

Ostrea edulis (Native Oyster)

Full report outputted on the 01/08/2003 10:27:43

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"/>	<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	2	Sites/ Populations	2002	Partial or sample survey	Report due April 2003

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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		
E	Declining (slow ing)	Partial or sample survey	Solent Regulated Fishery Oyster Stock Report 18- 26 June 2002 CEFAS Low estoft; Truro Oyster Fishery Oyster Stock Report April 200 CEFAS
NI	Increasing	Informed guess	Shellfish Assn of GB Members
S	Declining (slow ing)	Partial or sample survey	
W	Declining (slow ing)	Informed 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:

Knowledge sufficient to make some impact, but more research needed.

Notes:

Reports are conflicting, with improved spatfall reported in N. Ireland and in SE England. The Western Solent is markedly down, with a lack of juveniles. The Eastern Solent remains reasonably stable. The Fal Estuary (Truro Oyster Fishery) was reported to be improving back to levels of the late 1970's in the April 2002 survey, but the fishery reported reduced landings compared to last year. In Scotland there is no evidence of reduced recruitment, but illegal fishing is known to be reducing some stocks. In Northern Ireland, Strangford Lough is showing much improved stocks following broodstock relaying and reclamation

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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 existing geographical distribution of the native oyster within UK inshore waters.

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

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	Target achieved	<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	Target achieved	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Partial or sample survey	Under consideration

T2: Expand the existing geographical distribution of the native oyster within UK inshore waters, where biologically feasible.

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

Target units:

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	<input type="text" value="No progress"/>	<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" value="No progress"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Informed guess"/>	<input type="text" value="No"/>

T3: Maintain the existing abundance of the native oyster within UK inshore waters.

Target start date:

Target end date:

Target units:

Progress

Target

Current

Accuracy

Monitoring

UK	Unknown				
E					
NI					
S					
W	Unknown			Informed guess	No

T4: Increase the abundance of the native oyster within UK inshore waters, where biologically feasible.

Target start date:	1999
Target end date:	
Target units:	

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	Unknown				
E					

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	Unknown	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Informed guess	No

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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 dramatic reduction in stock abundance seen in the middle of the last century is attributed mainly to over-exploitation following the increased demand that accompanied improved rail transport.
- 2.2 The American oyster drill *Urosalpinx cinerea* and the slipper limpet *Crepidula fornicata* were introduced with *Crassostrea virginica* from North America around 1900. *Urosalpinx* is a predator alongside indigenous species such as crabs, starfish, dog whelks, shell boring worms and sponges. *Crepidula* is a filter feeder that deposits pseudofaeces and creates 'mussel mud'. This mud degrades the grounds and hinders recruitment, but dead *Crepidula* shell

provides culch upon which oyster settle.

- 2.3 Severe winters, such as those experienced in 1947 and 1963, caused high mortalities in the UK, particularly on the east coast where stock levels have not recovered to the pre-1963 levels.
- 2.4 The parasitic protozoan *Bonamia ostreae* has caused massive mortalities in France, from whence it was introduced, and in the Netherlands, Spain, Iceland and England. Another protozoan parasite, *Marteilia refringens*, has also been found in French stocks but hitherto it has not affected UK stocks.
- 2.5 TBT (tri-butyl tin) anti-fouling paints used on ships and leisure craft in the early 1980s caused stunted growth and probably affected reproductive capacity.
- 2.6 There are many other factors that affect oyster stock abundance, most contributing to the high variability of recruitment: temperature, food supply, hydrodynamic containment in a favourable environment, anthropogenic effects (eg coastal development, waste disposal). Also spawning stock density or biomass may be too low in many areas to ensure synchronous spawning or sufficient larval production for successful settlement.

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	Changes in native species dynamics Disease (pathogens / parasites)
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Habitat loss / degradation - fisheries Boat anchoring
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Habitat loss / degradation - infrastructure development Housing infrastructure
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Harvesting Overfishing
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Intrinsic Factors Low population density / size

- Invasive/non-native species (directly affecting species) | Competition
- Invasive/non-native species (directly affecting species) | Disease (pathogens / parasites)
- Pollution - freshwater | Industrial / commercial
- Pollution - land | Domestic waste disposal
- Pollution - marine | 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:
Research, survey and information Habitat creation/restoration techniques poorly understood	<input type="checkbox"/> UK <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> NI <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> W
Solution:	Solution type:

Research into best material for

Able to resolve:

Constraint 2:

Constraint keyword:

Country:

Species and habitat management | Species population size decrease

UK E NI S
 W

Solution:

Solution type:

Native oysters in Wales are harvested in areas where numbers are dramatically reduced in comparison to historical levels

Management

Able to resolve:

Constraint 3:

Constraint keyword:

Country:

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:

- Association of Scottish Shellfish Growers
- Association of Sea Fisheries Committees
- Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science

- C-Mar, Queens University Belfast
- Colchester Council
- Countryside Council for Wales
- Crown Estate
- English Nature
- Marine Conservation Society
- Northern Ireland Fishermen's Federation
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- Sea Fish Industry Authority
- Shellfish Association of Great Britain
- 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.

9. Linkages to LBAPs

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



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.)

<input type="checkbox"/> 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): CCW has links with both LBAPS and NOSAP

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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:

Broodstock have been laid in the Beaulieu Estuary which provides larvae for the Western Solent
Funding has been obtained for a major study on the immune system of native oysters

UK E NI S W

Keyword:

Species and habitat management | Stocking level improvement

Success 2:

Description:

CCW commissioned project to look at distribution and abundance of oysters in known localities in Wales

Country:

UK E NI S W

Keyword:

Research, survey and information | Baseline survey - achieved or started

Success 3:

Description:

Country:

<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> UK	<input type="checkbox"/> E	<input type="checkbox"/> NI	<input type="checkbox"/> S	<input type="checkbox"/> W
Keyword:					
<input type="text"/>					

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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"/>		
