

**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:

S2640 - Ringed Seal (*Phoca hispida*)

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	S2640
	0.2.2 Species scientific name	<i>Phoca hispida</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

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		

2.1 Biogeographical region & marine regions	<p>MATL</p> <p>This is the most common seal in the Arctic, found in circumpolar Arctic coasts, wherever there is open water from near the ice edge to the Pole. It is normally solitary, and rarely found in the open sea or in floating pack ice, but common in fjords and bays where the ice is firm (King 1983). Found in Iceland in the winter and along Pacific Japanese coasts as far south as 35N and also found in the Baltic Sea and subspecies in some freshwater lakes (e.g. Lake Saimaa in Finland and Lake Ladoga in Russia). Although largely non-migratory (Kingsley 1990) <i>Phoca hispida</i> shows long distance seasonal movements with pack ice, moving north in summer and south in autumn with expanding pack ice (Smith 1973). However, occasional (especially young) individuals move south and have been recorded from the Atlantic coasts of several European countries.</p> <p>UK records suggest this species may be a regular visitor around Shetland, although probably under-recorded due to its resemblance to <i>Phoca vitulina</i>. Records in UK include: 1846 Norfolk coast; 1889 Lincolnshire coast; 1897 Collieston, Aberdeenshire; 1901 Aberdeen; 1940 Isle of Man; 1968 one shot at Whalsay, Shetland; 1990 Northumberland; 1994 Scarborough; 1991 and 1995 Norfolk; 1999</p>
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	Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire; 2001 one seen at Loch of Gutcher and then at Cullivoe, Shetland; 2006 one seen hauled out close to Bonar Bridge, Kyle of Sutherland, Scotland. However, there are no records for the 2007-2012 reporting period.
2.2 Published sources	<p>King, J. E. 1983. Seals of the World. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 240p.</p> <p>Kingsley, M. C.S. 1990. Status of the ringed seal, <i>Phoca hispida</i>, in Canada. The Canadian Field Naturalist, 104, 138-145.</p> <p>Smith, T. G. 1973. Population dynamics of the ringed seal in the Canadian eastern Arctic Fisheries Research Board Canada, Bulletin No. 181.</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	a) Minimum
	b) Maximum
2.3.6 Long-term trend Period Optional	1988-2012
2.3.7 Long-term trend Trend direction Optional	unknown
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	
2.4.2 Population size estimation (using population unit other than individuals) Optional (<i>if 2.4.1 filled in</i>)	a) Unit	
	b) Minimum	
2.4.3 Additional information on population	a) Definition of "locality"	

estimates / conversion Optional		
	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 Trend direction Optional	unknown	
2.4.12 Long-term trend Magnitude Optional	a) Minimum	
	b) Maximum	

	c) Confidence interval	
2.4.13 Long term trend Method used Optional	Absent data	
2.4.14 Favourable reference population	a) Number of individuals/agreed exceptions/other units	
	b) Operator	
	c) FRP is unknown (indicated by "true")	False
2.4.15 Reason for change Is the difference between the value reported at 2.4.1 or 2.4.2 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

2.5 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 km²	
	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	

2.6.1 Method used – Pressures	

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

2.7.1 Method used – Threats	

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 (<i>assessment of conservation status at end of reporting period</i>)		
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		
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

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