

SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Lunatia pallida

English name: Pale moonsnail	Scientific name: <i>Lunatia pallida</i>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Gastropoda Order: Hypsogastropoda Family: Naticidae	Species authority: Broderip & G.B. Sowerby I, 1829	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: <i>Euspira pallida</i> Broderip & Sowerby, 1829	Generation length: –	
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, North Sea), Latvia –/–, Lithuania –/–, Poland –/–, Russia –/–, Sweden –/VU		

Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

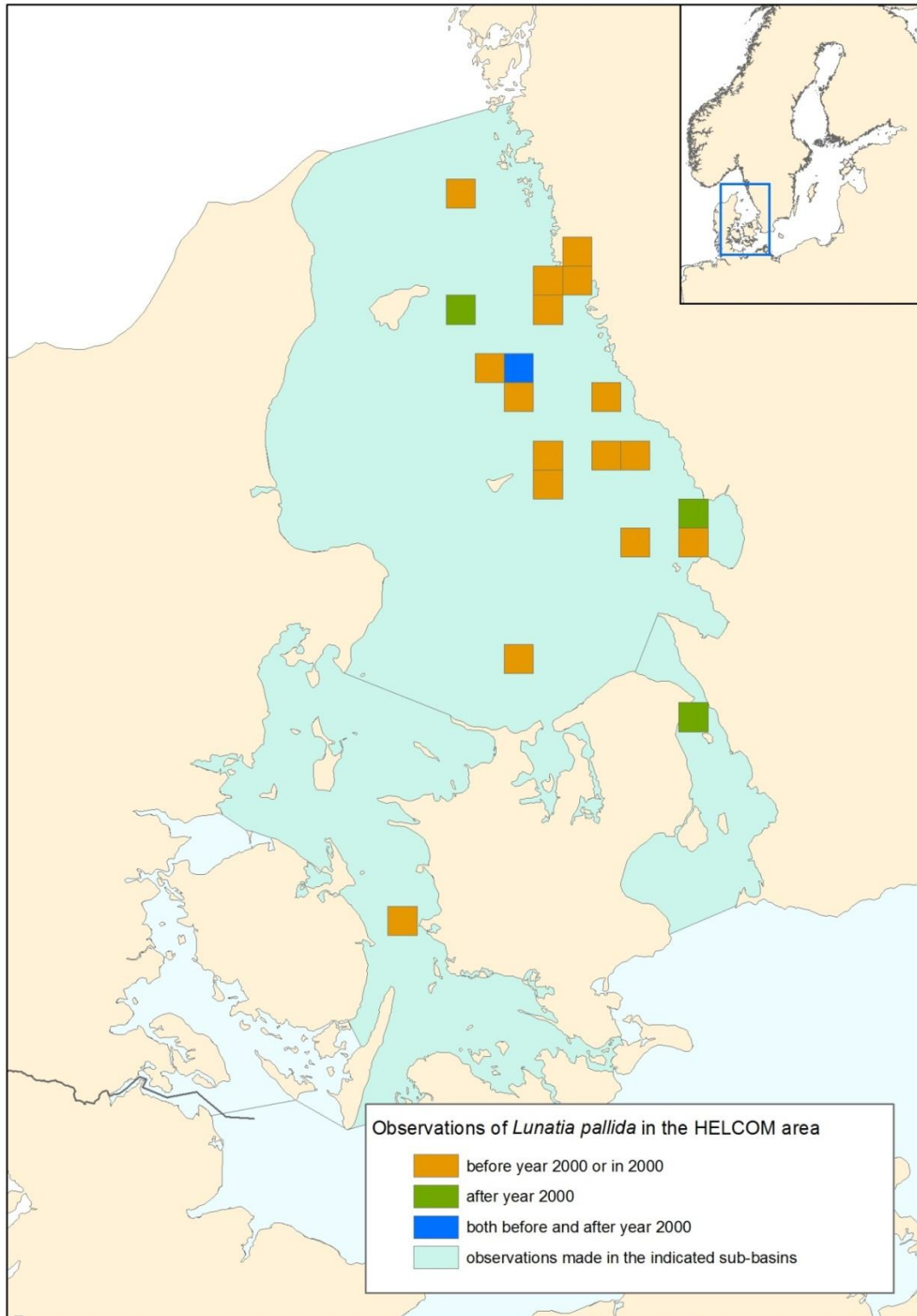
Within the HELCOM area *Lunatia pallida* is known from the Kattegat, the Sound and the Great Belt. Outside the HELCOM area it occurs in the Skagerrak and the North Sea. The species has been regularly reported from the Landskrona deep, Sound middle and the Knähaken area since the late 1800's, but in the last decades it seems to have more or less disappeared from this area. Only one record from the Sound is reported in recent years (2003). There are also very few observations from the southern Kattegat in recent years, primarily from the shallow offshore bank Fladen. A comparison between historical and present Swedish data indicates a severe decline in the Kattegat, particularly in the south. However, the trend in Danish waters is largely unknown.

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Distribution map

The georeferenced records of species compiled from the databases of the Swedish Species Information Centre (Artportalen), Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute, and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea.



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Habitat and ecology

L. pallida is a small (up to 22 mm long) slender gastropod with a characteristic creamy white shell. It lives on soft and muddy bottoms. In Scandinavian waters the depth range is between 20 to 250 meters. It feeds on mussels. The larvae probably have direct development, and the species may therefore have limited possibilities to disperse and/or recolonize.

Description of major threats

The decline of the species is probably related to increased sedimentation caused by eutrophication and bottom trawling. In general gastropods are also sensitive to hazardous substances, especially to organic tin compounds which are known to disturb the reproduction in several species.

Assessment justification

Only limited data is available. These indicate a decrease in distribution in recent decades. Due to general deterioration of the marine environment the distribution is expected to decrease further due to a deterioration of habitat quality. The number of locations is estimated to be less than 10. Present distribution (EOO) is estimated to 12 000 (8000–16000) km². In combination with few locations and continuing decline the B-criterion is thus fulfilled, and the species is categorized as Vulnerable (VU) (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.

Common names

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

References

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- Swedish Species Gateway. Swedish Species Information Centre and Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. Available at www.artportalen.se.