

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

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

on the implementation of the Directive
from January 2007 to December 2012
Conservation status assessment for

Species:

S1227 - Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)

Reporting format on the 'main results of the surveillance under Article 11' for Annex II, IV & V species

<i>Field name</i>	<i>Brief explanations</i>	
0.2 Species	0.2.1 Species code	S1227
	0.2.2 Species scientific name	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>
	0.2.3 Alternative species scientific name Optional	
	0.2.4 Common name Optional	

1.1 Maps			
1.1.1 Distribution map	False	Sensitive	False
	<p>The distribution/range map has only been reported for Gibraltar – i.e. within the Marine Mediterranean biogeographic region of UK waters. This species is an occasional species in UK waters, and as such its distribution/range in the Marine Atlantic biogeographic region is unknown and therefore has not been reported.</p> <p>The 'TURTLE' database (Pierpoint and Penrose 2002) contains 9 records for this species, the earliest from 1875 and only one in the current reporting period (December 2011) (Penrose and Gander, 2012). Only one record is of a live animal at sea, in the Firth of Forth Scotland. The only other live record was a stranded individual found 13 January 2003 on Guernsey and taken to the local aquarium for rehabilitation.</p>		

1.1.2 Method used - map	Absent data		
1.1.3 Year or period			
1.1.4 Additional distribution map Optional	False		
1.1.5 Range map	False		
	<p>The distribution/range map has only been reported for Gibraltar – ie within the Marine Mediterranean biogeographic region of UK waters. This species is an occasional species in UK waters, and as such its distribution/range in the Marine Atlantic biogeographic region is unknown and therefore has not been reported</p>		

2.1 Biogeographical region & marine regions	MATL
	<p>Green turtles feed and nest throughout the tropics and into sub-tropical oceans (Spotila, 2004). In the Atlantic important nesting areas are found on Ascension Island, Guinea Bissau, Costa Rica, Yucatan, Florida, Venezuela and Suriname.</p> <p>As adults they are exclusively herbivorous foraging on seagrasses and</p>

	benthic algae. Large migrations between breeding and foraging grounds can occur as, for example, for the breeding population of Ascension Island which has been tracked foraging in the coastal waters of Brazil (Luschi et al 1998). Post-hatching, green turtles are also thought to recruit to the open ocean but information on their dispersal is extremely limited.
2.2 Published sources	<p>Luschi P., Hays G.C., Del Seppia C., Marsh R., Papi F. 1998. The navigational feats of green sea turtles from Ascension Island investigated by satellite telemetry. Proc. Roy. Soc. of London, Series B , 265: 2279-2284.</p> <p>Penrose, R. S. and Gander, L. R. 2012. British Isles and Republic of Ireland Marine Turtle Strandings and Sightings: Annual Report 2011. Marine Environmental Monitoring, West Wales, UK. www.strandings.com</p> <p>Pierpoint C. and Penrose R. 2002. 'TURTLE' A database of Marine Turtle Records for the United Kingdom & Eire. (Version 1.3 2002): Introduction, data summary & user notes. (Contractor: Marine Environmental Monitoring, Llechryd.)</p> <p>Spotila, J. R. 2004. Seaturtles. A complete guide to their biology, behaviour and conservation. John Hopkins Press and Oakwood Arts. ISBN 0-8018-8007-6. pp227</p>

2.3 Range					
2.3.1 Surface area Range					
2.3.2 Method used Surface area of Range	Absent data				
2.3.3 Short-term trend Period	2001-2012				
2.3.4 Short term trend Trend direction	unknown				
2.3.5 Short-term trend Magnitude Optional	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>a) Minimum</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>b) Maximum</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	a) Minimum		b) Maximum	
a) Minimum					
b) Maximum					
2.3.6 Long-term trend Period Optional	1988-2012				
2.3.7 Long-term trend	unknown				

Trend direction Optional		
2.3.8 Long-term trend Magnitude Optional	a) Minimum	
	b) Maximum	
2.3.9 Favourable reference range	a) Value in km²	
	b) Operator for FRR	
	c) FRR is unknown (indicated by "true")	True
2.3.10 Reason for change Is the difference between the reported value in 2.3.1 and the previous reporting round mainly due to...	a) Genuine change?	False
	b) Improved knowledge/more accurate data?	False
	c) Use of different method (e.g. "Range tool")?	False

2.4 Population		
2.4.1 Population size estimation (using individuals or agreed exceptions where possible)	a) Unit	
	b) Minimum	
	c) Maximum	

2.4.2 Population size estimation (using population unit other than individuals) Optional (if 2.4.1 filled in)	a) Unit	
	b) Minimum	
	c) Maximum	
2.4.3 Additional information on population estimates / conversion Optional	a) Definition of "locality"	
	b) Method to convert data	
	c) Problems encountered to provide population size estimation	
2.4.4 Year or period		
2.4.5 Method used Population size	Absent data	
2.4.6 Short-term trend Period	2001-2012	
2.4.7 Short-term trend Trend direction	unknown	
2.4.8 Short-term trend Magnitude Optional	a) Minimum	
	b) Maximum	
	c) Confidence interval	
2.4.9 Short-term trend Method used	Absent data	
2.4.10 Long-term trend – Period Optional	1988-2012	

2.4.11 Long-term trend	unknown	
Trend direction		
Optional		
2.4.12 Long-term trend	a) Minimum	
Magnitude		
Optional	b) Maximum	
	c) Confidence interval	
2.4.13 Long term trend	Absent data	
Method used		
Optional		
2.4.14 Favourable reference population	a) Number of individuals/agreed exceptions/other units	
	b) Operator	
	c) FRP is unknown (indicated by "true")	True
	d) Method used to set FRP	
2.4.15 Reason for change	a) Genuine change?	False
Is the difference between the value reported at 2.4.1 or 2.4.2 and the previous reporting round mainly due to:		
	b) Improved knowledge/more accurate data?	False
	c) Use of different method (e.g. "Range tool")?	False

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2.5 Habitat for the species	
2.5.1 Area estimation	
2.5.2 Year or period	
2.5.3 Method used Habitat for the species	Absent data
2.5.4 Quality of the habitat	a) Habitat quality Unknown
	b) Assessment method
2.5.5 Short-term trend Period	2001-2012
2.5.6 Short-term trend Trend direction	unknown
2.5.7 Long-term trend Period Optional	1988-2012
2.5.8 Long-term trend Trend direction Optional	unknown
2.5.9 Area of suitable habitat for the species	a) Value in km ²
	b) Absence of data indicated as '0'
2.5.10 Reason for change Is the difference between the value reported at 2.5.1 and the previous reporting round mainly due to	a) Genuine change? False
	b) Improved knowledge/more accurate data? False
	c) Use of different method (e.g. "Range tool")? False

2.6 Main pressures		
a) Pressure	b) Ranking	c) Pollution qualifier
	H = high importance (max 5 entries) M = medium importance L = low importance	
XO: Threats and pressures from outside the Member State	L	

Pressures (and threats) ranked as low Importance; pressures and threats to this species are outwith the Member State and will have little bearing on the already extremely rare occurrence of this species in UK waters.

2.6.1 Method used – Pressures	based only on expert judgements

2.7 Threats		
a) Threat	b) Ranking	c) Pollution qualifier
	H = high importance (max 5 entries) M = medium importance L = low importance	
XO: Threats and pressures from outside the Member State	L	

2.7.1 Method used – Threats	expert opinion

2.8 Complementary information	
2.8.1 Justification of % thresholds for trends	
2.8.2 Other relevant information	
2.8.3 Trans-boundary assessment	

2.9 Conclusions (assessment of conservation status at end of reporting period)

2.9.1 Range	a) Conclusion	Unknown
	b) Qualifier	
2.9.2 Population	a) Conclusion	Unknown
	b) Qualifier	
2.9.3 Habitat for the species	a) Conclusion	Unknown
	b) Qualifier	
2.9.4 Future prospects	a) Conclusion	Unknown
	b) Qualifier	
2.9.5 Overall assessment of Conservation Status	Unknown	
2.9.6 Overall trend in Conservation Status		

**3 Natura 2000 coverage & conservation measures - Annex II species
(only applies to species listed under Annex II of the Directive)**

3.1 Population

3.1.1 Population size Estimation of population size included in the SAC network	a) Unit	
	b) Minimum	
	c) Maximum	

3.1.2 Method used	Absent data
3.1.3 Trend of population size within the network (short-term trend)	
Optional	

3.2 Conservation measures															
Conservation measures taken (i.e. already being implemented) within the reporting period and provided information about their importance, location and evaluation.															
3.2.1 Measure	3.2.2 Type					3.2.3 Ranking H = high importance M = medium importance L = low importance	3.2.4 Location where the measure is PRIMARILY applied			3.2.5 Broad evaluation of the measure					
	a) Legal/statutory	b) Administrative	c) Contractual	d) Recurrent	e) One-off		a) Inside	b) Outside	c) Both inside & outside	a) Maintain	b) Enhance	c) Long term	d) No effect	e) Unknown	f) Not evaluated