

## Grouped plan for baleen whales ()

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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	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Unknown. No surveys have been made that can ascribe population estimates to individual countries nor with the UK and Ireland as a whole
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		Information only available for baleen w hales the North Atlantic.
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 current range of baleen whales.

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

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	Unknown				
E					
NI					
S					
W					

**T2: In the short term, maintain the current abundance of baleen whales.**

Target start date:

Target end date:

Target units:

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	Unknown				

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 long term (over the next 20 years), increase the baleen whale population ranges around the UK, if biologically feasible.**

Target start date:

1999

Target end date:

ongoing

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"/>

**T4: In the long term (over the next 20 years), increase the baleen whale population sizes around the UK, if biologically feasible.**

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"/>
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"/>

## 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 A current factor causing loss or decline is the continuing commercial whaling for minke in the north Atlantic by Norway. Norway resumed commercial whaling in 1993 under formal objection to the IWC moratorium which was introduced in 1986. Norway set quotas of 425, 580 and 671 minke whales for the north Atlantic in 1996, 1997 and 1998 respectively, with 178 of the 1998 quota allocated to the northern North Sea (outside UK waters).
- 2.2 Other factors causing loss or decline are not well understood. Concerns have been raised about acoustic disturbance and contaminants. Contaminants, including organochlorines, may affect the reproductive potential or cause immune suppression in marine mammals, including baleen whales. Demonstrating such effects is extremely difficult, as controlled experiments are generally impossible. Concerns have also been expressed that intensive levels of fishing round the UK may have affected the abundance or availability of marine mammals' prey species, especially for the more piscivorous species, including minke whales. Again, the difficulty in obtaining experimental evidence of such effects means that they are at present speculative.
- 2.3 Seismic survey activity in the Atlantic Frontier (continental shelf break north and west of the British Isles) has increased since 1994. This is also an area frequented by many whale species. Most of the seismic sound energy generated is at frequencies below the main hearing range of 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. Entanglement in fishing gear is known in western Atlantic (right and humpback) and has been recorded recently

in Scottish waters (humpback). It is not, however, believed to be a major problem.

2.4 In the North Atlantic, collisions with shipping are thought to be one of the most significant factors impeding the recovery of the northern right whale population. Although currently extremely rare in the eastern North Atlantic, the possibility of right whale collisions with shipping could be a potential cause for concern if recovery seems possible. Other species of baleen whale seem not to be significantly affected in this way although there are recent records of at least two minke whales being killed as a result of collisions with shipping in UK waters.

2.5 Global climate change may also have an effect on whales, but any impacts are difficult to predict.

## 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   Collisions with boats
<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	Harvesting   Overfishing
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Human disturbance   Acoustic disturbance / damage to marine animals
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Pollution - atmospheric   Global warming / sea-level rise
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Pollution - freshwater   Industrial / commercial

## 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>
Research, survey and information   Baseline survey - required	<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>
SCANS II	
<b>Able to resolve:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Constraint 2:</b>	
<b>Constraint keyword:</b>	<b>Country:</b>

Research, survey and information   Autecology - poor know ledge	<input 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>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Able to resolve:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Constraint 3:</b>	
<b>Constraint keyword:</b>	<b>Country:</b>
Research, survey and information   Impacts/ threats - little understanding	<input 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>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Able to resolve:</b>	<input 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.

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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"/>	Brixham Seawatch
<input type="checkbox"/>	CEFAS
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ceredigion County Council
<input type="checkbox"/>	Countryside Council for Wales
<input type="checkbox"/>	Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (IOM)
- Department of Culture, Media and Sport
- Department of Trade and Industry
- English Nature
- Environment Agency
- Environment and Heritage Service
- Environmental Investigation Agency
- Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Herpetological Conservation Trust
- HM Customs & Excise
- Insitute of Zoology
- International Fund for Animal Welfare
- Marine Conservation Society

- National Assembly for Wales
- Natural History Museum
- Scottish Agricultural College
- Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Division
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- Sea Fish Industry Authority
- Sea Mammal Research Unit
- Seawatch Foundation
- Shetland Fishermen's Association
- Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society

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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:

Guidelines to minimise 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 2:

Description:

Country:

Guidelines aimed at minimising disturbance to cetaceans from w/hale watching operations and minimising disturbance to cetaceans from recreation at sea	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UK <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> NI <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> W
<b>Keyword:</b> Communication   Best practice guidance	
<b>Success 3:</b>	
<b>Description:</b> <input type="text"/>	<b>Country:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> UK <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> NI <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> W
<b>Keyword:</b> <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:

<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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