

SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Lumpenus lampretaeformis

English name: Snake blenny	Scientific name: <i>Lumpenus lampretaeformis</i>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Actinopterygii Order: Perciformes Family: Stichaeidae	Species authority: Walbaum, 1792	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: –	Generation length: 3.7	
Past and current threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Eutrophication (K02.03)	Future threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Eutrophication (K02.03)	
IUCN Criteria: –	HELCOM Red List Category:	LC Least Concern
Global / European IUCN Red List Category NE/NE	Habitats Directive: –	
Previous HELCOM Red List Category (2007): CR		
Protection and Red List status in HELCOM countries: Denmark –/–, Estonia –/DD, Finland –/DD, Germany –/1 (Critically endangered, Baltic Sea), Latvia –/RA, Lithuania –/–, Poland –/–, Russia –/–, Sweden –/LC		

Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

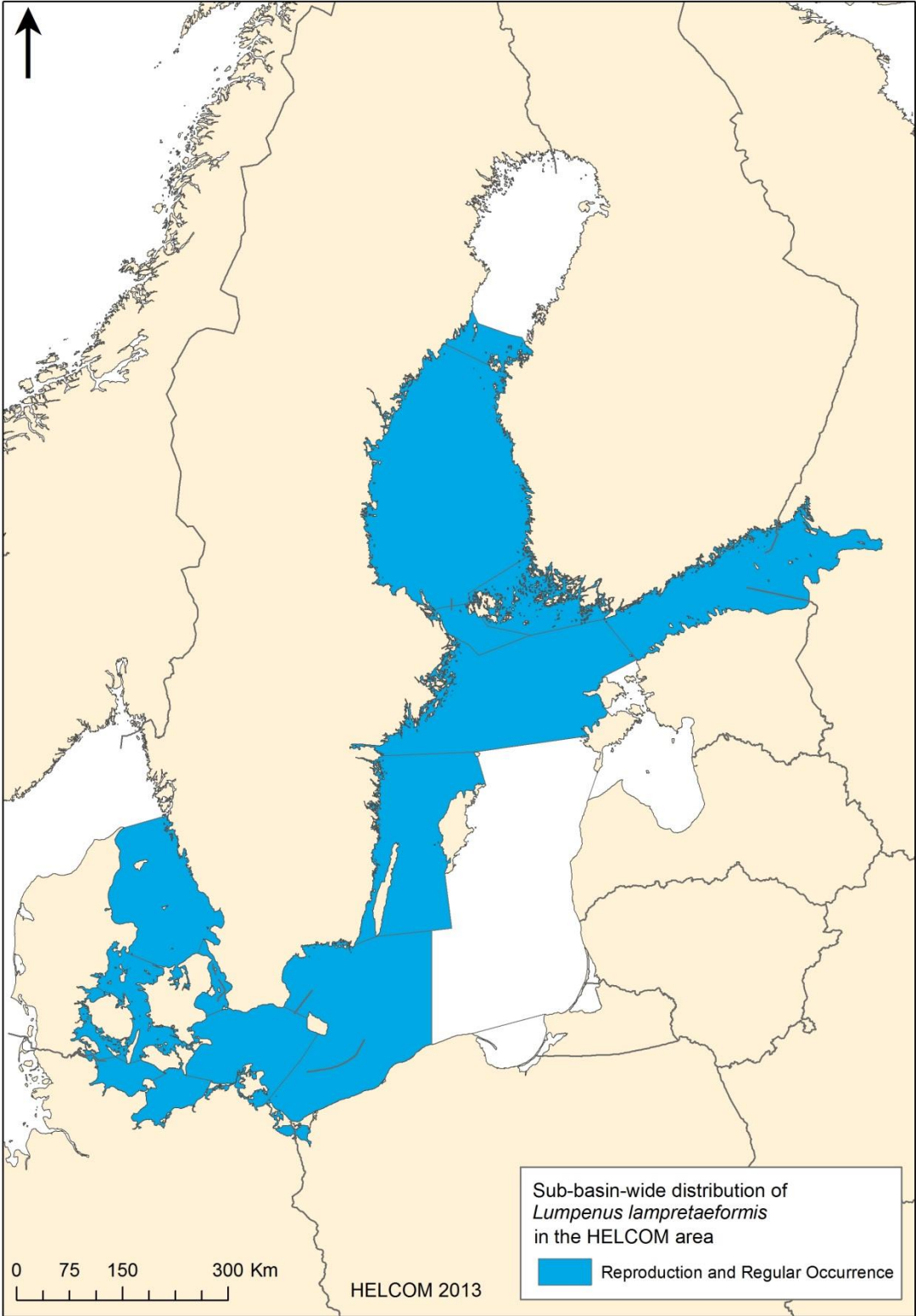
The snake blenny occurs on soft, muddy or sandy, bottoms from the Kattegat to the Gulf of Bothnia. It is mainly distributed on depths between 30 and 120 m. Reliable data on distribution, population size and population trend are lacking. The species is most likely negatively affected by the increase of areas with anoxic conditions in the Baltic Proper, and as a consequence decreasing area of distribution and habitat quality.



Catch of snake blenny at the International Bottom Trawl Survey 2012.
Photo by David Andersson, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

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 snake blenny is benthic on clean mud bottoms at 30–200 m depth. It buries and lives in Y-shaped tubes in the mud. The species feeds on small crustaceans, molluscs, brittle stars and worms. Adults mature at about 20 cm total length. Spawning season is from December to January; about 1000 eggs are laid on the sea floor. Larvae are pelagic. The maximum total length of adults is 50 cm (Fricke 1987, Froese & Pauly 2005).

Description of major threats

The species was considered threatened in the previous HELCOM assessment (HELCOM 2007) and eutrophication and habitat loss were mentioned as main threats to the species. The species requires relatively clean and well oxygenated deepwater habitats.

Assessment justification

The species is most likely negatively affected by the increase of areas with anoxic conditions in the Baltic Proper, and as a consequence the area of occupancy (AOO) and the habitat quality have decreased. During the period 1999–2011 the percentage of uninhabitable bottoms in the Baltic Proper increased from 5 to 15%, based on the increase in hypoxia (Hansson et al 2011). The Baltic Proper corresponds to about 70% of the species total AOO and consequently this 10% loss of habitat in the Baltic Proper corresponds to a loss of AOO in the HELCOM area in the order of 3–10% during the assessment period. If this loss of habitat is directly related to a decrease in population size it is below the threshold for being Near Threatened due to population decrease and since both distribution area and population size are well above threshold levels this species is currently considered LC on a HELCOM level.

Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

No protection actions currently needed in the HELCOM area but more data should be collected on the status of this species.

Common names

D - Spitzschwanz-Schlangenstachelrücken; GB –Snake blenny; DK - Spidshalet langebarn; ES: suttlimusk; FIN – Elaska ; LV - Lentzivs, Islandes lentzivs; LT - Nėginis liumpenas; PL - Taśmiak; RU Minogovidnij ljumpen ; S – Spetsstjartat lągebarn

References

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