

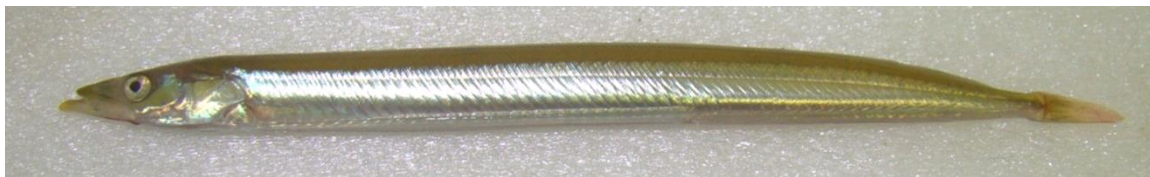
SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Ammodytes marinus

English name: Lesser sandeel/Raitts sandeel	Scientific name: <i>Ammodytes marinus</i>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Actinopterygii Order: Perciformes Family: Ammodytidae	Species authority: Raitt, 1934	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: –	Generation length: 3.8	
Past and current threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): –	Future threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): –	
IUCN Criteria: –	HELCOM Red List Category:	LC Least Concern
Global / European IUCN Red List Category NE/NE	Habitats Directive: –	
Previous HELCOM Red List Category (2007): DD		
Protection and Red List status in HELCOM countries: Denmark –/–, Estonia –/–, Finland –/–, Germany –/D (Data deficient, Baltic Sea), Latvia –/–, Lithuania –/–, Poland –/–, Russia –/–, Sweden –/LC		

Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

The lesser sandeel is a marine species reproducing in both Kattegat and the Sound but it is unknown how far into the Baltic Sea this marine species can be found. It is commercially exploited in a fishery targeting all species of sandeels. This fishery is assessed by ICES but unfortunately not enough data have been available for the Kattegat to perform an assessment (ICES 2012). The sandeel is not caught in regular fish monitoring surveys due to its small, snake-like bodyshape and survey data are only available from one area in the Kattegat. These data show large inter-annual variation but no overall trend during the sampling period 1981–2010.



Ammodytes marinus. Photo by Natalia Chernova, Zoological Institute, St. Petersburg.

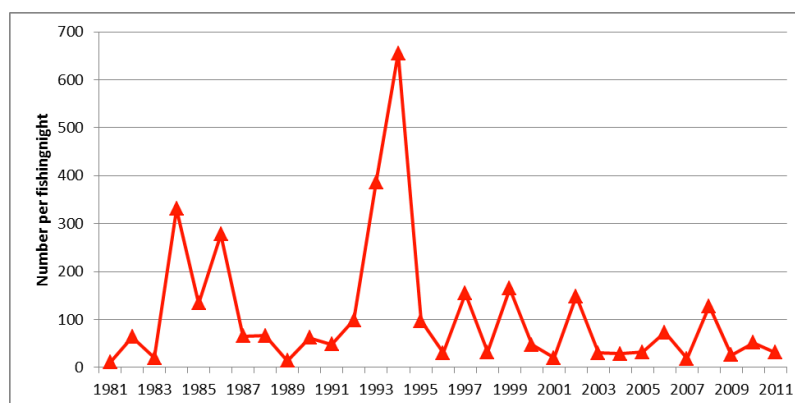
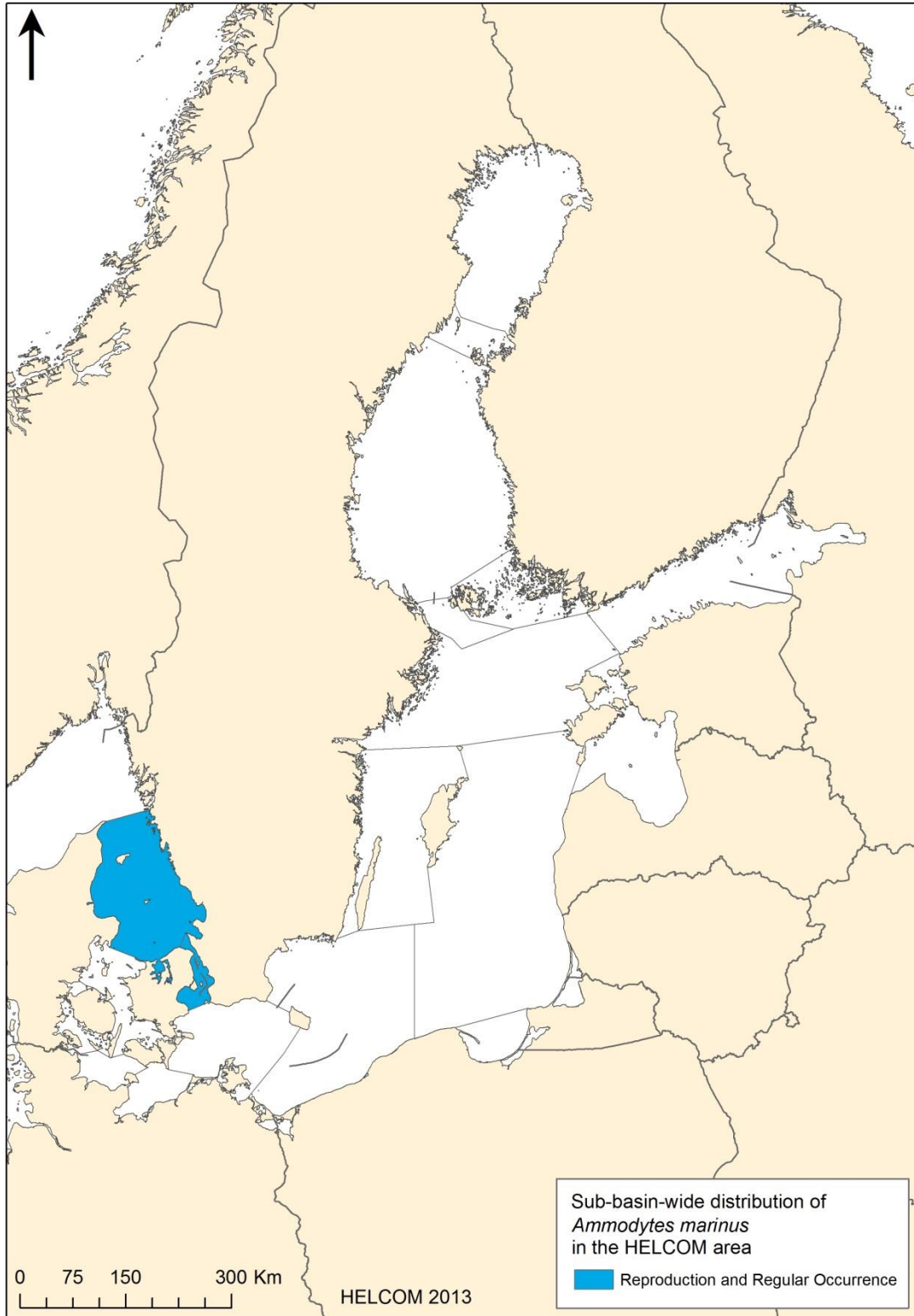


Fig 1. *Ammodytes* spp. caught in the Swedish monitoring fishing at Ringhals nuclear powerplant in the Kattegat.

Distribution map

The map shows the sub-basins in the HELCOM area where the species is known to occur regularly and to reproduce (HELCOM 2012).



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Habitat and ecology

Sandeel is a short-lived species, which reaches maturity at 1 or 2 years age and lives a maximum of ten years. It reaches a total length of 25 cm. It lives in a depth of 10–150 m on sandy bottoms. During winter and when light conditions are bad the lesser sandeel digs into the sand. When currents are strong the sandeel leaves the sand and forms large shoals. Spawning from November to February and eggs are deposited on sand or fine gravel bottoms. Sandeels are largely stationary after settlement. Sandeel feeds on plankton and is itself prey for many predators like cod and haddock but also fish eating birds. (Froese & Pauly 2012)

Description of major threats

No current major threats identified.

Assessment justification

Sandeel (mostly *A. marinus* but also *A. tobianus* and *H. lanceolatus*) is caught in the commercial sandeel fishery and ICES assesses these species jointly in some areas. The state of the stock in the Kattegat is unknown since the available information (only landings) is inadequate to evaluate stock status or trends (ICES 2012). However, the stock adjacent to HELCOM area (central eastern North Sea including Skagerrak) where there is data on spawning stock biomass, have an overall positive trend the last 10 years (Data from ICES 2012). Due to its shape it is not caught in regular monitoring, but sampling in the cooling water intake at Ringhals nuclear powerplant in the Kattegat show that the catch per unit effort of *Ammodytes* spp. has no trend over the assessment period (11 years) and also no trend during the whole investigated period 1981–2010. In conclusion, despite sparse data there is no indication of decline or identified threats for this species in the HELCOM area. The species is hence considered LC.

Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

No protection actions currently needed in HELCOM area.

Common names

DE: Sandaal; DK: Havtobis; ES: merisutt; FI: Merituulenkala; GB: Raitt's sandeel/Lesser sandeel ; LA: Lielā tūbīte; LI: Europinis tobis; PL: Dobijak niebieski; RU: Многопозвонковaja peschanka; SE: Havstobis

References

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Available at: www.fishbase.org, version (10/2012).
- HELCOM (2007). HELCOM Red list of threatened and declining species of lampreys and fish of the Baltic Sea. Baltic Sea Environmental Proceedings No. 109. Helsinki Commission, Helsinki. 40 pp.
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- Thiel, R., Winkler, H., Böttcher, U., Dänhardt, A., Fricke, R., George, M., Kloppmann, M., Schaarschmidt, T., Ubl, C. & Vorberg, R. (2013). Rote Liste und Gesamtartenliste der etablierten Neunaugen und Fische (Petromyzontida, Elasmobranchii & Actinopterygii) der marinen Gewässer Deutschlands. 5. Fassung, Stand August 2013. Naturschutz und Biologische Vielfalt 70(2): 11–76.