

SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Lekanesphaera rugicauda

English name: –	Scientific name: <i>Lekanesphaera rugicauda</i>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Malacostraca Order: Isopoda Family: Sphaeromatidae	Species authority: Leach, 1814	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: <i>Sphaeroma rugicauda</i> Leach, 1814	Generation length: –	
Past and current threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Construction (e.g. beach feeding with sand; G05.05)	Future threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Construction (e.g. beach feeding with sand; G05.05)	
IUCN Criteria: –	HELCOM Red List Category:	DD Data Deficient
Global / European IUCN Red List Category: –	Habitats Directive: –	
Protection and Red List status in HELCOM countries: Denmark –/–, Estonia –/–, Finland –/–, Germany –/3 (Vulnerable, incl. North Sea), Latvia –/–, Lithuania –/–, Poland –/–, Russia –/–, Sweden –/–		

Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

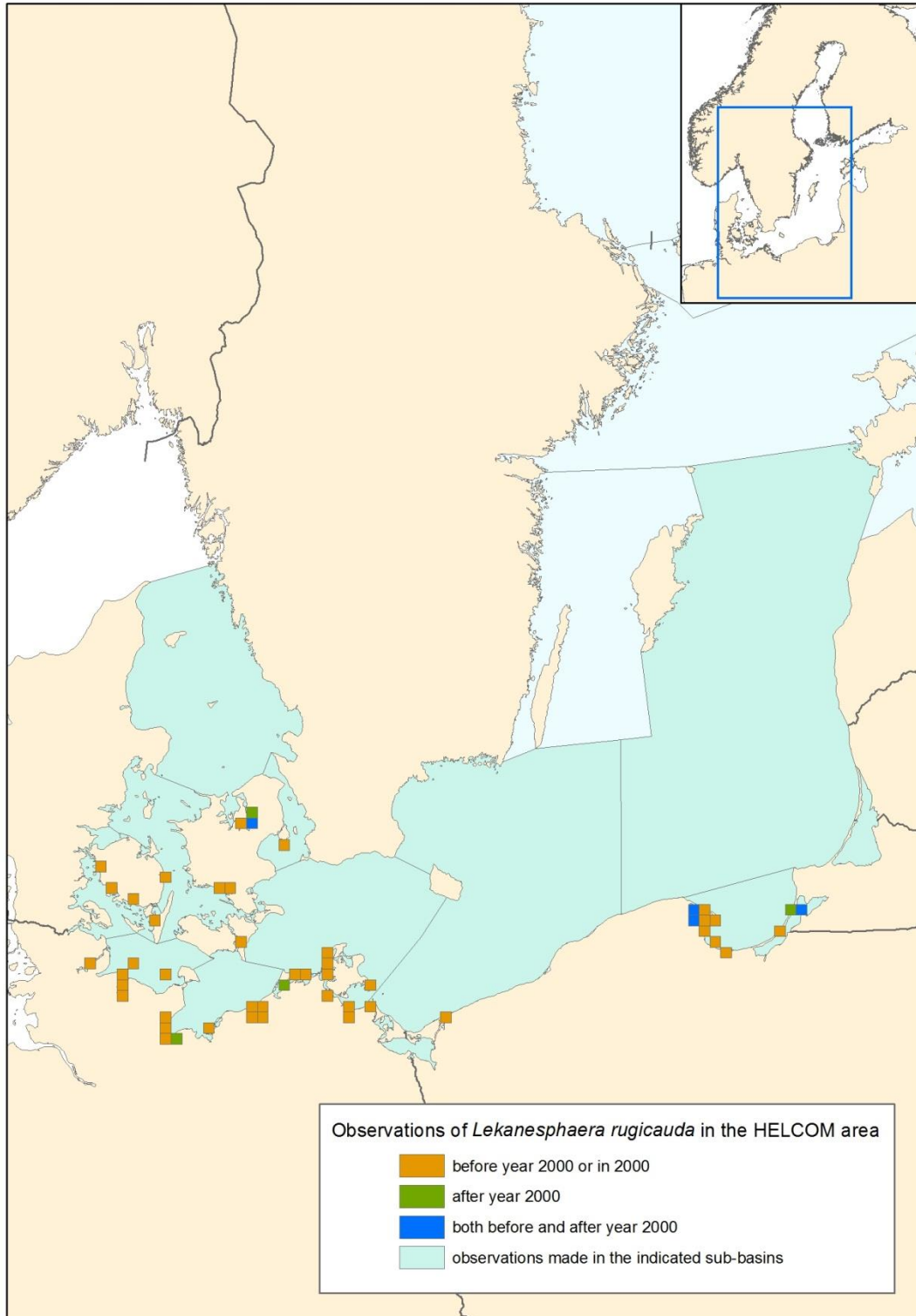
The historical distribution of *Lekanesphaera rugicauda* appears to have covered western and southern HELCOM area from the southern Kattegat (the Roskilde Fjord) to the German coasts of the Baltic Sea, and also the Gulf of Gdansk and the Vistula Lagoon. Recent records, however, exist only from five locations, including Roskilde Fjord, estuaries by the Bay of Mecklenburg, Puck Bay and the Russian part of the Vistula Lagoon.

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Distribution map

The georeferenced records of species compiled from Danish national database for marine data (MADS), the database of the P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology RAS, the database of the Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research (IOW) (incl. also Polish literature and monitoring data), and from literature: Seligo (1926), Demel (1936), and Wenne & Wiktor (1978).



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Habitat and Ecology

L. rugicauda is an isopod species with broadly oval body form, and it reaches a length of around 1 cm. It lives among vegetation on soft bottom and stones where it finds shelter. The species has been detected to have also boring activity in wood.

Description of major threats

The reasons behind the potential decline of *L. rugicauda* are not known but it is likely that the species has suffered from destruction, e.g. by various construction activities, of natural inshore bottoms with vegetation and/or stones.

Assessment justification

L. rugicauda has occurred in dozens of locations in the southern and western HELCOM area. Recent observations have only been made in five areas which are geographically rather distant: the southern Kattegat, estuaries by the Bay of Mecklenburg, Puck Bay and the Vistula Lagoon. It is not certain that the difference between the number of old and recent records indicates a genuine decline but according to German and Polish information this may be the case. For example in Germany, the species has always been rare but it should have been found also in recent inventories. The information available is insufficient to determine which of the redlist categories that is most likely, and *L. rugicauda* is therefore categorized as Data Deficient (DD) in the HELCOM area.

Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

The species would probably benefit from any actions that could protect its coastal habitats against anthropogenic alternations of the bottom.

Common names

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

References

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