

SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Haploops tubicola

English name: –	Scientific name: <i>Haploops tubicola</i>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Malacostraca Order: Amphipoda Family: Ampeliscidae	Species authority: Liljeborg, 1855	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: <i>Haploops carinata</i> Liljeborg, 1856 <i>Haploops spinosa</i> Shoemaker, 1931	Generation length: –	
Past and current threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Unknown (U)	Future threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Unknown (U)	
IUCN Criteria: B1ab(i,iii)+2ab(ii,iii)	HELCOM Red List Category:	VU Vulnerable
Global / European IUCN Red List Category: NE/NE	Habitats Directive: –	
Protection and Red List status in HELCOM countries: Denmark –/–, Estonia –/–, Finland –/–, Germany –/–, Latvia –/–, Lithuania –/–, Poland –/–, Russia –/–, Sweden –/–		

Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

The main distribution of *H. tubicola* within the HELCOM area is in the Kattegat and Öresund, but there are also sites in the Great Belt. The species is reported also from the Skagerrak and the North Sea. Regular monitoring performed by Helsingborg municipality in the Swedish part of the Sound shows a continuous decline of the *Haploops* community since more than ten years. In 2012, almost no animals were found at all. There is also a decline in the Skagerrak. The reason for the decline is, however, still unknown. Perhaps eutrophication in combination with increased water temperature plays a role, but this is yet to be proven. Elsewhere the species is found in the Arctic Ocean where it is circumpolar, in the North Pacific, North Atlantic, as well as the Atlantic coast of Europe from Norway to Mediterranean and the Adriatic.



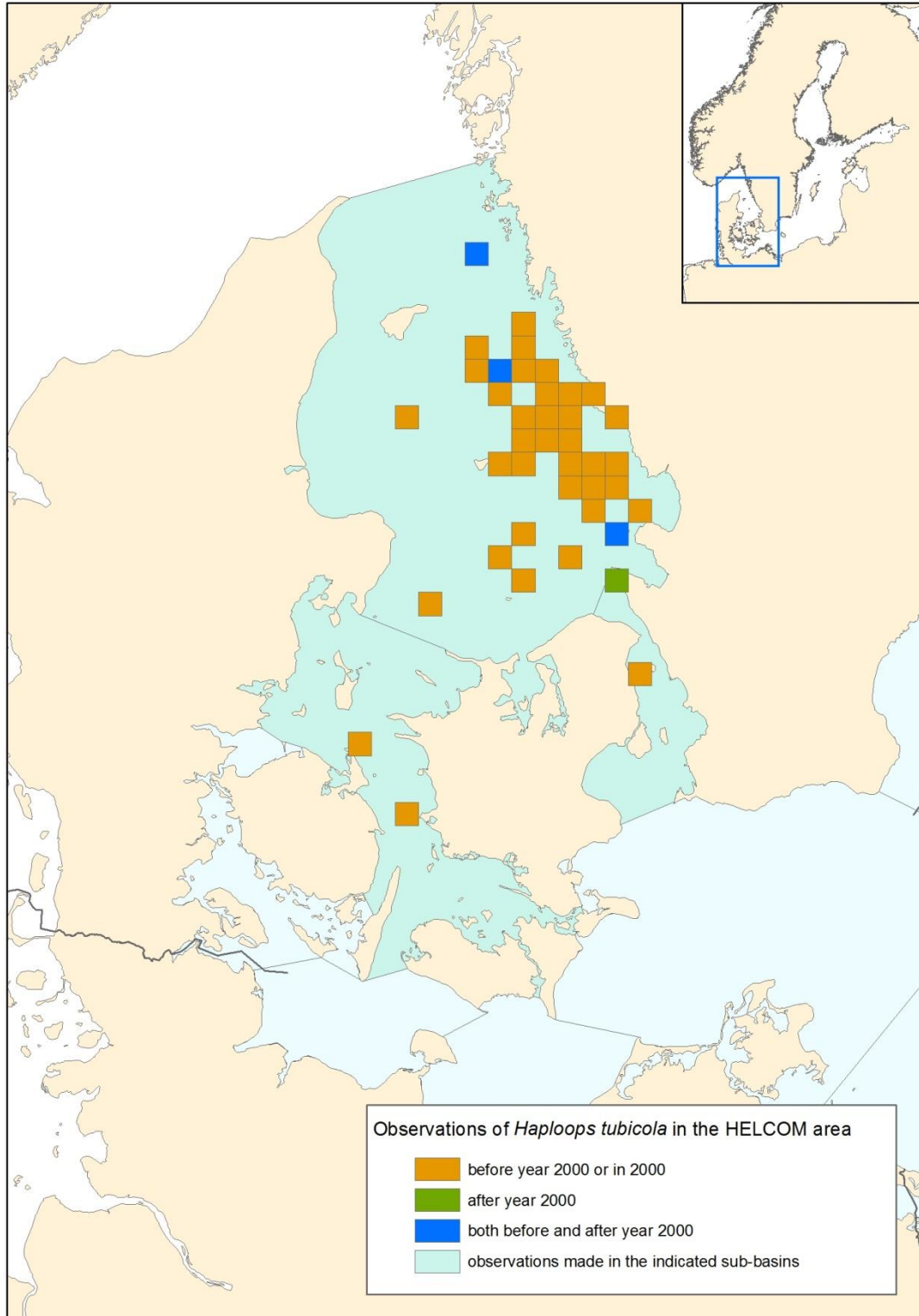
Haploops tubicola female. Photo by Peter Göransson, Environmental Office, Helsingborg Municipality.

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Distribution Map

The records of species compiled from the databases of the Swedish Species Information Centre and the Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research (IOW).



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Habitat and ecology

H. tubicola lives in what is called *Haploops* communities where they build tiny tubes made of clay and mud. The animals hide inside the tube with the tentacles peeking out. *Haploops* use these tentacles to filter the water. In this way they find tiny particles and plankton for food. Depth range is from 10 to 1200 metres in other oceans, but in the HELCOM area the range is probably 20–130 m. The *Haploops* communities are very important for many other species and the community forms an important feeding ground for fish like the halibut (*Pleuronectes platessa*, *Reinhardtus hippoglossoides*).

Description of major threats

The reason for the observed decline of *Haploops tubicola* is not known. Bottom trawling may play a negative role, as this fishing method changes the structure of the sea floor. However, it is difficult to assign the decline in the Sound specifically to bottom trawling as this has been forbidden in the area for a long time. Eutrophication and/or climate change may also be key factors behind the species decline.

Assessment justification

The geographic range of *H. tubicola* is very restricted, and the estimated EOO and AOO fall below the threshold for Vulnerable (VU). Monitoring in the Sound shows a continuous decline of the *Haploops* community for the last decade, and other areas show similar patterns. The number of locations is estimated to be less than 10. Thus, the B-criterion for Vulnerable (VU) is fulfilled (B1ab(i,iii)+2ab(ii,iii)).

Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

It is difficult to suggest specific measures since the reason for the decline is not known. In general the negative effects of eutrophication and bottom trawling on marine biotopes need to be reduced

Common names

Denmark: –, Estonia: –, Finland: –, Germany: –, Latvia: –, Lithuania: –, Poland: –, Russia: –, Sweden: –

References

- Hansson, H.G. 1998. Sydsandinaviska marina flercelliga evertabrater. Utgåva 2. Ifremer. Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer. Website www.ifremer.fr
- IOW database. Observational data from the database of the Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research. Marine Species Identification Portal. Available at http://species-identification.org/species.php?species_group=crustacea&id=263
- Oceana. Website <http://baltic.oceana.org/>
- Reports from Kustkontrollprogrammet in Helsingborg, Website www.helsingborg.se.
- Swedish Species Gateway. Swedish Species Information Centre and Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. Available at www.artportalen.se.
- The Sound Water Cooperation. Website www.oresundsvand.dk.