

SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Coregonus albula

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|---|---|-----------------------------|
| English name: Vendace | Scientific name: Coregonus albula | |
| Taxonomical group: Class: Actinopterygii Order: Salmoniformes Family: Salmonidae | Species authority: Linnaeus, 1758 | |
| Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: – | Generation length: 5.5 years | |
| 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 LC/LC | Habitats Directive: <i>Coregonus</i> spp in Annex V | |
| Previous HELCOM Red List Category (2007): VU | | |
| Protection and Red List status in HELCOM countries: Denmark –/VU in freshwater, Estonia –/DD, Finland –/LC, Germany –/* (Not threatened, freshwaters), Latvia –/RA in freshwater, Lithuania –/–, Poland –/DD, Russia –/–, Sweden <i>Local, stakeholder managed fishery for a restricted number of license holders</i> / LC | | |

Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

Vendace is a commonly occurring fish species, mainly anadromous in the Gulf of Finland and marine in the northernmost freshened part of the Gulf of Bothnia. It is frequently stocked in lakes and reservoirs in northern and central Germany and Poland, as well as Estonia. Baltic Sea populations are commercially fished in Sweden, Finland and Russia and the roe is very valuable. Swedish assessment data show that spawning stock biomass in the Swedish part of the Bothnian Bay has increased over the last 15 years. The status in the Gulf of Finland is unknown.



Catch of vendace and single specimen. Photos by Olavi Kaljuste and Yvette Heimbrand, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

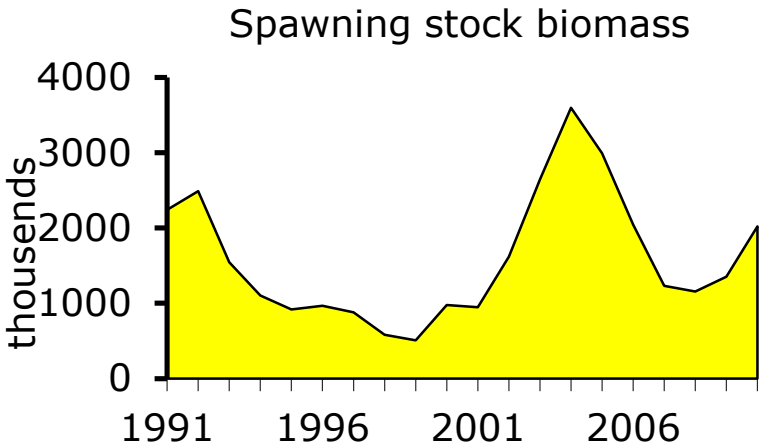
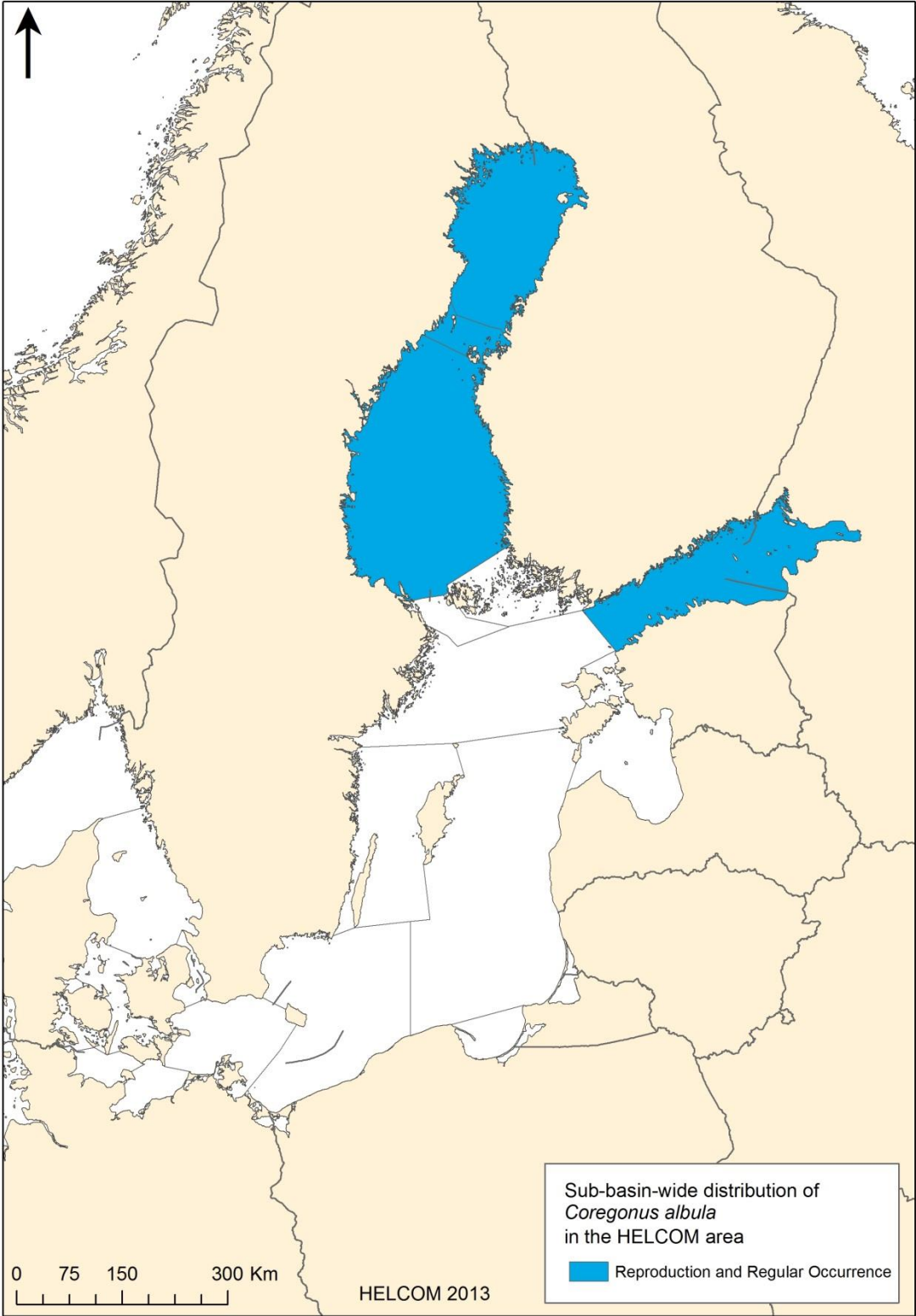


Fig.1. Estimated number of mature fish in the Swedish part of the Bothnian Bay (Fiskeriverket 2011).

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

The vendace is a pelagic, schooling fish which in late autumn either migrates upstream in rivers to spawn or in less saline areas spawns in a coastal habitat. It feeds on zooplankton and insect larvae. Vendace can be sexually mature already at the age of 1 year and it can live up to 10 years. It can reach a total length of above 30 cm but is usually 15–20 cm. (Freyhof 2011, Fiskeriverket 2011)

Description of major threats

No major threats at the moment but uncontrolled fishing could become a threat.

Assessment justification

The size of the population and the extent of occurrence, as well as the area of occupancy (AOO Bothnian bay <20m approximately 8 000 km²) are well above the thresholds for being red listed according to the IUCN criteria. Available data show that spawning stock biomass in the Bothnian Bay has increased during the assessment period. The status in the Gulf of Finland is unknown but a possible reduction in population size in the entire HELCOM area is believed to be less than 15% over three generations. Therefore this species is considered LC in the HELCOM area.

Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

No protection actions currently needed in HELCOM area. Fishery statistics however should continue to be monitored to prevent overfishing.

Common names

D - Kleine Maräne; GB – Vendace; EST - räabis; DK - Heltling; FIN – Muikku; LV - Repsis; LT - Seliava; PL - Sielawa; RUS - Evropeiskaja rjapushka; S – Siklöja

References

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Helsinki Commission, Helsinki. 203 pp.

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