

SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Sebastes norvegicus

English name: Red fish /Golden red fish	Scientific name: <i>Sebastes norvegicus</i>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Actinopterygii Order: Scorpaeniformes Family: Sebastidae	Species authority: Ascanius, 1772	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: <i>Sebastes marinus</i>	Generation length: 26 years	
Past and current threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Fishery, Bycatch (F02)	Future threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Fishery, Bycatch (F02)	
IUCN Criteria: –	HELCOM Red List Category:	NA Not Applicable
Global / European IUCN Red List Category: NE/NE	Habitats Directive: –	
Previous HELCOM Red List Category (2007): EN		
Protection and Red List status in HELCOM countries: Denmark –/, Estonia –/, Finland –/, Germany –/, Latvia –/, Lithuania –/, Poland –/, Russia –/, Sweden –/NA		

Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

The red fish is a very rare visitor in the Kattegat from reproduction areas in northern Norway but it is common in the North East Atlantic where it is commercially fished. Due to its late maturation and slow growth it is sensitive to overexploitation.



Sebastes norvegicus. Photo by Natalia Chernova, Zoological Institute, St. Petersburg.

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Habitat and ecology

The red fish is a gregarious species occurring off the coast in depths of 100–1000 m. Juveniles are found in fjords, bays and inshore waters. It feeds on euphausiids, fish and ctenophores in spring. Copulation takes place in late summer or early autumn and the spermatozoa are kept in the ovary of the female after copulation until such time that the eggs ripen paving the way for fertilization. In winter females give birth to 50 000–350 000 pelagic larvae of 8 mm length. The red fish reaches maturity around 40 cm length and have a maximum reported length of 1 meter and maximum lifespan of 60 years.

Description of major threats

The species is threatened by fisheries as target species, and also by other demersal fisheries (mainly as by-catch in shrimp trawls).

Assessment justification

The red fish is occasionally found within the HELCOM area as a visitor from reproduction areas in northern Norway but since there is no reproduction within the HELCOM area and not a significant part of the population spends a significant part of their lifetime within the HELCOM area this species is considered Not Applicable (NA) for assessment.

Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

Since the threats for this species occur outside the HELCOM area there are no protection actions currently needed in the HELCOM area.

Common names

D -Rotbarsch; ES -; GB -Red fish ; DK -Stor rødfisk; FIN -Punasimppu, Puna-ahven; LV -Zeltaņais sarkanasarīs ; LT -Didysis jūrinis ešerys; PL -Karmazyn atlantycki; RU -Zolotistij morskij okun'; S -Större kungsfisk

References

Froese, R., Pauly, D. (eds.) (2012). FishBase. World Wide Web electronic publication. Available at:

www.fishbase.org, version (12/2012).

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.

HELCOM (2012). Checklist of Baltic Sea Macro-species. Baltic Sea Environment Proceedings No. 130.

Helsinki Commission, Helsinki. 203 pp.