

SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Liparis liparis

English name: Sea-snail, striped sea-snail	Scientific name: <i>Liparis liparis</i>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Actinopterygii Order: Scorpaeniformes Family: Liparidae	Species authority: Linnaeus, 1766	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: <i>Liparis liparis barbatus</i> , subsp. in the Baltic Sea	Generation length: < 3 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/NE	Habitats Directive: –	
Previous HELCOM Red List Category (2007): EN		
Protection and Red List status in HELCOM countries: Denmark –/–, Estonia –/DD, Finland –/DD, Germany –/* (Not threatened, Baltic Sea), Latvia –/Included in Red Data book, category 3 - rare species, RA, Lithuania –/–, Poland Prohibited to kill, catch or disturb this species under strict protection / VU, Russia –/–, Sweden –/LC		

Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

The sea-snail is distributed in the whole of the HELCOM area but in contrast to most marine fishes in the area it is rare in the Kattegat and the southern parts of the Baltic Sea. It becomes more common north of the Kattegat and in the northern Baltic Proper and the Bothnian Sea.



Sea snail. The color of sea-snails is extremely variable. Photo by Timo Moritz, Deutsches Meeresmuseum.

Its non-migratory behaviour and small size makes it very rarely caught in regular monitoring programs. Monitoring by Isaac-Kidd trawl in Ringhals nuclear power plant in the Kattegat 1981–2011 gets a few individuals every other year with no indication of decline. This species is globally considered not threatened (Stein 2010) since it has a wide distribution, a broad depth range, and a lack of threats impacting it across its full range.

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Liparis liparis. Baltic Sea, Sweden coast (Sodermanland province, Morkø Island). (Ekström, 1832: 169, Tab.5, was described under the name *Liparis barbatus*).

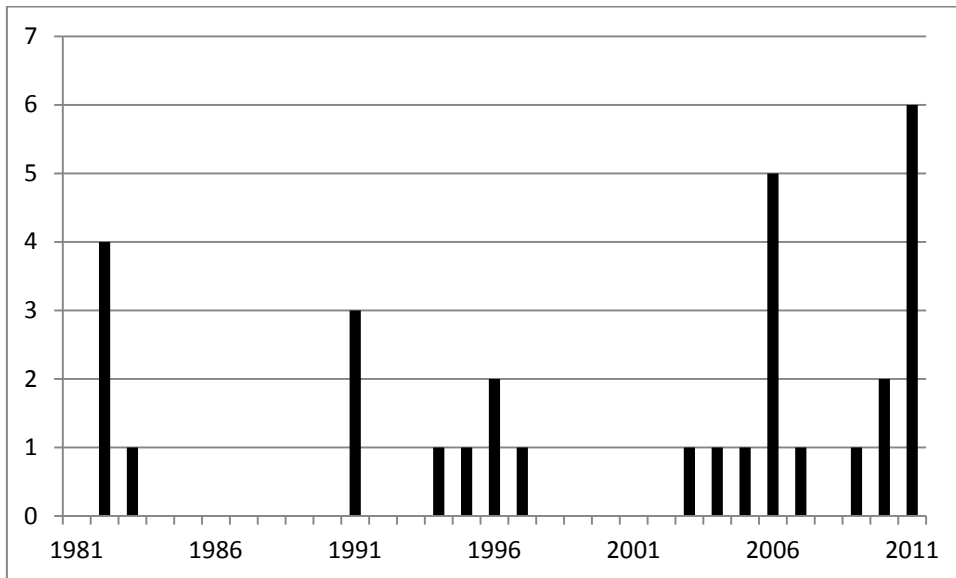
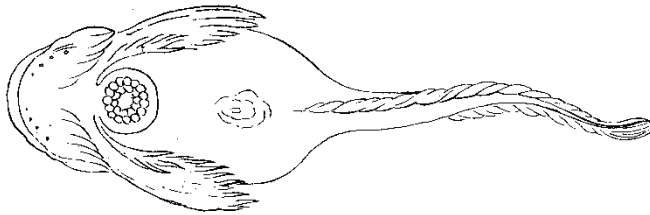
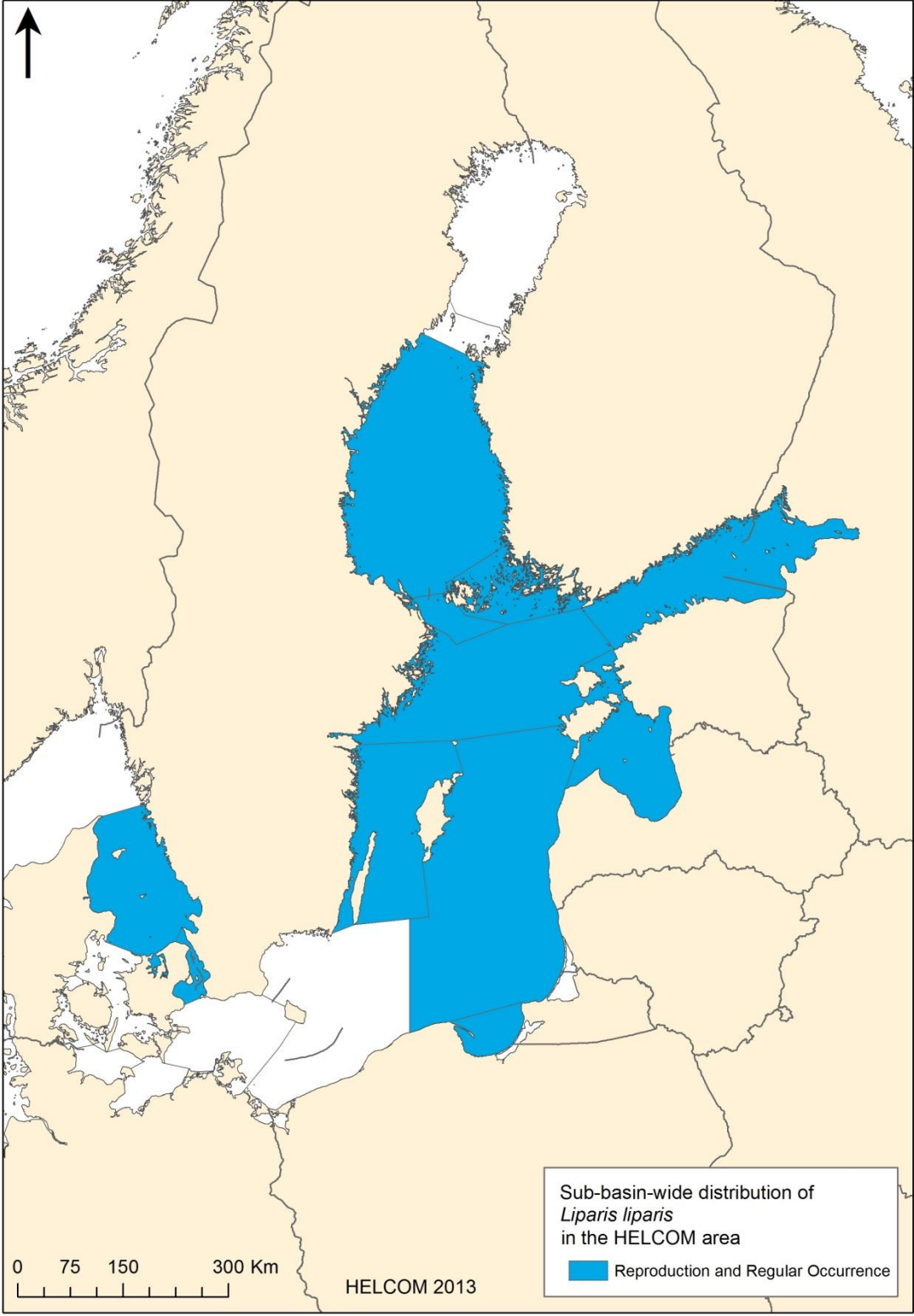


Fig. Number of sea-snails (both *L. liparis* & *L. montagui*) caught yearly at the Swedish fish monitoring using small- meshed Isaac-Kidd trawl in the cooling water intake at Ringhals powerplant in the Kattegat.

Distribution map

The map shows the subbasins 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 sea-snail is a benthic species occurring from the subtidal zone to almost 300 m depth (Stein & Able 1986, Froese & Pauly 2005, Kullander 2012). Thanks to its suction disc it can keep itself attached also in areas with strong currents. The sea snail is a small, 10–15 cm long, fish with a maximum lifespan of 2–3 years (Stein 2010). It feeds primarily on crustaceans, occasionally also on fish and polychaetes. It spawns in the winter from December to February. The sea-snail in the Baltic Sea differs somewhat from the sea-snail in Kattegat and is sometimes considered a separate subspecies (Kullander 2012).

Description of major threats

The sea-snail could become threatened by eutrophication, as the species needs clean water and sediments, especially for spawning, egg deposition, and larval habitats.

Assessment justification

The number of mature individuals exceeds the limit for red listing. The extent of occurrence (EOO) and area of occupancy (AOO) also exceed the limits for red listing. The data is sparse and totally lacking from large part of the Baltic Sea but the data that exists gives no reason to suspect population decrease during the assessment period, which is 10 years. The estimated values for which the assessment is based on are all within range of the category of Least Concern (LC). Immigration from the Skagerrak or the North Sea is possible to the Kattegat population but the sea-snail population of the Baltic Sea is unlikely to get immigration from outside the HELCOM region.

Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

No protection actions currently needed in the HELCOM area but more data on abundance and population trends of the species is needed. The status of the subspecies should also be investigated.

Common names

D - Scheibenbauch; ES – Pullukala; GB – Longspined bullhead; DK - Finnebræmmet ringbug; FIN – Imukala; LV - Plūkšņzivis; LT - Europinis gleivys; PL - Dennik; RU - Evropeiskij liparis; S – Ringbuk

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