

Atrina fragilis (Fan Mussel)

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1. Status of the habitat / species

Please give your most accurate assessment of the status of your species or habitat for the UK and for each country. Leave the row blank where the species or habitat does not occur in that country.

	Amount:	Units:	Year:	Accuracy:	Reference for data:
UK	200	Sites/ Populations ▼	2002	Best guess ▼	
E	10	Sites/ Populations ▼	2002	Best guess ▼	
NI	10	Sites/ Populations ▼	2002	Best guess ▼	
S	100	Sites/ Populations ▼	2002	Best guess ▼	
W	2	Sites/ Populations ▼	2002	Best guess ▼	

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2. Trend in Biological Status

Please give your best estimate of the current trend for your species or habitat for the UK, and each appropriate country, using the following categories. Please give an estimate unless there is absolutely no information on which to assess status.

	Trend:	Accuracy:	Reference for data:
UK	Declining (slow ing) ▼	Best guess ▼	
E	Declining (slow ing) ▼	Best guess ▼	
NI	Declining (slow ing) ▼	Best guess ▼	
S	Declining (slow ing) ▼	Best guess ▼	
W	Declining (slow ing) ▼	Best guess ▼	

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3. Status of knowledge

To what extent is our scientific knowledge of the habitat / species (e.g research information, autecological knowledge, knowledge for effective re-introduction or habitat restoration/re-creation) sufficient to deliver the plan targets?

Please give an assessment for the UK overall but if there is significant difference in knowledge between different countries this should be noted.

Status of knowledge: ▼

Notes:

Low quantity of available research
 No life history information
 No baseline survey to go from
 No know ledge of animal w ithin marine and coastal LBaps

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4. Progress on targets

Each of the revised targets from the 2001 Targets Review is listed below.

For each one please give a qualitative assessment of progress for the UK and each country. You can also enter quantitative information on progress by entering data in each of the target boxes and entering the current amount in the amount box. For more information see Help.

T1: Maintain the geographical distribution of *A. fragilis* within the UK.

Target start date:

Target end date:

Target units:

Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
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UK	Unknown				
E	Unknown				
NI	Unknown				
S	Unknown				
W	Unknown				

T2: If biologically feasible, enhance the distribution of *A. fragilis* within the UK.

Target start date:

Target end date:

Target units:

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	Not applicable				
E	Not applicable				

NI	Not applicable				
S	Not applicable				
W	Not applicable				

T3: Maintain the population size of *A. fragilis* within the UK.

Target start date:

Target end date:

Target units:

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	No progress			Best guess	
E	No progress			Best guess	
NI	No progress			Best guess	
S	No progress			Best guess	

W	No progress			Best guess	

T4: If biologically feasible, enhance the population size of *A. fragilis* within the UK.

Target start date:	1999
Target end date:	2002
Target units:	Sites/ Populations

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	Unknown				
E	Unknown				
NI	Unknown				
S	Unknown				
W	Unknown				

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5. Current factors affecting the habitat

When your plan was published the factors (threats) that were thought to be causing loss or decline were listed (in section 2). Re-assessing the current situation may help prioritise actions for your species or habitat. In addition, this enables identification of the main threats to biodiversity across all plans. It is useful to assess whether the importance of different factors is changing and whether there are new issues emerging.

The threat section from the original plan is duplicated below, and a first attempt at categorising the threats has been made. Please confirm that you agree with the categorisation of the original threats identified in the plan (by deleting any wrongly categorised threats and adding the correct category). Please also add to the list any significant threats that have emerged recently, being mindful of environmental issues that have increased in profile or been recognised since plan publication (e.g. climate change). Once you are happy that the list contains all the threats identified in the published plan together with any new ones, please rank them in order of severity (1= highest threat). If the situation has changed and one of the published threats is no longer significant, please leave this in the list but give this rank = 0.

Current factors affecting the habitat from the original publication:

- 2.1 Demersal fishing, using trawls and dredges, can remove or damage *A. fragilis* and cause disturbance to the seabed where *A. fragilis* occurs. As much as 70% of the shell length of *A. fragilis* can be buried below the surface and the posterior portion of the shell that projects above the surface is vulnerable to benthic fishing gear, particularly dredges. While live animals can withdraw the mantle towards the anterior of the shell and can repair considerable damage to the posterior edge of the shell, they cannot survive being uprooted from the seabed.
- 2.2 As *A. fragilis* is considered to be a long-lived species and since aggregations are now rarely encountered, this species is particularly vulnerable to damage and removal caused by demersal fishing. Around the UK and Ireland, the numbers of *A. fragilis* found in scallop grounds that have been dredged have declined and few specimens remain. Most recent *A. fragilis* specimens have been found in areas adjacent to dredged scallop beds or in areas seldom dredged. The *A. fragilis* population found in a *Pecten maximus* bed off Glengad Head was not subjected to dredging before 1975. When dredging of these beds began, many live specimens and shells of *A. fragilis* were found in the scallop dredges but it is thought that this population has been destroyed by the subsequent dredging.
- 2.3 Sand and gravel extraction may remove or damage *A. fragilis* and anchoring in shallow water may cause disturbance to the seabed where *A. fragilis* occurs.
- 2.4 A number of environmental changes may affect *A. fragilis*, including increases in turbidity, sedimentation and certain pollutants, such as TBT (tri-butyl tin). Changes in seawater temperature and current patterns may affect the recruitment pattern of *A. fragilis* larvae.

Keyworded factors:

To add factors click the add button, to delete factors check the delete box and then click the delete button.

Delete:	Rank:	Keyword:
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Habitat loss / degradation - extraction/drainage Aggregate extraction - land
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Habitat loss / degradation - fisheries Damage from bottom-trawling fishing gear
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Habitat loss / degradation - infrastructure development Port infrastructure
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Pollution - freshwater Industrial / commercial

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6. Constraints (optional)

Select the three most significant constraints to achieving the targets of the plan, and indicate the order of priority (1-3 with 1 being the most significant constraint). Only include constraints that are acting as a real blockage to delivering the plan targets or leading to a substantial delay in their delivery. For each constraint, please indicate whether you feel that it is within the ability of the lead partner or steering group to resolve the constraint.

Constraint 1:	
Constraint keyword:	Country:
Communication Lack of awareness / poor profile among general public	<input type="checkbox"/> UK <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> NI <input type="checkbox"/> S

W

Solution:

Solution type:

Raise profile amongst trawler fishermen of importance of species, or at least habitat that the species exists in

Funding and incentive schemes

Able to resolve:

Constraint 2:

Constraint keyword:

Country:

Research, survey and information | Baseline survey - required

UK E NI S
 W

Solution:

Solution type:

Carry out extensive UK baseline survey looking for these species and other key soft sediment species within the habitat - needs linking with other BAP species as it is too obscure

Research

Able to resolve:

Constraint 3:

Constraint keyword:	Country:
Partnership Government - lack of support	<input type="checkbox"/> UK <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> NI <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> W
Solution:	Solution type:
Full-scale funding programme involving baseline surveys/monitoring/management/reserve locations/protected areas/education	Management
Able to resolve:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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7. Steering Group

Please list all organisations that are represented on the steering group for your species/habitat (include all organisations that have contributed either directly or by correspondence within the last 3 years). Where a steering group does not exist please leave this form blank.

To add organisations click the add button, to delete organisations check the delete box and then click the delete button.

Delete:	Organisation:
<input type="checkbox"/>	choncology-uk group

<input type="checkbox"/>	Marine Conservation Society
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marine Life Information Network

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8. Other Groups/Organisations

Please list any additional groups/organisations that are actively involved in implementing your action plan. (This is to try to assess which groups are involved where there is no steering group and any additional contributors). If you do not have any other organisations involved, click here.

To add organisations click the add button, to delete organisations check the delete box and then click the delete button.

9. Linkages to LBAPs

a) Which of the following most accurately describes your interaction with LBAPs, up to now?

Little or no contact with LBAPs.

b) If you have been in contact with LBAPs how was it initiated?

c) Irrespective of current contact, how important do you consider LBAP co-ordinated action will be in achieving the targets of the plan? Select from category:

Important

d) If you consider LBAP action to be anything other than unimportant, which of the following forms of engagement do you think would be appropriate? (Note, you may tick more than one category.)

- Indirect contact (e.g. posting information on UKBAP website, sharing work programmes, meeting schedules, articles in Biodiversity News, newsletter)
- Provision of generic information on habitat and/or species (e.g. advice and guidance on habitat/species ecology and management)
- Direct provision of advice (e.g. proactive approach to LBAP, response to consultations from LBAPs, advice on LBAP target setting)
- Reciprocal attendance at meetings
- Development of collaborative projects

Other (please specify):

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10. Successes (optional)

Have there been key successes in the implementation of your plan that should be drawn to the attention of government, the wider BAP partnership, or the public? Please give a brief description (i.e. 2-3 sentences) of up to three successes and allocate a topic area to each of them:

Success 1:

Description:

none

Country:

UK E NI S W

Keyword:



Success 2:

Description:



Country:

UK E NI S W

Keyword:



Success 3:

Description:



Country:

UK E NI S W

Keyword:

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Thankyou for answering the questions. You have not yet completed all of the questions. You can go back and answer the additional ones or edit the ones you have already answered whenever you want.

Sign-off:

When you have completed all of the questions that you are able to, you must sign off your reporting.

I agree that the steering group (if present) have agreed the information in this report and that the following contact point has also signed it off:

Contact point:	<input type="text"/>	email:	<input type="text"/>
Your name:	<input type="text"/>		
Date:	<input type="text"/>		
