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:

S1345 - Humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*)

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.

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NATIONAL LEVEL

1. General information

1.1 Member State	**UK**
1.2 Species code	**1345**
1.3 Species scientific name	**Megaptera novaeangliae**
1.4 Alternative species scientific name	
1.5 Common name (in national language)	Humpback whale

2. Maps

2.1 Sensitive species	No
2.2 Year or period	2013-2018
2.3 Distribution map	Yes
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

Clark, C.W. And Charif, R.A. 2000. Acoustic monitoring of large whales off north and west Britain and Ireland: a two year study, October 1996-September 1998. JNCC Report No. 313.
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Jensen, A.S. and Silber, G. K. 2004. Large Whale Ship Strike Database. U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA Technical Memorandum. NMFS-OPR- , 37 pp.
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Punt, A., Friday, N. A. and Smith, T. D. 2006. Reconciling data on the trends and abundance of North Atlantic humpback whales within a population modelling framework. J. Cetacean Res. Man. 8(2):145-159, 2006 145
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Roman, J. and Palumbi, S.R. 2003. Whales before whaling in the North Atlantic. Science. 301:508-510.
Sabin, R.C, Chimonides, P. D. J., Spurrier, C.J.H., Jepson, P.D., Deaville, R., Reid, R. J., Patterson, I.A.P., Penrose, R. and Law R. 2004. Trends in cetacean strandings around the UK coastline and cetacean and marine turtle post-mortem investigations for the year 2003. NMH Consulting. Natural History Museum, London.
Stevick, P.T., Allen, J., Clapham, P.J., Friday, N., Katona, S.K., Larsen, F., Lien, J., Mattila, D.K., Palsboll, P.J., Sigurjonsson, J., Smith, T.D., Oien, N, and Hammond, P.S. 2003. North Atlantic humpback whale abundance and rate of increase four decades after protection from whaling. Marine Ecology Progress Series. 258:263-273.
Vignes-Raposa, K.J., Kenney, R.D., Gonzalez, M.L. and August, P.V. 2010. Spatial patterns of humpback whale (Megaptera novaeangliae) sightings and survey effort: Insight into North Atlantic population structure. Marine Mammal Science. 26:161- 175.

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	a) Minimum	b) Maximum
5.5 Short-term trend Method used	Insufficient or no data available	
5.6 Long-term trend Period		
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	
	d) Method	
6.16 Change and reason for change in population size	No change The change is mainly due to:	

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6.17 Additional information	Although considered a vagrant in UK waters under the Habitats Directive, sightings of this species have been steadily increasing around the UK.

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

Pressure	Ranking
Threats and pressures from outside the EU territory (Xe)	M

Threat	Ranking
Threats and pressures from outside the EU territory (Xe)	M

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

Distribution Map

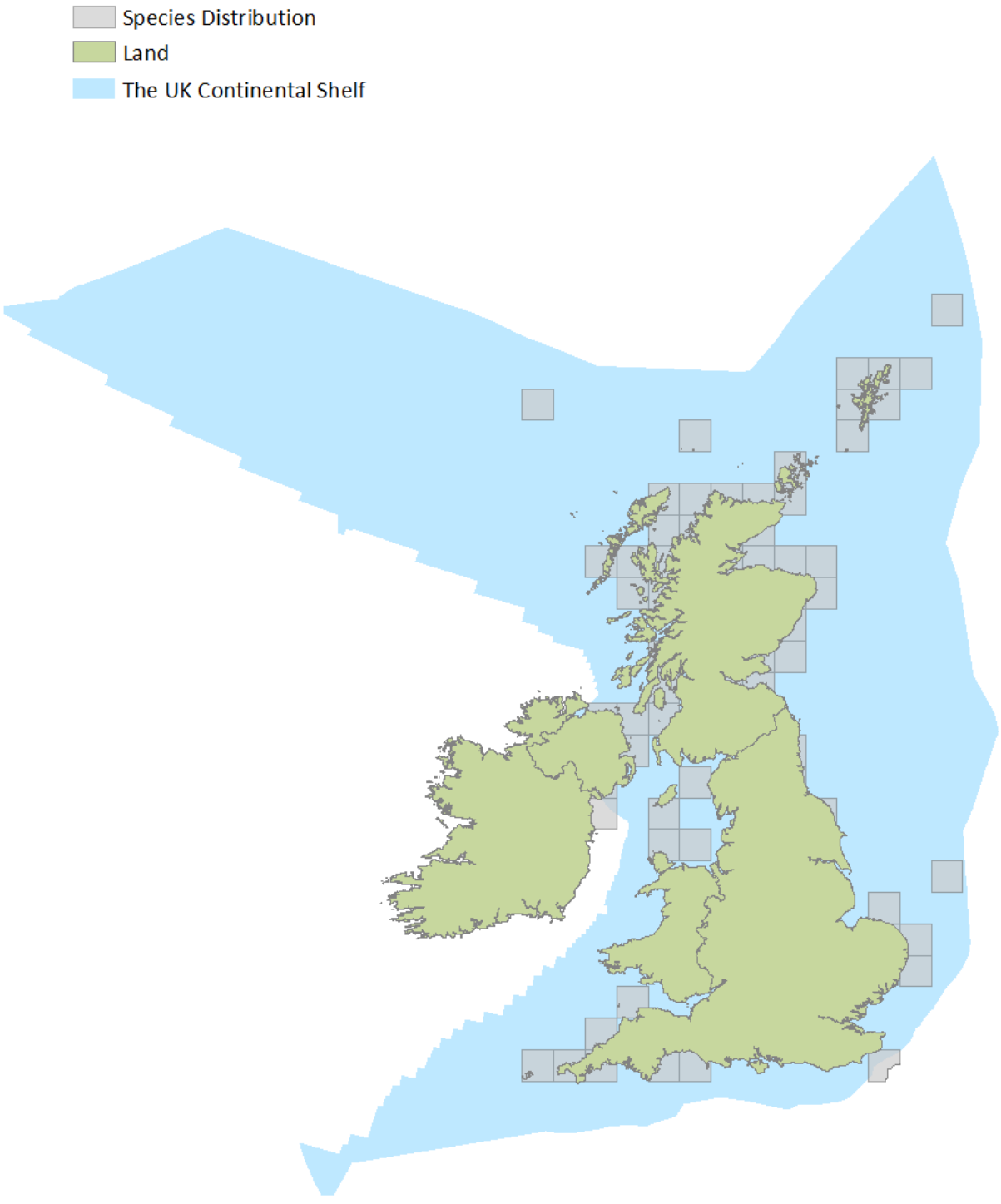

Figure 1: UK distribution map for S1345 - Humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*).

The 50km grid square distribution map is based on available species records within the current reporting period. For further details see the 2019 Article 17 UK Approach document.