

**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:

S2037 - True's beaked whale (*Mesoplodon mirus*)

## 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>	
<b>0.2 Species</b>	<b>0.2.1 Species code</b>	<b>S2037</b>
	<b>0.2.2 Species scientific name</b>	<b><i>Mesoplodon mirus</i></b>
	<b>0.2.3 Alternative species scientific name</b> Optional	
	<b>0.2.4 Common name</b> Optional	

<b>1.1 Maps</b>			
<b>1.1.1 Distribution map</b>	<b>False</b>	<b>Sensitive</b>	<b>False</b>

<b>1.1.2 Method used - map</b>	<b>Absent data</b>		
<b>1.1.3 Year or period</b>			
<b>1.1.4 Additional distribution map</b> Optional	<b>False</b>		
<b>1.1.5 Range map</b>	<b>False</b>		

<b>2.1 Biogeographical region &amp; marine regions</b>	<b>MATL</b> In the North Atlantic, True's beaked whale ranges from Nova Scotia and Ireland, south to the Bahamas and Canary Islands (Culik, 2011). It also occurs in the southern hemisphere. This poorly known species had not been identified at sea until 1995, but in recent years there have been a few probable and confirmed sightings in the northeast Atlantic off the Azores (Steiner et al. 1998) and in the Bay of Biscay (Weir et al. 2004). There have been several strandings on the west coast of Ireland. The only reported stranding of this species in the UK came from the Outer Hebrides which was subsequently identified as <i>Ziphius cavirostris</i> - hence there are no recorded sightings or strandings of this species in UK waters.
<b>2.2 Published sources</b>	<b>Brownell, R. L. Jr., Allen, B. M. and Mead, J. G. 2011. True's Beaked Whale, <i>Mesoplodon mirus</i>, in the North Atlantic Ocean: Distribution, Biology, Status and Threats. Paper SC/63/SM20 presented to the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission.</b>  <b>Culik, B. M. 2011. Odontocetes -The toothed whales. CMS Technical Series No. 24.</b>

	<p><b>Deaville, R. And Jepson, P. D. (Eds). 2011. Final Report for the period 1st January 2005 – 31st December 2010. Cetacean Stranding Investigation Programme CSIP, Defra contracts CR0346 and CR0364.</b></p> <p><b>Jepson, P.D. (Ed) 2006. Trends in cetacean strandings around the UK coastline and cetacean and marine turtle post-mortem investigations, 2000 to 2004 inclusive. Defra Contract CRO 238.</b></p> <p><b>Reid, J.B., Evans, P.G.H. &amp; Northridge, S.P., 2003. Atlas of cetacean distribution in north-west European waters. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.</b></p> <p><b>Steiner, L., Gordon, J. and Beer, C. J. 1998. Marine Mammals of the Azores. Abstracts, World Marine Mammal Science Conference, Monaco 20–24th January, 1998, p.128.</b></p> <p><b>Weir, C.R., Stokes, J., Martin, C. and Cermen, P. 2004. Three sightings of <i>Mesoplodon</i> species in the Bay of Biscay: first confirmed True's beaked whales (<i>M. mirus</i>) for the north-east Atlantic? J. Biol. Ass. UK 84(5):1095-100.</b></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	a) Minimum
Optional	
	b) Maximum
2.3.6 Long-term trend Period	1988-2012
Optional	
2.3.7 Long-term trend Trend direction	unknown
Optional	

<b>2.3.8 Long-term trend Magnitude</b>  Optional	<b>a) Minimum</b>	
	<b>b) Maximum</b>	
<b>2.3.9 Favourable reference range</b>	<b>a) Value in km<sup>2</sup></b>	
	<b>b) Operator for FRR</b>	
	<b>c) FRR is unknown (indicated by "true")</b>	True
	<b>d) Method used to set FRR</b>	
<b>2.3.10 Reason for change</b> Is the difference between the reported value in 2.3.1 and the previous reporting round mainly due to...	<b>a) Genuine change?</b>	False
	<b>b) Improved knowledge/more accurate data?</b>	False
	<b>c) Use of different method (e.g. "Range tool")?</b>	False

<b>2.4 Population</b>		
<b>2.4.1 Population size estimation</b> (using individuals or agreed exceptions where possible)	<b>a) Unit</b>	
	<b>b) Minimum</b>	
	<b>c) Maximum</b>	
<b>2.4.2 Population size</b>	<b>a) Unit</b>	

<b>estimation</b> (using population unit other than individuals) Optional ( <i>if 2.4.1 filled in</i> )	<b>b) Minimum</b>	
	<b>c) Maximum</b>	
<b>2.4.3 Additional information on population estimates / conversion</b> Optional	<b>a) Definition of "locality"</b>	
	<b>b) Method to convert data</b>	
	<b>c) Problems encountered to provide population size estimation</b>	
<b>2.4.4 Year or period</b>		
<b>2.4.5 Method used Population size</b>	<b>Absent data</b>	
<b>2.4.6 Short-term trend Period</b>	<b>2001-2012</b>	
<b>2.4.7 Short-term trend Trend direction</b>	<b>unknown</b>	
<b>2.4.8 Short-term trend Magnitude</b> Optional	<b>a) Minimum</b>	
	<b>b) Maximum</b>	
	<b>c) Confidence interval</b>	
<b>2.4.9 Short-term trend Method used</b>	<b>Absent data</b>	
<b>2.4.10 Long-term trend – Period</b> Optional	<b>1988-2012</b>	
<b>2.4.11 Long-term trend</b>	<b>unknown</b>	

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

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

2.6 Main pressures		
a) Pressure	b) Ranking	c) Pollution qualifier
	H = high importance (max 5 entries) M = medium importance L = low importance	

<b>2.6.1 Method used – Pressures</b>	

2.7 Threats		
a) Threat	b) Ranking	c) Pollution qualifier
	H = high importance (max 5 entries) M = medium importance L = low importance	

<b>2.7.1 Method used – Threats</b>	

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

2.9 Conclusions ( <i>assessment of conservation status at end of reporting period</i> )		
<b>2.9.1 Range</b>	<b>a) Conclusion</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
	<b>b) Qualifier</b>	
<b>2.9.2 Population</b>	<b>a) Conclusion</b>	<b>Unknown</b>



	<b>b) Qualifier</b>	
<b>2.9.3 Habitat for the species</b>	<b>a) Conclusion</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
	<b>b) Qualifier</b>	
<b>2.9.4 Future prospects</b>	<b>a) Conclusion</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
	<b>b) Qualifier</b>	
<b>2.9.5 Overall assessment of Conservation Status</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	
<b>2.9.6 Overall trend in Conservation Status</b>		

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

<b>3.1 Population</b>		
<b>3.1.1 Population size</b>  Estimation of population size included in the SAC network	<b>a) Unit</b>	
	<b>b) Minimum</b>	
	<b>c) Maximum</b>	
<b>3.1.2 Method used</b>		
<b>3.1.3 Trend of population size within the network</b> (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

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