

## Grouped plan for toothed whales ()

Full report outputted on the 31/07/2003 09:05:12

### 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	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	There are no reliable population estimates for toothed w hales in UK w aters
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
NI	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
S	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
W	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	

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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	Not know n		Trends in status for toothed w hales in UK waters remain unknow n.
E			
NI			
S			
W			

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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.

<b>Status of knowledge:</b>	Know ledge insufficient but research currently underw ay.
<b>Notes:</b>	

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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: In the short term, maintain the range of toothed whales.

<b>Target start date:</b>	1999
<b>Target end date:</b>	ongoing
<b>Target units:</b>	

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
NI	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
S	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
W	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

**T2: In the short term, maintain the numbers of toothed whales.**

Target start date:

Target end date:

Target units:

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
NI	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
S	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
W	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

**T3: In the longer term, increase abundance by seeking to optimise conditions enabling their populations to increase.**

Target start date:	<input type="text" value="1999"/>
Target end date:	<input type="text" value="ongoing"/>
Target units:	<input type="text"/>

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
NI	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

<b>S</b>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<b>W</b>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

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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 The present status of each of the cetacean species considered here is unknown. It is therefore difficult to properly evaluate whether major population changes have taken place. All the whale species considered in this plan spend most of their time offshore where they are likely to be relatively little affected by human disturbance, coastal fisheries and pollution. In general, factors affecting loss or decline are not well understood. However, concerns have been raised about contaminants, traditional drive fisheries, acoustic disturbance and interactions with fisheries.
- 2.2 Contaminants, including organochlorines, may impact the reproductive potential or cause immune suppression in marine mammals, including toothed whales. Demonstrating such effects is extremely difficult, as controlled experiments are generally impossible. Since 1972, oil and gas exploration has used seismic surveys offshore. Seismic survey activity has increased since 1994, and is now used in the Atlantic Frontier - the continental shelf break north and west of the British Isles where many large and medium sized toothed whales occur. Most of the sound energy generated is at frequencies

below the main hearing range of toothed whales, but nevertheless there is overlap and potential harm may be caused by direct auditory damage at close distances and interference with navigation, food-finding, and communication further away. Global climate change may also have an effect on toothed whales, although impacts on marine mammals are very difficult to predict.

- 2.3 Although once common in the north Atlantic, drive fisheries now continue only in the Faeroe Islands. Pilot whales may be particularly vulnerable as their social behaviour makes them suitable for herding. Around 22,000 pilot whales were taken in the Faeroe Islands drive fishery between 1970 and 1992.
- 2.4 Killer whales in particular enter nearshore UK waters during the summer, where they may be exposed to a number of human activities that may be detrimental to them, for example disturbance from recreational craft including whale-watching vessels. At present, this is not a serious problem, but such activities are increasing steadily and may pose a threat in the future.
- 2.5 Fisheries, particularly for cephalopods, may affect the abundance or availability of prey species for toothed whales, as may fisheries for other deep-water species. Again, the difficulty in obtaining experimental evidence of such effects means that concerns are at present speculative. There have also been cases of sperm whale, Cuvier's beaked whale, killer whale, and long-finned pilot whale becoming entangled in fishing gear, but the scale of the problem is unknown. Killer whales in winter commonly associate with the mackerel purse seine fishery north of Shetland. During the 1970s, the mackerel fishery (purse seine and midwater trawls) in the western English Channel was reported to have occasionally caught pilot whales. In the UK, only one Cuvier's beaked whale and no sperm whales have been recorded as definitely entangled in fishing gear, but both species form by-catches of the Italian swordfish driftnet fishery in the Mediterranean. Pilot whales have been caught in pelagic trawls in the northern North Sea.

## 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"/>	1	Accidental mortality   Fisheries bycatch - netting
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Changes in native species dynamics   Decline in food source / prey
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Human disturbance   Acoustic disturbance / damage to marine animals

- Human disturbance | Interference / displacement
- Pollution - atmospheric | Global warming / sea-level rise
- 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.

<b>Constraint 1:</b>	
<b>Constraint keyword:</b>	<b>Country:</b>
Policy, legislation and designation   Common Fisheries Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UK <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> NI <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> W
<b>Solution:</b>	<b>Solution type:</b>
Reform of the CFP under way	

Able to resolve:

## Constraint 2:

Constraint keyword:

Country:

Research, survey and information | Autecology - poor know ledge

UK

E

NI

S

W

Solution:

Solution type:

Able to resolve:

## Constraint 3:

Constraint keyword:

Country:

Research, survey and information | Impacts/ threats - little understanding

UK

E

NI

S

W

Solution:

Solution type:

**Able to resolve:**



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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"/> | Brixham Seawatch                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ceredigion County Council                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Countryside Council for Wales                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Defence Logistics Organisation (CESO(N))               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | English Nature   |

- Environment Agency
- Herpetological Conservation Trust
- Insitute of Zoology
- International Fund for Animal Welfare
- Marine Conservation Society
- Natural History Museum
- Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
- Scottish Agricultural College
- Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Division
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- Sea Fish Industry Authority
- Sea Mammal Research Unit
- Seawatch Foundation

<input type="checkbox"/>	Shetland Fishermen's Association
<input type="checkbox"/>	Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wildlife Trusts

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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.

Delete:	Organisation:
<input type="checkbox"/>	CEFAS
<input type="checkbox"/>	Defence Estates
<input type="checkbox"/>	Department of Culture, Media and Sport
<input type="checkbox"/>	Department of Trade and Industry

- Environment and Heritage Service
- Environmental Investigation Agency
- Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- HM Customs & Excise
- National Assembly for Wales

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## 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:



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:

Country:

Guidelines aimed at minimising disturbance to cetaceans from whale watching operations and minimising disturbance to cetaceans from recreation at sea

UK  E  NI  S  W

**Keyword:**

Communication | Best practice guidance

**Success 2:**

**Description:**

Guidelines to minimize the effects of acoustic disturbance from seismic surveys

**Country:**

UK  E  NI  S  W

**Keyword:**

Policy, legislation and designation | Beneficial changes in UK legislation

**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:

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

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