

**European Community Directive
on the Conservation of Natural Habitats
and of Wild Fauna and Flora
(92/43/EEC)**

**Fourth Report by the United Kingdom
under Article 17**

on the implementation of the Directive
from January 2013 to December 2018

Conservation status assessment for the species:

S2639 - Harp Seal (*Pagophilus groenlandicus*)

UNITED KINGDOM

IMPORTANT NOTE - PLEASE READ

- The information in this document represents the UK Report on the conservation status of this species, submitted to the European Commission as part of the 2019 UK Reporting under Article 17 of the EU Habitats Directive.
- It is based on supporting information provided by the geographically-relevant Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies, which is documented separately.
- The 2019 Article 17 UK Approach document provides details on how this supporting information contributed to the UK Report and the fields that were completed for each parameter.
- The reporting fields and options used are aligned to those set out in the European Commission guidance.
- Maps showing the distribution and range of the species are included (where available).
- Explanatory notes (where provided) are included at the end. These provide additional audit trail information to that included within the UK assessments. Further underpinning explanatory notes are available in the related country-level reports.
- Some of the reporting fields have been left blank because either: (i) there was insufficient information to complete the field; (ii) completion of the field was not obligatory; and/or (iii) the field was not relevant to this species (section 12 Natura 2000 coverage for Annex II species).
- The UK-level reporting information for all habitats and species is also available in spreadsheet format.

Visit the JNCC website, <https://jncc.gov.uk/article17>, for further information on UK Article 17 reporting.

Report on the main results of the surveillance under Article 11 for Annex II, IV and V species (Annex B)

NATIONAL LEVEL

1. General information

1.1 Member State	UK
1.2 Species code	2639
1.3 Species scientific name	Pagophilus groenlandicus
1.4 Alternative species scientific name	
1.5 Common name (in national language)	Harp Seal

2. Maps

2.1 Sensitive species	No
2.2 Year or period	
2.3 Distribution map	No
2.4 Distribution map Method used	Insufficient or no data available
2.5 Additional maps	No

3. Information related to Annex V Species (Art. 14)

3.1 Is the species taken in the wild/exploited?	No	
3.2 Which of the measures in Art. 14 have been taken?	a) regulations regarding access to property	No
	b) temporary or local prohibition of the taking of specimens in the wild and exploitation	No
	c) regulation of the periods and/or methods of taking specimens	No
	d) application of hunting and fishing rules which take account of the conservation of such populations	No
	e) establishment of a system of licences for taking specimens or of quotas	No
	f) regulation of the purchase, sale, offering for sale, keeping for sale or transport for sale of specimens	No
	g) breeding in captivity of animal species as well as artificial propagation of plant species	No
	h) other measures	No

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3.3 Hunting bag or quantity taken in the wild for Mammals and Acipenseridae (Fish)

a) Unit

b) Statistics/ quantity taken	Provide statistics/quantity per hunting season or per year (where season is not used) over the reporting period					
	Season/ year 1	Season/ year 2	Season/ year 3	Season/ year 4	Season/ year 5	Season/ year 6
Min. (raw, ie. not rounded)						
Max. (raw, ie. not rounded)						
Unknown	No	No	No	No	No	No

3.4. Hunting bag or quantity taken in the wild Method used

3.5. Additional information

BIOGEOGRAPHICAL LEVEL

4. Biogeographical and marine regions

4.1 Biogeographical or marine region where the species occurs

Marine Atlantic (MATL)

4.2 Sources of information

Nilssen, K. T., Grotnes, P.E., Haug, T. 1992. The effect of invading harp seals (*Phoca groenlandica*) on local coastal fish stocks of North Norway. *Fisheries Research*, 13, 25-37.

Harkanon, T., Dietz, R., Reijnders, P.J.H., Teilmann, J., Harding, K., Hall, A.J., Brasseur, S.M.J.M., Siebert, U., Goodman, S.J., Jepson, P.D., Dau Rasmussen, T., & Thompson, P.M. 2006. A review of the 1988 and 2002 phocine distemper virus epidemics in European harbour seals. *Diseases of Aquatic Organisms*, 68, 115-130.

McAlping, D.F., Stevick, P.T., Murison, L.D. 1999. Increase in extralimital occurrences of ice-breeding seals in the Northern Gulf of Maine Region: More seals or Fewer Fish? *Marine Mammal Science*, 15(3), 906-911.

Van Bree, P.J.H. 1997. On extralimital records of Arctic seals (Mammalia, Pinnipedia) on the West European continental coast in the past and at present - A summary. *Beaufortia*, 47(5), 153-156.

5. Range

5.1 Surface area (km²)

5.2 Short-term trend Period

5.3 Short-term trend Direction

5.4 Short-term trend Magnitude

5.5 Short-term trend Method used

5.6 Long-term trend Period

a) Minimum

b) Maximum

Insufficient or no data available

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5.7 Long-term trend Direction

5.8 Long-term trend Magnitude

a) Minimum

b) Maximum

5.9 Long-term trend Method used

5.10 Favourable reference range

a) Area (km²)

b) Operator

c) Unknown

d) Method

5.11 Change and reason for change in surface area of range

No change

The change is mainly due to:

5.12 Additional information

6. Population

6.1 Year or period

6.2 Population size (in reporting unit)

a) Unit

number of individuals (i)

b) Minimum

c) Maximum

d) Best single value

6.3 Type of estimate

6.4 Additional population size (using population unit other than reporting unit)

a) Unit

b) Minimum

c) Maximum

d) Best single value

6.5 Type of estimate

6.6 Population size Method used

6.7 Short-term trend Period

6.8 Short-term trend Direction

Unknown (x)

6.9 Short-term trend Magnitude

a) Minimum

b) Maximum

c) Confidence interval

6.10 Short-term trend Method used

Insufficient or no data available

6.11 Long-term trend Period

6.12 Long-term trend Direction

6.13 Long-term trend Magnitude

a) Minimum

b) Maximum

c) Confidence interval

6.14 Long-term trend Method used

6.15 Favourable reference population (using the unit in 6.2 or 6.4)

a) Population size

b) Operator

c) Unknown

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	d) Method
6.16 Change and reason for change in population size	No change The change is mainly due to:

6.17 Additional information

7. Habitat for the species

7.1 Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat	a) Are area and quality of occupied habitat sufficient (for long-term survival)?	Unknown
	b) Is there a sufficiently large area of unoccupied habitat of suitable quality (for long-term survival)?	
7.2 Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat Method used	Insufficient or no data available	
7.3 Short-term trend Period		
7.4 Short-term trend Direction	Unknown (x)	
7.5 Short-term trend Method used	Insufficient or no data available	
7.6 Long-term trend Period		
7.7 Long-term trend Direction		
7.8 Long-term trend Method used		
7.9 Additional information		

8. Main pressures and threats

8.1 Characterisation of pressures/threats

8.2 Sources of information

8.3 Additional information

9. Conservation measures

9.1 Status of measures	a) Are measures needed?	No
	b) Indicate the status of measures	

9.2 Main purpose of the measures taken

9.3 Location of the measures taken

9.4 Response to the measures

9.5 List of main conservation measures

9.6 Additional information

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10. Future prospects

10.1 Future prospects of parameters	a) Range	Unknown
	b) Population	Unknown
	c) Habitat of the species	Unknown

10.2 Additional information

11. Conclusions

11.1. Range

11.2. Population

11.3. Habitat for the species

11.4. Future prospects

11.5 Overall assessment of Conservation Status

11.6 Overall trend in Conservation Status

11.7 Change and reasons for change in conservation status and conservation status trend

a) Overall assessment of conservation status

The change is mainly due to:

b) Overall trend in conservation status

The change is mainly due to:

11.8 Additional information

12. Natura 2000 (pSCIs, SCIs and SACs) coverage for Annex II species

12.1 Population size inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network (on the biogeographical/marine level including all sites where the species is present)	a) Unit
	b) Minimum
	c) Maximum
	d) Best single value

12.2 Type of estimate

12.3 Population size inside the network Method used

12.4 Short-term trend of population size within the network Direction

12.5 Short-term trend of population size within the network Method used

12.6 Additional information

13. Complementary information

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13.1 Justification of % thresholds for trends

13.2 Trans-boundary assessment

13.3 Other relevant Information

There is limited or insufficient new evidence on which to update this species since the previous reporting round