

SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Epitonium clathrus

English name: Common wentletrap/European wentletrap		Scientific name: <i>Epitonium clathrus</i>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Gastropoda Order: Hypsogastropoda Family: Epitoniidae		Species authority: Linnaeus, 1758	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: <i>Clathrus clathrus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Scala clathrus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Turbo clathrus</i> Linnaeus, 1758		Generation length: Linnaeus, 1758	
Past and current threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Sedimentation caused by eutrophication (H01.05) and fishing (bottom trawling; F02.02.01)		Future threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Sedimentation caused by eutrophication (H01.05) and fishing (bottom trawling; F02.02.01)	
IUCN Criteria: B1ab(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 –/D (Data deficient, incl. North Sea), Latvia –/–, Lithuania –/–, Poland –/–, Russia –/–, Sweden –/LC			

Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

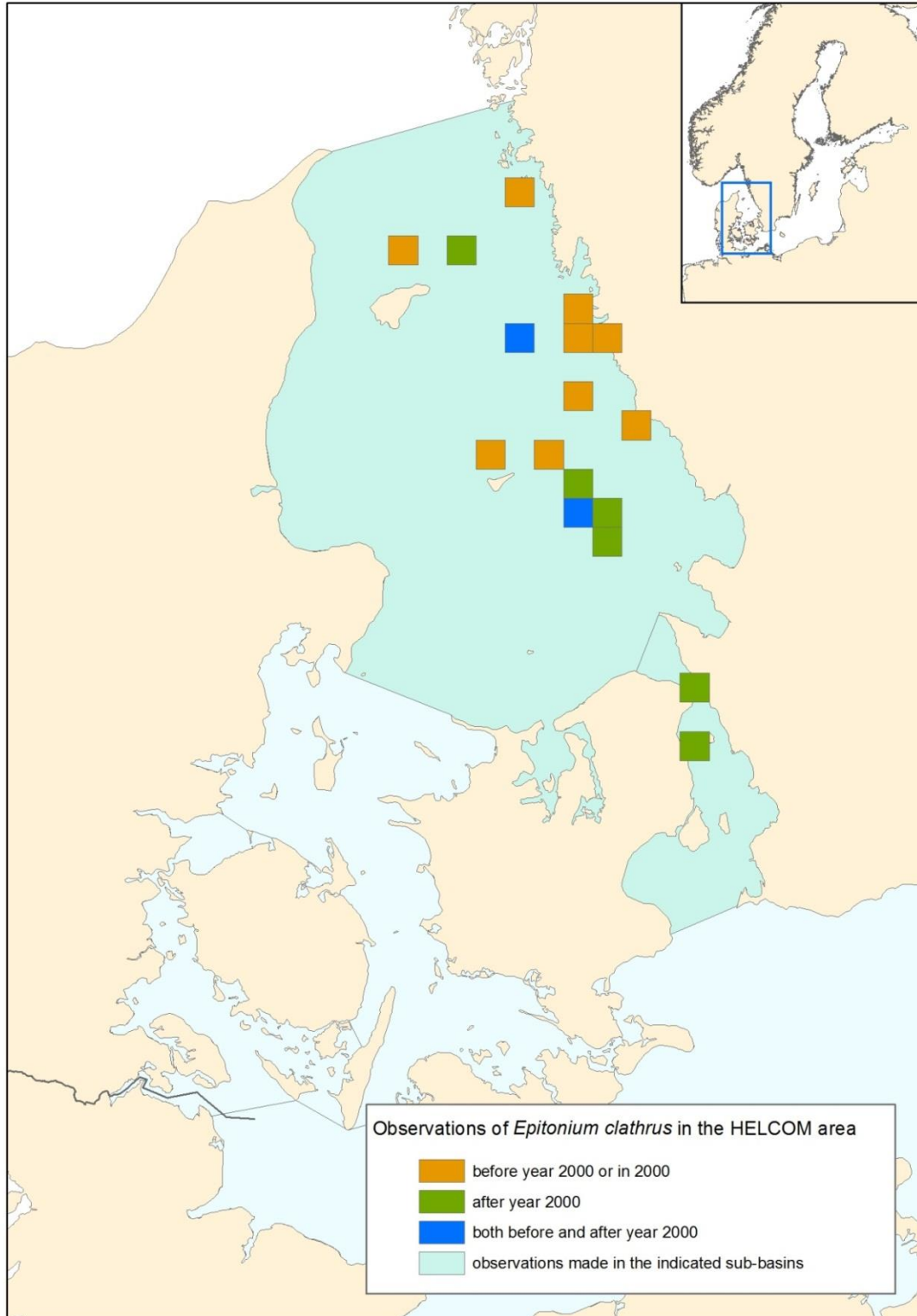
Within the HELCOM area the main distribution area is in the Kattegat. The species is also sparsely reported from the Sound region. Outside the HELCOM area the species is reported from the Skagerrak and the North Sea and is distributed from the Mediterranean to Norway as well as around the British Isles and Helgoland. However, live specimens are only rarely found. A comparison between historical and present Swedish data indicates a decline in distribution both in the Skagerrak and the Kattegat.

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Distribution map

The georeferenced records of species compiled from the databases of the Swedish Species Information Centre (Artportalen) and Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute.



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Habitat and ecology

Epitonium clathrus has a characteristic tall shell, with swollen whorls forming spiral keels. It may reach a height of up to 40 mm high. The species is found on sandy and muddy sediments down to 70 m. *E. clathrus* is a sublittoral species which migrates onto the lower shore during the spring and summer to spawn when it may be found at the lowest water line. It feeds on sea anemones. The species is a consecutive hermaphrodite, changing sex each season. The egg capsules, which are attached to sand grains, hatch into veliger larvae.

Description of major threats

The quality of the habitat is decreasing, most probably through sedimentation caused by eutrophication and bottom trawling.

Assessment justification

The estimated extent of present occurrence in the Kattegat is less than 20 000 km², and the number of locations estimated to be less than 10. The restricted geographic range together with continuing decline in habitat quality and number of locations qualifies for the category Vulnerable (VU) according to B1ab(iii).

Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

In general the negative effects of eutrophication and trawling on marine biotopes need to be reduced. More information on the species present distribution and status within the HELCOM area is needed.

Common names

Denmark: almindelig vindeltrappesnegl, Estonia: –, Finland: –, Germany: gemeine Wendeltreppe / unechte Wendeltreppe, Latvia: –, Lithuania: –, Poland: –, Russia: –, Sweden: vindeltrappa

References

- Artsdatabanken 2010. Norwegian Red List 2010. Species information available at <http://www.artsportalen.artsdatabanken.no/#/Rodliste2010/Vurdering/Epitonium+clathrus/24577>
- Gosselck, F., Darr, A., Jungbluth, J.H., Zettler, M.L. 2009. Trivialnamen für Mollusken des Meeres und Brackwassers in Deutschlands (Gastropoda, Bivalvia, Scaphopoda et Cephalopoda). *Mollusca* 27(1): 3–32.
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- SMHI database. Observational data for zoobenthos from the database of the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute, all observations 1971–2010. Downloaded in 9 April 2011.
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