

**European Community Directive  
on the Conservation of Natural Habitats  
and of Wild Fauna and Flora  
(92/43/EEC)**


**Second Report by the United Kingdom under  
Article 17  
on the implementation of the Directive  
from January 2001 to December 2006**

**Conservation status assessment for  
Species:  
S1163 - *Cottus gobio* - Bullhead.**

The information in this assessment corresponds to the "species fact sheet" submitted by the UK to the European Union in February 2008 (second and final submission). Please note that this is a section of the UK's report. For the complete report visit <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/article17>

Please cite as: Joint Nature Conservation Committee. 2007. *Second Report by the UK under Article 17 on the implementation of the Habitats Directive from January 2001 to December 2006*. Peterborough: JNCC. Available from: [www.jncc.gov.uk/article17](http://www.jncc.gov.uk/article17)

**Species Name: *Cottus gobio***

<b>1. National level</b>	
Species Code	S1163
Member State	United Kingdom
Biogeographic regions concerned within the Member state	ATL
1.1 Range map	 A map of the United Kingdom showing the distribution of Cottus gobio. The distribution is indicated by a solid grey shaded area covering the entire landmass of Great Britain and Ireland, as well as the Channel Islands and the Shetland Islands. The map shows the outlines of the islands and the surrounding sea.

## 1.2 Distribution map



## 2. Biogeographic level

### 2.1 Biogeographic region

ATL

### 2.2 Published sources and/or websites

Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquatic Science (CEFAS) & Environment Agency. 2006. Annual assessment of salmon stocks and fisheries in England and Wales, 2005. Cardiff: Environment Agency.

DAVIES, C.E., SHELLEY, J., HARDING, P.T., MCLEAN, I.F.G., GARDINER, R. AND PEIRSON, G. 2004. Freshwater Fishes in Britain - the species and their distribution, 176pp. Colchester: Harley Books.

Environment Agency 2004. Surface waters at risk of not achieving good ecological status under the Water Framework Directive. Available via the internet at [http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commondata/acrobat/sw\\_at\\_risk\\_v1\\_1007365.pdf](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commondata/acrobat/sw_at_risk_v1_1007365.pdf)

JACKSON, D.L. & MCLEOD, C.R. (Editors), 2000. Handbook on the UK status of EC Habitats Directive interest features: provisional data on the UK

	<p>distribution and extent of Annex I habitats and the UK distribution and population size of Annex II species, Revised 2002, JNCC Report 312, 180 pages, ISSN 0963 8091 www.jncc.gov.uk/page-2447</p> <p>MAITLAND, P.S. 1972. Key to British Freshwater Fishes. Ambleside: Freshwater Biological Association.</p> <p>MCLEOD, C.R., YEO, M., BROWN, A.E., BURN, A.J., HOPKINS, J.J. AND WAY, S.F. (eds.) (2007) The Habitats Directive: selection of Special Areas of Conservation in the UK. 2nd edn. Peterborough: Joint Nature Conservation Committee. www.jncc.gov.uk/SACselection</p> <p>TOMLINSON, M.L. &amp; PERROW, M.R. 2003. Ecology of the Bullhead. Conserving Natura 2000 Rivers Ecology Series No. 4. Peterborough: English Nature</p> <p>Map Data Sources</p> <p>Biological Records Centre - Database for the Atlas of Freshwater Fishes; Dorset Environmental Records Centre - Dorset SW Pilot species dataset; SW Pilot Project BAP Species Inventory 2002 - Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre (via the NBN Gateway)</p>
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### 2.3 Range of species in the biogeographic region or marine region

2.3.1 Surface range of the species (sq km)	140005
2.3.2 Date of range determination	1990-2003
2.3.3 Quality of data concerning range	Good
2.3.4 Range trend	Stable (=)
2.3.5 Range trend magnitude (%)	Not applicable
2.3.6 Range trend period	1994-2006
2.3.7 Reasons for reported trend	Not applicable

### 2.4 Population

2.4.1 Population size estimation	Minimum	997	Maximum	997
	Units	Other Occupied 10-km squares		
2.4.2 Date of population estimation	2002			
2.4.3 Method used for population estimation	2 - Extrapolation from surveys of part of the population			
2.4.4 Quality of population data	Poor			
2.4.5 Population trend	Unknown (X)			
2.4.6 Population trend magnitude (%)	Not applicable			
2.4.7 Population trend period	1994-2006			
2.4.8 Reasons for reported trend	Not applicable			
2.4.9 Justification of % thresholds for trends (optional)	Not applicable			

2.4.10 Main pressures	200 - Fish and Shellfish Aquaculture; 300 - Sand and gravel extraction; 701 - water pollution; 811 - management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes; 830 - Canalisation; 850 - Modification of hydrographic functioning, general; 852 - modifying structures of inland water courses; 853 - management of water levels; 900 - Erosion; 910 - Silting up; 965 - predation; 971 - competition;
2.4.11 Threats	200 - Fish and Shellfish Aquaculture; 300 - Sand and gravel extraction; 701 - water pollution; 811 - management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes; 830 - Canalisation; 850 - Modification of hydrographic functioning, general; 852 - modifying structures of inland water courses; 853 - management of water levels; 900 - Erosion; 910 - Silting up; 965 - predation; 971 - competition;
<b>2.5 Habitat for the species in the biogeographic region or marine region</b>	
2.5 Habitats for the species	Although <i>C. gobio</i> can tolerate substantial habitat modification, the best populations tend to be found in semi-natural river reaches. Its key ecological requirements are good water quality; a stony substrate free from excessive siltation and sufficient cover from overhanging vegetation or woody debris. Habitat H3260 'Rivers with Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-batrachion vegetation' is a key habitat for this species in the UK. The introduced signal crayfish <i>Pacifastacus leniusculus</i> , which is now widespread in England, is a serious threat to <i>C. gobio</i> populations, and barriers to migration cause population fragmentation (Tomlinson & Perrow, 2003).
2.5.2 Area estimation (sq km)	Unknown
2.5.3 Date of estimation	05/2007
2.5.4 Quality of data	Poor
2.5.5 Trend of the habitat	Stable (=)
2.5.6 Trend period	1994-2006
2.5.7 Reasons for reported trend	Not applicable
<b>2.6 Future prospects</b>	
2.6 Future prospects for the species	Unknown
<b>2.7 Complementary information</b>	
2.7.1 Favourable reference range (sq km)	140005
2.7.2 Favourable reference population	
2.7.3 Suitable Habitat for the species	Unknown
2.7.4 Other relevant information	
<b>2.8 Conclusions</b> <i>(assessment of conservation status at end of reporting period)</i>	
(2.3) Range	(FV) - Favourable
(2.4) Population	(XX) - Unknown
(2.5) Habitat for the species	(XX) - Unknown
(2.6) Future prospects	(XX) - Unknown
Overall assessment	(XX) - Unknown

