

SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Geryon trispinosus

English name: –	Scientific name: <i>Geryon trispinosus</i>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Malacostraca Order: Decapoda Family: Geryonidae	Species authority: Herbst, 1803	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: <i>Cancer trispinosus</i> Herbst, 1803 <i>Geryon tridens</i> Krøyer, 1837	Generation length: –	
Past and current threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Fishing (bottom trawling; F02.02.01)	Future threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Fishing (bottom trawling; F02.02.01)	
IUCN Criteria: –	HELCOM Red List Category:	DD Data Deficient
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 –/DD		

Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

The known distribution of *G. trispinosus* within the HELCOM area is along the Swedish coasts of the Kattegat where it occurs but is not common. Outside the HELCOM area *G. trispinosus* is found in the Skagerrak, and the north-eastern Atlantic Ocean along the north and west coast of Denmark. Its range extends from Norway towards the Shetland – and Faroe Islands and Island in the north to the southern Irish coast and the Bay of Biscay in the south, and also includes the Canary Islands.

Up until the 1960's the species was often reported as bycatch from trawling. During later decades it seems to have become quite rare although still sporadically reported as bycatch (information from Swedish fisheries, SLU Aqua). It seems to have declined in the Swedish part of the Skagerrak, e.g. Koster and Gullmaren fjords, but little information is available from the Kattegat.



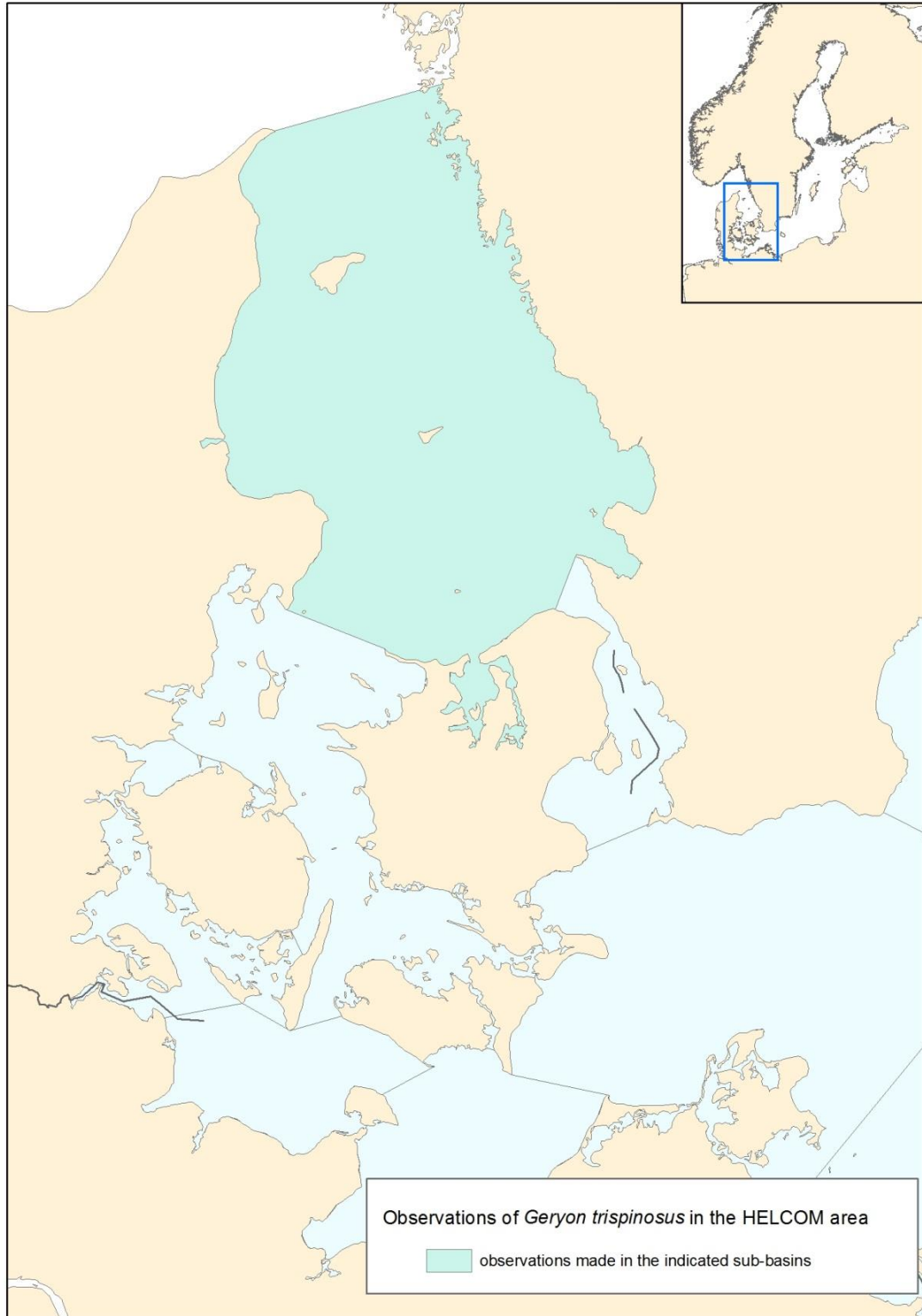
Geryon trispinosus. Photo by IMARES.

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Distribution map

No exact coordinates have been received for the species' occurrences but it is known to occur in the Kattegat.



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Habitat and Ecology

G. trispinosus has a characteristic hexagonal shape, with a width exceeding the length. Males normally reach a length and width of 80 and 98 mm respectively, whereas the females are slightly smaller. The colour is usually red to brick red. *G. trispinosus* is a deep sea species, normally living between depths of 30 and 700 meters. In southern waters it has been found down to a depth of 1800 m. The species lives on soft bottoms where it burrows into the sediment.

Females reach sexual maturity at a carapace length of 12–15 mm, while males reach it at 35 mm. Eggs are laid in April and hatch in July (May of the SW coast of Ireland), and the eggs hatch into planktonic larvae.

Description of major threats

The species has probably been negatively affected by the intense trawling on deep soft bottoms for shrimps and prawns.

Assessment justification

Only very limited data is available. The species is only occasionally caught as bycatch in trawling. It is suspected that the species has suffered a decline, but the information available is insufficient to determine which of the redlist categories that is most likely. The species is categorized as Data Deficient (DD).

Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

It is difficult to suggest specific measures. In general, the negative effects of bottom trawling on marine biotopes need to be reduced. More information on the species distribution and status within the Helcom area is needed.

Common names

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

References

- Bjelke, U., Karlsson, A., Sandström, J., Agrenius, S., Berggren, H., Berggren, M., Cedhagen, T., Edsman, L., Hansson, H. G., Kautsky, H., Lingdell, P.-E., Lundin, K., Lundälv, K., Schander, C. & Smith, S. 2010. Kräftdjur – Crustaceans. Crustacea. In Gärdenfors, U. (ed.) Rödlistade arter i Sverige 2010 – The 2010 Red List of Swedish Species. ArtDatabanken, SLU, Uppsala. P. 487–493. Red List categories available also at <http://www.artfakta.se/GetSpecies.aspx?SearchType=Advanced>
- Hansson, H.G. 1998. Sydskanandinaviska marina flercelliga evertebrater. Utgåva 2.
- de Kluijver, M. & Ingalsuo, S. "Geryon tridens". Macrobenthos of the North Sea – Crustacea. Marine Species Identification Portal. Available at http://species-identification.org/species.php?species_group=crustacea&id=186.
- Smith, S. 2010. *Geryon trispinosus* tretandskrabba. Artfaktablad. Artdatabanken, SLU. 2010-01-19. Available at http://www.artfakta.se/Artfaktablad/Geryon_Trispinosus_102845.pdf.