Bridging the gap between policy and knowledge on Biodiversity in Europe

Call for Experts (CfE 1/2025)

TOPIC:

Blueprint for site-specific conservation objectives for marine Natura 2000 sites in European sea basins

July 2025

Responses by 23 July, 2025

Eklipse is inviting experts to join an **Expert Working Group (EWG)** to contribute to answering a request on developing a "Blueprint for site-specific conservation objectives for marine Natura 2000 sites in European sea basins". The results of this request will directly support the implementation of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives (nature directives), as well as the Nature Restoration Regulation, helping to define effective conservation measures that improve marine biodiversity. This request was put forward by the European Commission's Directorate General for Environment (EC-DG ENV), and it is funded by the EU Horizon Europe Project "Connecting biodiversity knowledge and decision-making" – BioAgora. For further information about the request, see the Eklipse website under Request > Site-specific conservation objectives.

The request will review the knowledge and methodologies for setting site-specific conservation objectives and develop a blueprint for setting site-specific conservation objectives for marine habitats and species for which Natura 2000 sites must be designated under the nature directives. The EWG will comprise a group of about 8-10 people across the EU and elsewhere with diverse and complementary knowledge synthesis and/or participatory skills rooted in biodiversity and marine biology and ecology of habitats and species, but with multi- and trans-disciplinary skills and broad geographical coverage – see action 5. The EWG will closely interact with relevant members of the Eklipse governance bodies to ensure appropriate methodological choices and uptake of outputs, as well as to guide them through the ethical and robust Eklipse process. Selected experts will have to comply with the Eklipse Code of Ethics to integrate the EWG.

In order to create this EWG, we are seeking expressions of interest from experts who have experience in knowledge synthesis techniques (e.g., rapid evidence assessment, scoping reviews) and/or participatory methods, (e.g. structured decision making, joint fact finding, multi-criteria decision analysis). Experts should be working in the biodiversity or marine biology and ecology areas and have knowledge about the ecological requirements of marine habitats and species. Both academic and practice experts are welcome to apply. Before applying, please consider the questions below. Please consider the list of disciplines/expertise as non-exhaustive, as we are happy to consider others that you may think are relevant to answer this request.

- Are you interested in contributing directly to policy-relevant processes in your field of expertise, particularly in support of implementing the EU Birds and Habitats Directives and the new EU Nature Restoration Regulation?

- Would you like to expand your network?

- Are you interested in collaborating in a transdisciplinary and multi-cultural setting?

- Are you an expert in one or several of the following disciplines?
    - Marine biology and ecology
    - Environmental monitoring and assessment
    - Marine conservation and policy practitioners
    - European marine policy (especially Marine Strategy Framework Directive)
    - Methodology development and modelling
    - Marine Natura 2000 site management
    - Birds and Habitats Directive implementation
    - Conservation biology and planning
- Do you have direct experience in one or more of the Eklipse recognised methods (https://eklipse.eu/methods/), in particular knowledge synthesis (e.g. rapid evidence assessment, scoping review) and/or participatory research (e.g. structured decision making, joint fact finding, multi-criteria decision analysis)?

- Can you or your employer allow you to devote at least 10% of your time (approximately 4 hours per week on average) to helping support this project on a voluntary basis?

- Are you able to work on this project over the summer period considering the time frame described in Table 2?

Further information on the selection criteria can be found in section 3.

Please read the information below to apply to the call.

Important dates and information:

How to apply: https://eklipse.eu/calls/
Deadline to apply: 23 July 2025, before midnight (CEST)
Expert Working Group (EWG) selection: week of 4 August 2025
Online kick-off meeting and training of EWG: 2 sessions of 2 hours each from 11 August 2025
Expected duration of the process: 5–6 months for blueprint development

The participation in this EWG will require approximately 10% of your time (see Eklipse Guidance note n°6). As in similar science-policy processes, Eklipse activities rely on in-kind contribution. Please make sure you can commit to this amount of time over the period of July till December before applying.

Milestone: The DG Environment is planning a workshop on marine site-specific conservation objectives in October/November which will gather member state's authorities and experts working on setting conservation objectives for marine Natura 2000 sites. It is not expected that the entire work will be completed ahead of this workshop, however a blueprint for setting site-specific conservation objectives for a selection of habitats and species (covering ecologically different habitats and species, also with regional variation) should be integrated into background documents for the workshop, with the discussion then informing the finalisation of the work.

For further information on the request, please see the Eklipse website under request > "Site-specific conservation objectives"

Should you require any further information or support, please contact the **Eklipse Management Body (EMB) at emb@eklipse.eu**

1. Request to be addressed by this call

Background to the request:

The aim of the request is to **support Member States in setting scientifically sound site-specific conservation objectives** for marine habitats and species protected under the **Birds and Habitats Directives (BHD) within Natura 2000**

sites, contributing to the protection and recovery of marine biodiversity across Europe and the implementation of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation.

European countries must establish site-specific conservation objectives for species and habitats protected in the sites (marine habitats and species listed in Annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive and seabirds listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive and regularly occurring migratory species), as well as establish and implement the necessary conservation measures to reach those objectives.[1]

Site-specific conservation objectives for a Natura 2000 site are a set of specified objectives to be met at site-level to ensure that it meaningfully contributes to the achievement of favourable conservation status of species and habitats at the national and EU biogeographical levels. In other words, the overarching objective of the Directive is translated into site-level conservation objectives. These conservation objectives must be defined **using attributes and targets that are based on parameters set out in the Habitats Directive for defining favourable conservation status**.

Conservation objectives should reflect the ecological requirements needed to maintain or restore a habitat type or species at favourable conservation status. These requirements include key biotic and abiotic conditions—such as habitat area, structure, functions, and typical species composition for habitats; as well as population levels, habitat quality, and availability of suitable habitat and resources for species. For examples of site-specific conservation objectives from different Member States, see Annex II at the end of this document. Site-specific conservation objectives typically contain a set of most important attributes related to these ecological requirements and their target values to be maintained or achieved.

The request recognizes that, despite existing guidance from the European Commission, many Natura 2000 sites—especially marine ones—still lack **a clear blueprint to guide the definition of conservation objectives**. This is due to challenges in defining the ecological requirements of habitats and species, their current status, and identifying potential threats, which pose compliance issues and hinder progress to achieve both EU and global conservation targets.

To address this, the request aims to gather and synthesise knowledge on 1a) existing good practice approaches for establishing site-specific objectives, and 1b) the ecological needs of marine species and habitats for which the Natura 2000 sites must be designated and most important attributes that should be used to set the respective conservation objectives. This includes identifying a

[1] For a list of species and habitats see Annex I and Annex II at the end of this document.

set of essential attributes that need to be assessed for different habitats and species when implementing the blueprint, as well as best practices and approaches for setting measurable target values for these attributes. To this end, a preliminary review on the topic has already been performed by Eklipse for Belgium, Ireland and Greece. At a second level, the request then aims 2) to develop a **blueprint for drafting site-specific conservation objectives**. Experts are invited to identify any additional aspects they consider relevant for inclusion in the blueprint (e.g. forms of knowledge needed; governance processes, existence/absence of threats, etc).

This request is focused on marine Natura 2000 sites and habitats and species which are listed in the Annexes below.

2. Support provided by Eklipse

Eklipse team: The Expert Working Group (EWG) will be supported in all steps by the Eklipse Management Body (EMB) in logistics, communication, documentation (via the Eklipse website), and dissemination of products required for this request. The working group will be supported thematically and strategically by the Knowledge Coordination Body (KCB) and the Methods Expert Group (MEG) on the choice and use of knowledge synthesis methods.

Financial support: Eklipse activities rely on in-kind contributions as in similar science-policy processes.

The benefits for experts and institutions arise from networking in and beyond the group, capacity building and the visibility of expertise to policy and society via the products. Eklipse will actively support the visibility of experts and their institution's contributions. In addition, travel costs to potential events hosted physically by Eklipse will be covered via Eklipse funds as needed (depending on travel restrictions following lockdown development).

Technical support: Access to literature databases will be facilitated if needed. Eklipse will cover the layout, printing, and dissemination of interim and final products.

3. Eligibility and applicant information

a. Selection criteria for the composition of the Expert Working Group (EWG)

The EWG is the group of selected experts that will be in charge of answering this request "Blueprint for site-specific conservation objectives for marine Natura 2000 sites in European sea basins" based on the Eklipse process. They are individual experts who will nominate themselves following the call for experts. The final selection of the EWG will be carried out by the Knowledge Coordination

Body (KCB), which will ensure the best possible coverage in terms of disciplines, geographic and gender balance (see our Guidance note 7c. "Preparing and managing Calls for Experts" for more information). The selected EWG will consist of scientists and practitioners and will be supported by dedicated members from the KCB, the MEG and the EMB (see Guidance Note 6. "Expert working groups (EWGs)"). The EWG should cover all relevant disciplines, including natural, social, economic and planning sciences. Gender balance and geographical diversity of EU countries will be considered in the selection. KCB may decide to open a follow-up, more tailored Call for Experts to this one to complement the EWG with additional expertise.

The working group is expected to have between 8 and 10 experts.

b. Selection criteria for individual experts

1. The individual experts that nominate themselves should have demonstrated expertise or experience in one or several of the following disciplines:

- Marine biology and ecology
- Environmental monitoring and assessment
- Marine conservation and policy practitioners
- Marine spatial planning
- European marine policy (especially Marine Strategy Framework Directive)
- Modelling methodology development
- Marine Natura 2000 site management
- Birds and Habitats Directive implementation
- Conservation biology and planning

2. Some individual experts of the EWG should have either direct experience in knowledge synthesis or experience in qualitative research. Specific techniques/experiences that are especially valued include:

- Systematic and/or Rapid Evidence Assessment
- Systematic mapping
- Structured Decision Making
- Multi-criteria decision analysis
- Delphi
- Joint-fact finding
- Semi-structured interviews
- Focus groups
- Workshops.

It is noted that the methods to be used for answering this request will be decided by the EWG after its formation.

3. Have sufficient availability to actively engage in the request process, including regular meetings and collaborative work over the expected duration of the EWG's activities.

4. Experience in European policy processes will be regarded during the selection process.

5. Have a good working knowledge of English, as all discussions, documents, and meetings will be conducted in English.

6. Important information:

- Eklipse highly encourages all applicants to provide a letter of support from their organisation.
- Selected Experts will have to comply with the principles and rules of Eklipse, e.g. conflicts of interest policy, Code of Conduct, etc. (for more details, see the Eklipse website under "Ethical framework").
- Invited participants to the Focus Group, as well as Eklipse KCB and EMB members, are not eligible. Please note that two members of Eklipse MEG with relevant knowledge synthesis methods will be selected from the MEG team to integrate the EWG but will not need to apply to the Call for Experts. Please note that the MEG is composed of experts selected for a mandate of 3 years to integrate EWGs.

a. Data and information policy

All results will be made publicly available through the Eklipse website, and transparent procedures will apply, following Creative Commons Agreement 4.01, which includes the reference to authorship and involvement.

b. Information to provide

The Eklipse application form should be completed, including a list of relevant publications outlining relevant experience on the topic and details of experience in previous assessments or knowledge synthesis processes.

Eklipse highly encourages all applicants to provide a letter of support from your organisation.

4. Application and notification of results

a. How to apply

The Eklipse application form can be found on the website under "Open calls". The form should be completed by midnight on July 23, 2025. Should you require any further information, do not hesitate to contact us at emb@eklipse.eu

b. Announcement of the results

Successful applicants will be notified directly by Eklipse Management Body (EMB) during the week of August 4, 2025. As soon as they accept the nomination, selected experts' names will be made public on the Eklipse website.

The Eklipse Scoping Team

Maud Borie - Eklipse KCB Focal point, King's College London.

Olga Ameixa - Eklipse KCB Focal point, University of Aveiro and Centre for Environmental and Marine Studies (CESAM)

Ute Jacob - Eklipse KCB Co-chair, Helmholtz Institute for Functional Marine Biodiversity, University of Oldenburg (HIFMB).

Nils Bunnefeld - Eklipse KCB Co-chair, University of Stirling, UK.

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Josie Antonucci - Eklipse MEG Focal point, Helmholtz Institute for Functional Marine Biodiversity (HIFMB)/AWI.Germany

Spyridoula Ntemiri - Eklipse MEG Co-chair, Green Fund, Greece.

And the Eklipse Management Body.

ANNEXES

ANNEX I: LIST OF MARINE HABITATS AND SPECIES

Habitats listed in Annex I

Open sea and tidal areas natural habitats types of community interest whose conservation requires the designation of special areas of conservation (SAC's)

1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time

1120 * Posidonia beds (Posidonion oceanicae)

1130 Estuaries

1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide

1150 * Coastal lagoons

1160 Large shallow inlets and bays

1170 Reefs

1180 Submarine structures made by leaking gases

8330 Submerged or partially submerged sea caves

Species of community interest listed in Annex II (18 marine species, including fish, reptile, cetacean, and seal species) whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

1349 Tursiops truncatus

1351 Phocoena phocoena

1364 Halichoerus grypus

1365 Phoca vitulina

1366 Monachus monachus

1938 Phoca hispida bottnica

1224 Caretta caretta

1095 Petromyzon marinus

1099 Lampetra fluviatilis

1100 Acipenser naccarii

1101 Acipenser sturio

1102 Alosa alosa

1103 Alosa fallax

1151 Aphanius iberus

1152 Aphanius fasciatus

1153 Valencia hispanica

1154 Pomatoschistus canestrini

1992 Valencia letourneuxi

Seabirds and waterbird species for which Special Protection Areas (SPAs) should be considered.

Gavia stellata

Gavia arctica

Gavia immer

Podiceps cristatus

Podiceps grisegena

Podiceps auritus

Podiceps nigricollis

Fulmarus glacialis

Pterodroma feae

Pterodroma madeira

Bulweria bulwerii

Calonectris diomedea

Puffinus griseus

Puffinus assimilis

Puffinus puffinus

Puffinus mauretanicus

Puffinus yelkouan

Hydrobates pelagicus

Oceanodroma leucorhoa

Oceanodroma castro

Pelagodroma marina

Morus bassanus

Phalacrocorax carbo

Phalacrocorax aristotelis

Phalacrocorax a. desmarestii

Phalaropus lobatus

Phalaropus fulicarius

Aythya marila

Somateria mollissima

Polysticta stelleri

Melanitta nigra

Melanitta fusca

Clangula hyemalis

Bucephala clangula

Mergus serrator

Mergus merganser

Stercorarius skua

Stercorarius pomarinus

Stercorarius parasiticus

Stercorarius longicaudus

Larus genei

Larus ridibundus

Larus canus

Larus melanocephalus

Larus audouini

Larus marinus

Larus fuscus

Larus argentatus

Larus michahellis

Larus hyperboreus

Larus glaucoides

Larus minutus

Rissa tridactyla

Sterna caspia

Sterna albifrons

Sterna nilotica

Sterna sandvicensis

Sterna paradiseae

Sterna hirundo

Sterna dougallii

Cepphus grylle

Fratercula arctica

Alle alle

Alca torda

Uria aalge

Uria aalge ibericus

ANNEX II: EXAMPLES OF CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES FOR MARINE SITES

i) Ireland

A list of attributes on habitat area, habitat distribution and community distribution, with associated targets, was drawn up in order to maintain the favourable conservation condition of Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time (Habitat 1110) in the Natura 2000 site Blackwater Bank SAC (IE0002953) in Ireland[2].

Conservation objectives for: Blackwater Bank SAC [002953]			
1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time			
To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time in Blackwater Bank SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	The permanent habitat area is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes. See map 3	Habitat area was estimated as 7310 ha using the Carnsore Point to Wicklow Head Admiralty Chart (no. 1787-0)
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	The distribution of sandbanks is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes. See map 3	Distribution established using the Carnsore Point to Wicklow Head Admiralty Chart (no. 1787-0)

[2] Source: https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO002953.pdf

Community distribution	Hectares	Conserve the following community type in a natural condition: Sand with *Nephtys cirrosa* and *Bathyporeia elegans* community complex. See map 4	The likely area of the community was derived from benthic surveys undertaken in 2005 (Roche et al., 2007) and in 2012 (Aquafact, 2012). See marine supporting document for further details

A list of attributes on distribution, habitat area and community structure, with associated targets, was drawn up in order to maintain the favourable conservation condition of Reefs (Habitats 1170) in the site Slyne Head Islands SAC (IE0000328) in Ireland[3].

Conservation objectives for: Slyne Head Islands SAC [000328]			
1170 Reefs			
To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Reefs in Slyne Head Islands SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Distribution	Occurrence	The distribution of reefs is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes. See map 3	Distribution was established from 2010 subtidal reef survey (Aquafact, 2011) and 2012 field observations
Habitat area	Hectares	The permanent area is stable, subject to natural processes. See map 3	Habitat area was estimated as 1418 ha from 2010 subtidal reef survey (Aquafact, 2011) and 2012 field observations

[3] Source: https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO000328.pdf

Community structure	Biological composition	Conserve the following community types in a natural condition: Exposed intertidal reef community complex; *Laminaria*-dominated community; and Exposed subtidal reef with echinoderms and encrusting algae community. See map 4	Based on 2010 subtidal reef survey (Aquafact, 2011) and 2012 field observations

The following list of attributes and targets was drawn up in order o maintain the favourable conservation condition of Grey Seal in Slyne Head Islands SAC (IE000328) in Ireland[4].

Conservation objectives for: Slyne Head Islands SAC [000328]			
1364 Grey Seal *Halichoerus grypus*			
To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Grey Seal in Slyne Head Islands SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Access to suitable habitat	Number of artificial barriers	Species range within the site should not be restricted by artificial barriers to site use. See map 5	See marine supporting document for further details
Breeding behaviour	Breeding sites	Conserve the breeding sites in a natural condition. See map 5	Attribute and target based on background knowledge of Irish breeding populations, review of data from Summers (1983), Lyons (2004), Ó Cadhla et al. (2005), a comprehensive breeding survey in 2005 (Ó Cadhla et al., 2008) and unpublished National Parks and Wildlife Service records. See marine supporting document for further details

[4] Source: https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO000328.pdf

Moulting behaviour	Moult haul-out sites	Conserve the moult haul-out sites in a natural condition. See map 5	Attribute and target based on background knowledge of Irish populations, review of data from Ó Cadhla et al. (2006), a national moult survey (Ó Cadhla and Strong, 2007) and unpublished National Parks and Wildlife Service records. See marine supporting document for further details
Resting behaviour	Resting haul-out sites	Conserve the resting haul-out sites in a natural condition. See map 5	Attribute and target based on review of data from Lyons (2004), Cronin et al. (2004), Ó Cadhla et al. (2005) and unpublished National Parks and Wildlife Service records. See marine supporting document for further details
Disturbance	Level of impact	Human activities should occur at levels that do not adversely affect the grey seal population at the site	See marine supporting document for further details

ii) **Belgium**

Conservation objectives adopted in 2022 for the Vlaamse Banken Natura 2000 site in Belgium[5].

Targets
1 The spatial extent of habitat type 1110 does not change significantly
1.1 The spatial range and distribution of Level 2 EUNIS physical habitats (sandy mud to mud, muddy sand to sand and gravel containing sediment) fluctuates - in relation to the reference status as described in the 'Initial Assessment' (KRMS) - within a margin limited to the accuracy of the current distribution folders
1.2 The spatial range and distribution of the *A. alba* community is maintained
2 Function of shallow sandbanks as spawning and nursery areas is maintained or enhanced
2.1 Occurrence and densities of juvenile flatfish such as plaice (Pleuronectes platessa) and sole (*Solea solea*) in the coastal zone is maintained or increasing.

[5] Belgische Staat. 2022. Instandhoudingsdoelstellingen voor het Belgische deel van de Noordzee - Habitat- en Vogelrichtlijn – Herziening 2022. Federale Overheidsdienst Volksgezondheid, Veiligheid van de Voedselketen en Leefmilieu, DG Leefmilieu, Brussel, België: 27 pp.

3 Non-indigenous species introduced by human activities occur at levels that do not alter the ecosystem.
3.1 Introduction of new human-introduced non-native species of macrofauna and macroflora (>1mm) that alter an ecosystem is avoided.
4 The frequency of occurrence of vulnerable species increases
4.1 The ratio of benthic R-strategists to K-strategists (at species level) is decreasing
4.2 The number of K-strategists (at species level) is increasing
4.3 There is a positive trend in the mean density of adult specimens (or frequency of occurrence) of a selection of long-lived and/or slow reproducing species and the major structuring benthic species groups in mud to muddy sands and pure fine to gravelly sands
5 The benthic ecosystem provides sufficient food for higher trophic levels
6 The ecological quality of the benthic habitat of the Abra alba biotope is preserved
6.1 The Benthic Ecosystem Quality Indicator as determined by BEQI tool is a minimum value of 0.60 for each occurring community
6.2 The bioturbation potential (BPc), an indicator for evaluating the functioning of the benthic ecosystem, has a minimum value of 0.60 (as determined via the BEQI procedure) for the *A. alba* community in the second half of the year.
7 The autonomous development of *L. conchilega* aggregations is not prevented
7.1 The 3D structures formed by *L. conchilega* are preserved
7.2 The densities of the *L. conchilega* reef-associated species (e.g. *Eumida sanguinea, Pariambus typicus, Microprotopus maculatus* and *Phyllodoce* spp.) do not show a downward trend
8 There is at least a conservation of the surface area of naturally occurring hard substrates
8.1 For gravel beds, the ratio of hard substrate surfaces (specifically, surfaces colonized by hard substrate epifauna) to soft sediment surfaces (specifically, surfaces on top of the hard substrate and preventing the development of substrate fauna) should not show a negative trend in predefined test zones
9 There is a recovery of more natural benthic communities in the gravel beds
9.1 There has been an increase in species richness within taxa typically associated with hard substrates (specifically Porifera, Cnidaria, Bryozoa, Polychaeta, Malacostraca, Maxillopoda, Gastropoda, Bivalvia, Echinodermata and Ascidiacea)
9.2 There is an increase in the frequency of occurrence or median density of adult or mature colonies of at least half of the most important and long-lived species within gravel beds: native Flat oyster (*Ostrea edulis*), Mussel (*Mytilus edulis*), Common Whelk (*Buccinum undatum*), Dead man's fingers (*Alcyonium digitatum*), erected sponges (such as Mermaid's glove sponge (*Haliclona oculata*)) and erected Bryozoa (such as Sea chervil (*Alcyonidium* spp.) and Leafy hornwrack (*Flustra foliacea*))

9.3 There is an increase in the median body size of the larger benthic species: Common Whelk (*Buccinum undatum*) and Spider Crabs (Majidae spp.)
9.4 There is an increase in the number and size of sand tubeworm Ross worm (*Sabellaria spinulosa*) reefs and the number of clusters of triangular tubeworms (*Pomatoceros* (*Spirobranchus*) *triqueter*). - Type 1
9.5 There is recovery of gravel beds as spawning areas for Herring (*Clupea harengus*) and as sites for egg deposition by rays and sharks

iii) **Greece**

Conservation objectives for the habitat type *Posidonia* meadows (*Posidonion oceanicae*) (1120) in the NISOS GYAROS KAI THALASSIA ZONI SCI-SPA (GR4220033)[6]			
Parameter	Measurement unit	Target	Specific Target
Surface	Hectares	199.4	Maintenance
Rhizome growth strategy (at 15 m depth)	% of plagiotropic rhizomes	<10%	Maintenance
Depth of lower distribution limit	Metres	≥35	Maintenance
Meadow coverage (at 15 m depth)	% total habitat surface	>80%	Maintenance
Dynamics (stability, range, shrinking) of meadow at the lower distribution range	Typology of lower limit of meadow distribution	Advancing	Maintenance
Conservation index (at 15 m depth)	Index (Conservation Index - CI)	> 0,9	Maintenance
Meadow density (at 15 m depth)	Shoots per m^2	>500	Maintenance

iv) **Bulgaria**

Parameters for setting the specific conservation objectives for the species *Puffinus yelkouan* in the site BG0002077 Bakerlata[7].

Parameter	Unit	Target value	Additional information	Site-specific conservation objectives

[6] Government Gazette: Series II, No 1807/22.03.2023

[7] For more information see: https://natura2000.egov.bg/EsriBg.Natura.Public.Web.App/Home/Natura2000ProtectedSites

Population: Size of the migratory population	Number of individuals	At least 20 individuals	The target value is set on the basis of data from the SDF and data from eBird. The quantity of individuals passing during migration is highly dependent on weather conditions. The species' presence in the area is irregular during migration.	Maintaining the number of migrating individuals in the area to at least 20 through maintenance of foraging habitats
Habitat of the species: Area of suitable foraging habitats of the species	Ha	At least 21110	The species feeds in the Bay of Burgas. Determined on the basis of the % contribution of habitat N01-Marine sites and bays. The area in the site is 21110 ha.	Preservation and maintenance of the habitat types in the site to at least 21110 ha.

Habitat of the species: Ecological status of water bodies with habitats of the species by using biological quality element 'Fish' under the WFD	5 step scale for ecological status	1– High/ 2 – Good	Fish are covered by studies under the Water Framework Directive, using a biological quality element 'Fish'. The ecological status of water bodies according to the biological quality element Fish is assessed on a 5-level scale: Ecological status 1– High 2– Good 3– Moderate 4– Poor 5– Bad The monitoring of internal and coastal waters is carried out by the Basin Directorate 'Black Sea area' annually on defined monitoring points.	Maintaining and/or improving the ecological status of water bodies with appropriate habitats for the species, at values 2– Good or 1– High.