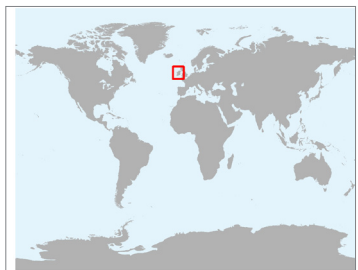




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NOT EVALUATED	DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	<b>&lt; VULNERABLE &gt;</b>	ENDANGERED	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
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Geographical range

## Amazing Species: Sonaghan

**Sonaghan**, *Salmo nigripinnis*, is listed as 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. Sonaghan is an endemic Irish species and is known only from Lough Melvin, although investigations in other Irish lakes are incomplete.

Stocking with farm-reared and non-native brown trout is a major threat to the genetic integrity of Sonaghan. The introduction into Lough Melvin of the alien Zebra Mussel, which is already present in nearby lakes, could have a detrimental effect on the principal zooplankton food of Sonaghan, through reduction in phytoplankton (the mussels filter water to the point where food sources such as plankton are removed). Further decline in water quality and introduction of other non-native species would be detrimental, with pollution in the spawning rivers being of particular concern.

Lough Melvin has Special Area of Concern (SAC) and Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSII, N. Ireland) designations and a Catchment Management plan has been prepared (2008), but there are no specific conservation actions in place for Sonaghan. Ex-situ conservation populations may still be required to conserve the genetic diversity among rivers. Further research is required on the occurrence of Sonaghan in other Irish lakes.



The production of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is made possible through the IUCN Red List Partnership.