeographical assessments at EU level' and 'Species assessments' will lead to the page below with a choice of filters for more information on a specific species.


Species assessments at EU biogeographical level
The Article 17 web tool provides an access to EU biogeographical and Member States' assessments of conservation status of the habitat types and species of Community interest compiled as part of the Habitats Directive - Article 17 reporting process. These assessments have been carried out in EU25 for the period 2001-2006, in EU 27 for the period 2007-2012 and in EU28 for the period 2013-2018.
Choose a period, a group, then a species belonging to that group.
Optionally, further refine your query by selecting one of the available biogeographical regions for that species.
Once a selection has been made the conservation status can be visualised in a map view.
The 'Data sheet info' includes notes for each regional and overall assessment per species.
The 'Audit trail' includes the methods used for the EU biogeographical assessments and justifications for decisions made by the assessors.
Period...
2013-2018
Group...
-
Name...
-
Bio-region...
All bioregions
Filter
View data sheet info
Audit trail
Map
Download factsheet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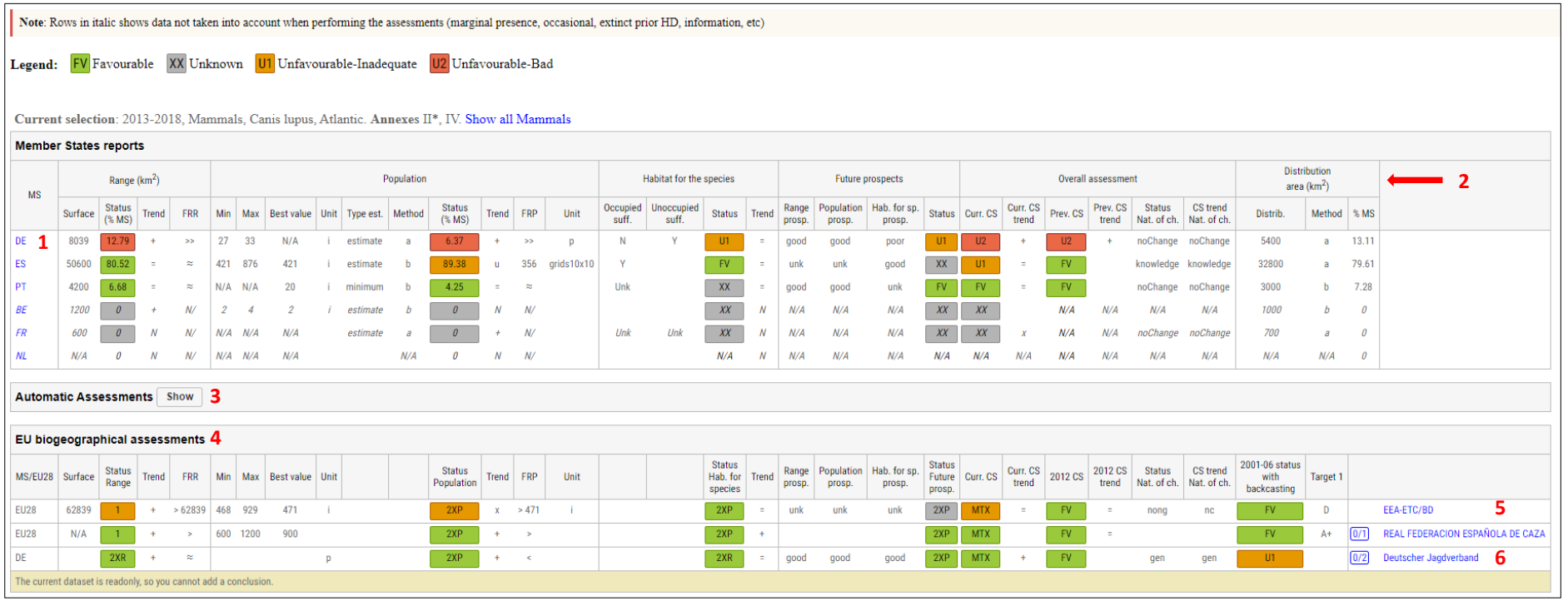
Choose a period, a group, then a species belonging to that group.
Optionally, further refine your query by selecting one of the available biogeographical regions for that species.
Once a selection has been made the conservation status can be visualised in a map view.
The 'Data sheet info' includes notes for each regional and overall assessment per species.
The 'Audit trail' includes the methods used for the EU biogeographical assessments and justifications for decisions made by the assessors.
Period...
2013-2018
Group...
Mammals
Name...
Canis lupus
Bio-region...
Continental
Filter
View data sheet info
Audit trail
Map
Download factsheet

Once these 4 options have been chosen and 'Filter' clicked, both the Member States reports and the EU biogeographical assessments are shown as follows:



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

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

Current selection: 2013-2018, Mammals, Canis lupus, Atlantic. **Annexes** II*, IV. Show all Mammals

Member States reports

MS	Range (km²)				Population									Habitat for the species				Future prospects				Overall assessment						Distribution area (km²)		
	Surface	Status (% MS)	Trend	FRR	Min	Max	Best value	Unit	Type est.	Method	Status (% MS)	Trend	FRP	Unit	Occupied suff.	Unoccupied suff.	Status	Trend	Range prosp.	Population prosp.	Hab. for sp. prosp.	Status	Curr. CS	Curr. CS trend	Prev. CS	Prev. CS trend	Status Nat. of ch.	CS trend Nat. of ch.	Distrib.	Method	% MS
DE 1	8039	12.79	+	>>	27	33	N/A	i	estimate	a	6.37	+	>>	p	N	Y	U1	=	good	good	poor	U1	U2	+	U2	+	noChange	noChange	5400	a	13.11
ES	50600	80.52	=	≈	421	876	421	i	estimate	b	89.38	u	356	grids10x10	Y		FV	=	unk	unk	good	XX	U1	=	FV		knowledge	knowledge	32800	a	79.61
PT	4200	6.68	=	≈	N/A	N/A	20	i	minimum	b	4.25	=	≈		Unk		XX	=	good	good	unk	FV	FV	=	FV		noChange	noChange	3000	b	7.28
BE	*1200*	*0*	*+*	*N/*	*2*	*4*	*2*	*i*	*estimate*	*b*	*0*	*N*	*N/*				*XX*	*N*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*XX*	*XX*		*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*1000*	*b*	*0*
FR	*600*	*0*	*N*	*N/*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*		*estimate*	*a*	*0*	*+*	*N/*		*Unk*	*Unk*	*XX*	*N*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*XX*	*XX*	*x*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*noChange*	*noChange*	*700*	*a*	*0*
NL	*N/A*	*0*	*N*	*N/*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*			*N/A*	*0*	*N*	*N/*				*N/A*	*N*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*0*

2

Automatic Assessments Show 3

EU biogeographical assessments 4

MS/EU28	Surface	Status Range	Trend	FRR	Min	Max	Best value	Unit			Status Population	Trend	FRP	Unit			Status Hab. for species	Trend	Range prosp.	Population prosp.	Hab. for sp. prosp.	Status Future prosp.	Curr. CS	Curr. CS trend	2012 CS	2012 CS trend	Status Nat. of ch.	CS trend Nat. of ch.	2001-06 status with backcasting	Target 1		
EU28	62839	1	+	> 62839	468	929	471	i			2XP	x	> 471	i			2XP	=	unk	unk	unk	2XP	MTX	=	FV	=	nong	nc	FV	D		EEA-ETC/BD 5
EU28	N/A	1	+	>	600	1200	900				2XP	+	>				2XP	+				2XP	MTX		FV	=			FV	A+	0/1	REAL FEDERACION ESPAÑOLA DE CAZA
DE		2XR	+	≈				p			2XP	+	<				2XR	=	good	good	good	2XP	MTX	+	FV		gen	gen	U1		0/2	Deutscher Jagdverband 6

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

1. **Member State reported data:** values directly extracted from the Member State reported data (after a data cleaning procedure). The percentage values (under % MS) are calculated as a part of the data compilation and tool preparation stage and they inform on a proportion of a biogeographical range, area/population or distribution within a MS. This information is used for weighting the Member State assessments as outlined in the 'methods' document.

2. **Parameters:** The 4 parameters used in the assessment are listed in the order they are reported by the Member State: range, population, habitat for the species & future prospects for species, range, area, structure & function and future prospects for habitats. The overall assessment of Conservation Status and trend in Conservation Status, including the reason for change, as reported are listed in addition to the previous (2012) Conservation Status and Trend in Conservation Status (for the 2013 – 2018 and 2007 – 2012 periods). The gridded distribution corresponds to the area as reported by the Member State in their spatial delivery.

3.**Automatic assessments:** When clicked, this section shows the automated calculations for different assessment methods (described below and expanded on in the accompanying methodology document – *Article 17 biogeographical assessments - Methodology*).

4. **EU biogeographical assessments**: This is where the results of the EU assessment are located. It can be one line (when a filter for bioregion is set to a particular region); official assessment with no additional lines from the public consultation process) or additional lines where stakeholders/national experts have contributed to the process.

5. **EU biogeographic assessment conclusion**: The final conclusion is denoted by the author ETC/BD. Any other lines are comments or references to this assessment line.

6.**Consultation comment**: This appears where a stakeholder or national expert commented on a specific part of the original assessment, or commented on a specific Member State instead of EU level, or submitted an alternative parameter conclusion or an entire assessment line using an alternative method and/or a new conclusion.

When the ‘Automatic assessments’ section is expanded, the results of the automatic calculation based on Member State reported data using different methodologies during the EU assessment are displayed. Based on the quality of data submitted by all Member States, the assessor chooses the appropriate method to accept as the providing the most accurate result for the assessment at regional level. An audit trail of how an assessor’s decision was reached is described below.

Current selection: 2013-2018, Mammals, Canis lupus, Atlantic. **Annexes** II*, IV. Show all Mammals

Member States reports

MS	Range (km²)				Population										Habitat for the species				Future prospects				Overall assessment						Distribution area (km²)		
	Surface	Status (% MS)	Trend	FRR	Min	Max	Best value	Unit	Type est.	Method	Status (% MS)	Trend	FRP	Unit	Occupied suff.	Unoccupied suff.	Status	Trend	Range prosp.	Population prosp.	Hab. for sp. prosp.	Status	Curr. CS	Curr. CS trend	Prev. CS	Prev. CS trend	Status Nat. of ch.	CS trend Nat. of ch.	Distrib.	Method	% MS
DE	8039	12.79	+	>>	27	33	N/A	i	estimate	a	6.37	+	>>	p	N	Y	U1	=	good	good	poor	U1	U2	+	U2	+	noChange	noChange	5400	a	13.11
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BE	*1200*	*0*	+	*N/*	*2*	*4*	*2*	*i*	*estimate*	*b*	*0*	*N*	*N/*				*XX*	*N*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*XX*	*XX*		*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*1000*	*b*	*0*
FR	*600*	*0*	*N*	*N/*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*		*estimate*	*a*	*0*	+	*N/*		*Unk*	*Unk*	*XX*	*N*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*XX*	*XX*	*x*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*noChange*	*noChange*	*700*	*a*	*0*
NL	*N/A*	*0*	*N*	*N/*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*			*N/A*	*0*	*N*	*N/*				*N/A*	*N*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*0*

Automatic Assessments Hide

method1	62839		12.79%+ 87.21%=	62839	468.00	929.00	471.00	i				6.37%+ 4.25%= 89.38%x												N/A		N/A			41200		
2GD		86.89%FV 13.11%U2									7.28%FV 79.61%U1 13.11%U2						79.61%FV 13.11%U1 7.28%XX				7.28%FV 13.11%U1 79.61%XX			13.11%+ 86.89%=		N/A		79.61%no 20.39%nc	N/A			
3GD																							7.28%FV 79.61%U1 13.11%U2			N/A		N/A				
2XR		87.20%FV 12.79%U2									6.68%FV 80.52%U1 12.79%U2						80.52%FV 12.79%U1 6.68%XX				6.68%FV 12.79%U1 80.52%XX			12.79%+ 87.20%=		N/A		80.52%no 19.47%nc	N/A			
3XR																							6.68%FV 80.52%U1 12.79%U2			N/A		N/A				
2XP		93.63%FV 6.37%U2									4.25%FV 89.38%U1 6.37%U2						89.38%FV 6.37%U1 4.25%XX				4.25%FV 6.37%U1 89.38%XX			6.37%+ 93.63%=		N/A		89.38%no 10.62%nc	N/A			
3XP																							4.25%FV 89.38%U1 6.37%U2			N/A		N/A				

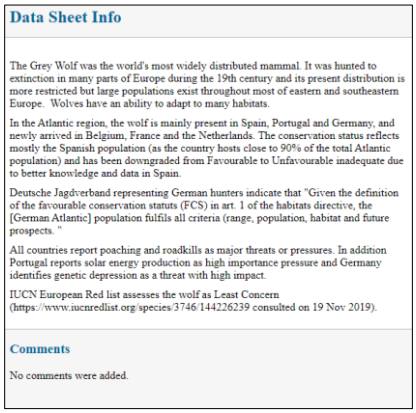
EU biogeographical assessments

MS/EU28	Surface	Status Range	Trend	FRR	Min	Max	Best value	Unit			Status Population	Trend	FRP	Unit			Status Hab. for species	Trend	Range prosp.	Population prosp.	Hab. for sp. prosp.	Status Future prosp.	Curr. CS	Curr. CS trend	2012 CS	2012 CS trend	Status Nat. of ch.	CS trend Nat. of ch.	2001-06 status with backcasting	Target 1	
EU28	62839	1	+	> 62839	468	929	471	i			2XP	x	> 471	i			2XP	=	unk	unk	unk	2XP	MTX	=	FV	=	nong	nc	FV	D	EEA-ETC/BD

The red box above highlights the 'methods' available to the assessor when completing the assessment. Method 1, 2GD & 3GD, 2XR & 3XR are methods applied to both habitats and species, 2XP and 3XP are for species (population) and 2XA and 3XA are for habitats (area) (more information in the methodology document – *Article 17 biogeographical assessments - Methodology*).

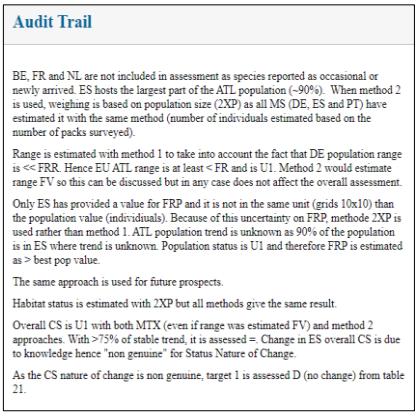
3. Additional information.

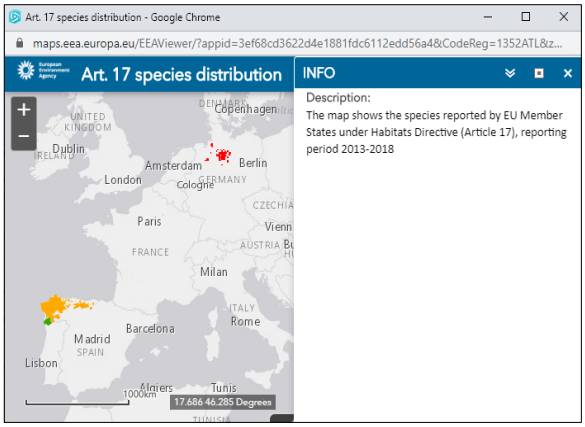
More information how the assessment was undertaken and the conclusion was reached, as well as additional information on the species/habitat, can be accessed beside the filters.



'View data sheet info' provides a general information of the feature assessment for the region or globally when 'All regions' is selected in the region filter (e.g. describing a change in conservation status between reporting periods or where applicable, comparisons with related IUCN Red List assessments).

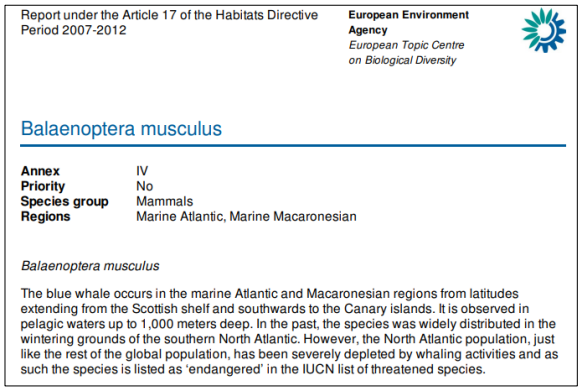
'Audit trail' provides a record of the assessors rationale for applying specific methodologies to specific parameters. The audit trail will normally justify the methodology chosen and refer to the conclusion in Conservation Status and the contribution to Target 1.





The 'map' function can be used to view the distribution of the feature in the selected biogeographic region. The distribution grids are coloured according to the legend for Conservation Status showing the status at Member State biogeographical level. The map is used by the assessors during the assessment to better understand data reported by a Member State e.g. in cases where neighbouring Member States give widely diverging information on a feature. The 'INFO' section can be closed to give a better view.

Factsheets for each species or habitat are available by clicking 'Download factsheet'. These provide a summary of the assessment for all regions the feature is assessed in. The factsheet includes the distribution map and the Member State summary of the Conservation Status of parameters.



Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive
Period 2007-2012

European Environment Agency
European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity

Balaenoptera musculus

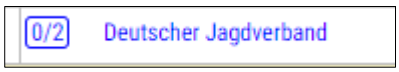
Annex	IV
Priority	No
Species group	Mammals
Regions	Marine Atlantic, Marine Macaronesian

Balaenoptera musculus

The blue whale occurs in the marine Atlantic and Macaronesian regions from latitudes extending from the Scottish shelf and southwards to the Canary islands. It is observed in pelagic waters up to 1,000 meters deep. In the past, the species was widely distributed in the wintering grounds of the southern North Atlantic. However, the North Atlantic population, just like the rest of the global population, has been severely depleted by whaling activities and as such the species is listed as 'endangered' in the IUCN list of threatened species.

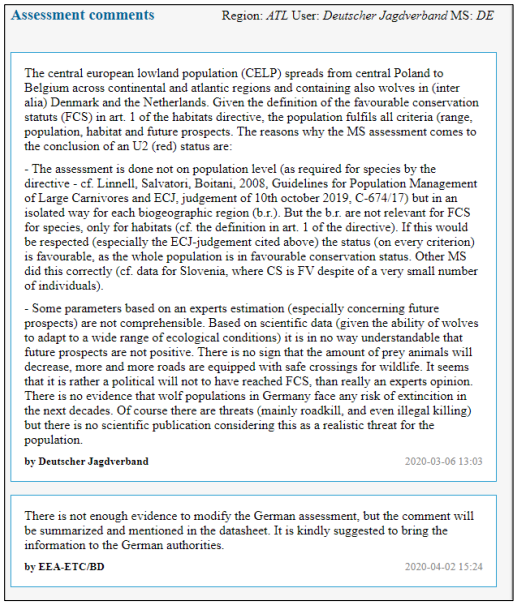
4. Stakeholders comments to expert EU biogeographical assessments

As noted above, during the public consultation, new assessment lines can be added to the EU assessments section by stakeholders to be taken into account by the assessor before finalization of the process. Comments can also be given during the consultation process and these are viewable beside the stakeholder name.



The stakeholder organisation is listed.

Clicking on the stakeholder organisation will reveal more information such as Member State.



In the example above, 2 comments have been left on the assessment line created by by 'Deutscher Jagdverband'.

As part of the consultation process, participants were encouraged to leave a comment on their added assessment line justifying its addition or any suggested changes to any part of the assessment (Comment 1 by *Deutsche Jagdverband* in screenshot).

The EEA & ETC response to the stakeholder comment is provided in the same 'comment' window below the stakeholder's comment.

Additionally, comments can be added by stakeholders on the 'Data sheet info'. The comments left here are generally to add further information relevant for the textual description of a habitat or species in the data sheet info window than address any changes made/suggested by the stakeholder in relation to the EU assessment. The EEA & ETC response to the stakeholder comment (on data sheet text) is provided in the same 'data sheet info' window below the stakeholder's comment.