

Reporting under the Habitat Regulations (as amended)¹

2019-2024

Conservation status assessment for the species:

S2028 - False killer whale
(*Pseudorca crassidens*)

United Kingdom



¹ Habitat Regulations (as amended):

- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), Regulation 9A
- The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), Regulation 6A
- Report under The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended), regulation 3ZA
- The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended), regulation 3ZA

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Important note - Please read

- The information in this document represents the United Kingdom Reporting under the Habitat Regulations (as amended)¹, for the period 2019-2024.
- It is based on supporting information provided by Joint Nature Conservation Committee and UK Country Nature Conservation Bodies (CNCBs), which is documented separately.
- The Habitats Regulations reporting 2019-2024 Approach Document provides details on how this supporting information contributed to the UK Report and the fields that were completed for each parameter.
- Map showing the distribution of the species is included.
- Explanatory notes (where provided) are included at the end. These provide additional audit trail information to that included within the assessments. Further underpinning explanatory notes are available in the related country reports.
- Some of the reporting fields have been left blank because either: (i) there was insufficient information to complete the field; (ii) completion of the field was not obligatory; and/or (iii) the field was not relevant to this species (section 12 National Site Network coverage for Annex II species).

Further details on the approach to the Habitats Regulations Reporting 2019-2024 are available on the [JNCC website](#).

Assessment Summary: False killer whale

Distribution Map

Distribution
False killer whale

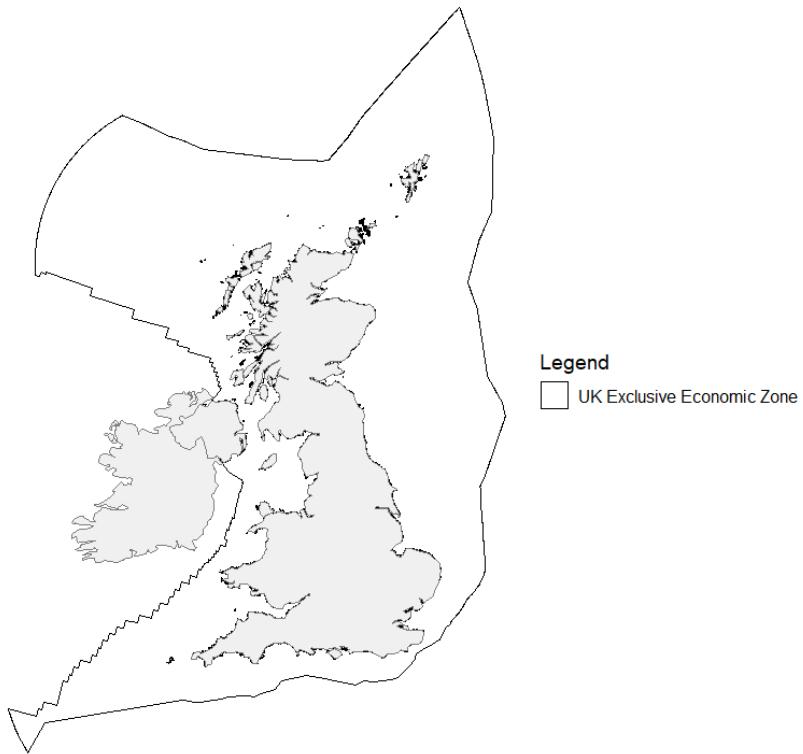


Figure 1: United Kingdom distribution map for S2028 - False killer whale (*Pseudorca crassidens*). The 50km grid square distribution map is based on available species records within the current reporting period.

Table 1: Table summarising the conservation status for S2028 - False killer whale (*Pseudorca crassidens*). Overall conservation status for species is based on assessments of range, population, habitat for the species, and future prospects.

Overall Conservation Status (see section 11)

Unknown (XX)

Breakdown of Overall Conservation Status

Range (see section 5)	Unknown (XX)
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Population (see section 6)	Unknown (XX)
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Habitat for the species (see section 7)	Unknown (XX)
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Future prospects (see section 10)	Unknown (XX)
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National Level

1. General information

1.1 Country	United Kingdom
1.2 Species code	S2028
1.3 Species scientific name	<i>Pseudorca crassidens</i>
1.4 Alternative species scientific name	
1.5 Common name	False killer whale
Annex(es)	IV

2. Maps

2.1 Sensitive species

2.2 Year or period

2.3 Distribution map

No

2.4 Distribution map; Method used

2.5 Additional information

There were no available records of false killer whale in UK EEZ within the reporting time period.

3. Information related to Annex V Species

3.1 Is the species taken in the wild / exploited?

3.2 What measures have been taken?

a) Regulations regarding access to property

b) Temporary or local prohibition on the taking of specimens in the wild and exploitation

c) Regulation of the periods and/or methods of taking specimens

d) Application of hunting and fishing rules which take account of the conservation of such populations

e) Establishment of a system of licences for taking specimens or of quotas

f) Regulation of the purchase, sale, offering for sale, keeping for sale, or transport for sale of specimens

g) Breeding in captivity of animal species as well as artificial propagation of plant species

Other measures

Other measures description

3.3: Hunting bag or quantity taken in the wild for Mammals and Acipenseridae (Fish)

a) Unit

Table 2: Quantity taken from the wild during the reporting period (see 3.3a for units). For species with defined hunting seasons, Season 1 refers to 2018/2019 (autumn 2018 to spring 2019), and Season 6 to 2023/2024. For species without hunting seasons, data are reported by calendar year: Year 1 is 2019, and Year 6 is 2024.

	Season/ year 1	Season/ year 2	Season/ year 3	Season/ year 4	Season/ year 5	Season/ year 6
b) Minimum	-	-	-	-	-	-
c) Maximum	-	-	-	-	-	-
d) Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-

3.4: Hunting bag or quantity taken in the wild; Method used

3.5: Additional information

No additional information

Biogeographical Level

4. Biogeographical and marine regions

4.1 Biogeographical or marine region where the species occurs MATL

4.2 Sources of information

See section 14 References

5. Range

5.1 Surface area (km²)

5.2 Short-term trend; Period

5.3 Short-term trend; Direction Unknown

5.4 Short-term trend; Magnitude

a) Estimated minimum

b) Estimated maximum

c) Pre-defined range

d) Unknown

e) Type of estimate

f) Rate of decrease

5.5 Short-term trend; Method used Insufficient or no data available

5.6 Long-term trend; Period

5.7 Long-term trend; Direction Unknown

5.8 Long-term trend; Magnitude

a) Minimum

b) Maximum

c) Rate of decrease

5.9 Long-term trend; Method used	Insufficient or no data available
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5.10 Favourable Reference Range (FRR)

- a) Area (km²)**
- b) Pre-defined increment**
- c) Unknown** Yes
- d) Method used**
- e) Quality of information**

5.11 Change and reason for change in surface area of range

- a) Change** No
- b) Genuine change**
- c) Improved knowledge or more accurate data**
- d) Different method**
- e) No information**
- f) Other reason**
- g) Main reason**

5.12 Additional information

No additional information

6. Population

6.1 Year or period

6.2 Population size (in reporting unit)

- a) Unit** number of individuals
- b) Minimum**
- c) Maximum**
- d) Best single value**

6.3 Type of estimate

6.4 Quality of extrapolation to reporting unit

6.5 Additional population size (using population unit other than reporting unit)

a) Unit

b) Minimum

c) Maximum

d) Best single value

e) Type of estimate

6.6 Population size; Method used Insufficient or no data available

6.7 Short-term trend; Period

6.8 Short-term trend; Direction Unknown

6.9 Short-term trend; Magnitude

a) Estimated minimum

b) Estimated maximum

c) Pre-defined range

d) Unknown

e) Type of estimate

f) Rate of decrease

6.10 Short-term trend; Method used Insufficient or no data available

6.11 Long-term trend; Period

6.12 Long-term trend; Direction Unknown

6.13 Long-term trend; Magnitude

a) Minimum

b) Maximum

c) Confidence interval

d) Rate of decrease

6.14 Long-term trend; Method used Insufficient or no data available

6.15 Favourable Reference Population (FRP)

a) Population size

aii) Unit

b) Pre-defined increment

c) Unknown Yes

d) Method used

e) Quality of information

6.16 Change and reason for change in population size

a) Change No

b) Genuine change

c) Improved knowledge or more accurate data

d) Different method

e) No information

f) Other reason

g) Main reason

6.17 Additional information

No additional information

6.18 Age structure, mortality and reproduction deviation Unknown

7. Habitat for the species

7.1 Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat (for long-term survival)

a) Is area of occupied habitat sufficient?	Unknown
b) Is quality of occupied habitat sufficient?	Unknown
c) If No or Unknown, is there a sufficiently large area of unoccupied habitat of suitable quality?	Unknown

7.2 Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat; Method used

a) Sufficiency of area of occupied habitat; Method used	Insufficient or no data available
b) Sufficiency of quality of occupied habitat; Method used	Insufficient or no data available

7.3 Short-term trend; Period

7.4 Short-term trend; Direction	Unknown
7.5 Short-term trend; Method used	Insufficient or no data available

7.6 Long-term trend; Period

7.7 Long-term trend; Direction	Unknown
7.8 Long-term trend; Method used	Insufficient or no data available

7.9 Additional information

No additional information

8. Main pressures

8.1 Characterisation of pressures

Table 3: Pressures affecting the species, including timing and importance/impact ranking. Pressures are defined as factors acting currently and/or during the reporting period (2019–2024). Rankings are: High (direct/immediate influence and/or large spatial extent) and Medium (moderate direct/immediate influence, mainly indirect and/or regional extent).

Pressure	Timing	Ranking
PX02: Threats and pressures from outside the Member State	Ongoing and likely to be in the future	Medium (M)

8.2 Sources of information

See section 14 References

8.3 Additional information

No additional information

9. Conservation measures

9.1: Status of measures

a) Are measures needed? No

b) Indicate the status of measures

9.2 Main purpose of the measures taken

9.3 Location of the measures taken

9.4 Response to measures

9.5 List of main conservation measures

Table 4: Key conservation measures addressing current pressures and/or anticipated threats during the next two reporting periods (2025–2036). Measures are ranked by importance/impact: High (direct/immediate influence and/or large spatial extent) and Medium (moderate direct/immediate influence, mainly indirect and/or regional extent).

Conservation measure	Ranking
No conservation measures	

9.6 Additional information

10. Future prospects

10.1a Future trends of parameters

ai) Range	Unknown
bi) Population	Unknown
ci) Habitat for the species	Unknown

10.1b Future prospects of parameters

aii) Range	Unknown
bii) Population	Unknown
cii) Habitat for the species	Unknown

10.2 Additional information

No additional information

11. Conclusions

11.1 Range	Unknown (XX)
11.2 Population	Unknown (XX)
11.3 Habitat for the species	Unknown (XX)
11.4 Future prospects	Unknown (XX)
11.5 Overall assessment of Conservation Status	Unknown (XX)
11.6 Overall trend in Conservation Status	Unknown

11.7 Change and reason for change in conservation status

a) Change	No
b) Genuine change	
c) Improved knowledge or more accurate data	

d) Different method

e) No information

f) Other reason

g) Main reason

11.7 Change and reason for change in conservation status trend

a) Change No

b) Genuine change

**c) Improved knowledge or
more accurate data**

d) Different method

e) No information

f) Other reason

g) Main reason

11.8 Additional information

Conclusion on Range reached because: (i) the short-term trend direction in Range surface area is unknown and (ii) the current Range surface area is unknown.

Conclusion on Population reached because: (i) the best estimate for population size is unknown; and (ii) the short-term trend direction in Population size is unknown.

Conclusion on Habitat for the species reached because: (i) it is unknown whether the area of habitat is sufficiently large; (ii) it is unknown if habitat quality is sufficient for the long-term survival of the species; and (iii) the short-term trend in area and quality of habitat is unknown.

Conclusion on Future prospects reached because: (i) the Future prospects for Range are unknown; (ii) the Future prospects for Population are unknown; and (iii) the Future prospects for Habitat for the species are unknown.

Overall assessment of Conservation Status is Unknown because two or more of the conclusions are Unknown.

Overall trend in Conservation Status is based on the combination of the shortterm trends for Range - unknown, Population - unknown, and Habitat for the species - unknown.

12. UK National Site Network (pSCIs, SCIs, SACs) coverage for Annex II species

12.1 Population size inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network

- a) Unit
- b) Minimum
- c) Maximum
- d) Best single value

12.2 Type of estimate

12.3 Population size inside the network; Method used

12.4 Short-term trend of population size within the network; Direction

12.5 Short-term trend of population size within the network; Method used

12.6 Short-term trend of habitat for the species inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network; Direction

12.7 Short-term trend of habitat for the species inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network; Method used

12.8 Additional information

No additional information

13. Complementary information

13.1 Justification of percentage thresholds for trends

No justification information

13.2 Trans-boundary assessment

No trans-boundary assessment information

13.2 Other relevant information

No other relevant information

14. References

Biogeographical and marine regions

4.2 Sources of information

Cáceres-Saez, I., Haro, D., Blank, O., Aguayo-Lobo, A., Dougnac, C., Arredondo, C., Cappozzo, H.L. and Ribeiro Guevara, S., 2021. Trace elements in subantarctic false killer whale (*Pseudorca crassidens*) tissues, including the skin as an offshore bioindicator. *Environmental Science and Pollution Research*, 28, pp.31746-31757.

Cáceres-Saez, I., Haro, D., Blank, O., Lobo, A.A., Dougnac, C., Arredondo, C., Cappozzo, H.L. and Guevara, S.R., 2018. High status of mercury and selenium in false killer whales (*Pseudorca crassidens*, Owen 1846) stranded on Southern South America: A possible toxicological concern?. *Chemosphere*, 199, pp.637-646.

Baird, R.W., 2018. *Pseudorca crassidens* (errata version published in 2019). The IUCN red list of threatened species 2018: e. T18596A145357488 [online]

Delgado-Suarez, I., Lozano-Bilbao, E., Hardisson, A., Paz, S. and Gutiérrez, Á.J., 2023. Metal and trace element concentrations in cetaceans worldwide: A review. *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 192, p.115010.

NOAA. 2021. Final Endangered Species Act Recovery Plan for the Main Hawaiian Islands Insular False Killer Whale (*Pseudorca crassidens*) Distinct Population Segment. October 2021. NOAA Fisheries, Pacific Islands Regional Office, Honolulu, HI 96818. 69 pages. Available at: <https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/2021-11/mhi-ifkw-final-recovery-plan-508-signed-202110.pdf> [Accessed 07 Nov 2024]

Baykan, D., 2019. Quiet Please!: Sound as an Essential Feature in Critical Habitat Designation for the Main Hawaiian Islands Insular False Killer Whale (Doctoral dissertation, Monterey California. Naval Postgraduate School).

Main pressures

8.2 Sources of information

No sources of information

15. Explanatory Notes

Field label	Note
8.1: Characterisation of pressures	PX02 Threats and pressures from outside the Member State. False killer whales are considered a vagrant species in UK waters and thus, the main threats and pressures are outside of the Member State. Current evidence suggests that the main threats faced are bycatch/entanglement in fisheries and competition with fisheries for prey, given the large overlap in false killer whale diet with fisheries targets (e.g., tuna and billfishes) and depredation of both catch and bait by false killer whales (Baird, 2018; NOAA Fisheries, 2021). Exposure to contaminants is also thought to pose a threat to the species; several studies have indicated that false killer whales are carrying high contaminant loads which exceed toxic thresholds with reproductive failure, immunosuppression, and decline in general fitness highlighted as potential consequences (Caceres-Saez et al., 2018; 2021; Baird, 2018; Delgado-Suarez et al., 2023). Evidence from other threats is limited with no specific information for false killer whales but anthropogenic noise and climate change (e.g., increases in ocean temperature, low productivity zones, ocean acidification and disease vectors) have also been noted as potential concerns (NOAA Fisheries, 2021; Baykan, 2019).