**SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET**

**Lycodes gracilis**

**English name:** Checker eelpout  
**Scientific name:** *Lycodes gracilis*

| Taxonomical group:  |  
| Class: Actinopterygii  | Species authority: Sars, 1867  
| Order: Perciformes  |  
| Family: Zoarcidae  |  

| Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms:  | Generation length:  
| Often mistaken for *L. vahlii*  | 5 years  

| Past and current threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Not known  | Future threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Not known  

| IUCN Criteria:  | HELCOM Red List Category:  
| –  | Data Deficient  

| Global / European IUCN Red List Category:  | Habitats Directive:  
| NE/NE  | –  

| Previous HELCOM Red List Category (2007): –  

**Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region**

The checker eelpout is a strictly marine species with its primary distribution in the Skagerrak and in deeper parts of the Kattegat in the HELCOM area (Froese & Pauly 2012). Virtually nothing is known about its biology or status within the HELCOM area.

Checker eelpout. Photo: Anders Salesjö  
Photography, Undervattenbilder.se.
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).
**Habitat and ecology**
The checker eelpout lives on soft bottoms at depths between 90 to 365 m at temperatures of 2–6 °C (Anderson & Fedorov 2004).

**Description of major threats**
No major threats identified within HELCOM area.

**Assessment justification**
Assuming the same generation time as for *Zoarces viviparus* (i.e. 5 years), gives an assessment window from 1995–2010. Bottom trawling surveys in the Skagerrak and Kattegat show a clear downward trend in CPUE since the beginning of 1990s and from 1995 to 2010 the checker eelpout has decreased more than 80%. Looking at a shorter timeframe 2002–2010 gives the same result. However seen on a longer timescale this might be a natural return to lower values. The uncertainty in the decline (0–80%) results in a DD status.

**Recommendations for actions to conserve the species**
There is a need to improve the knowledge on distribution and abundance of this species together with essential habitat requirements and population structure of the species before any recommendations can be given.

**Common names**
DK: Almindelig ålebrosme; FI: Kalpapyrstö; GB: Checker eelpout; LV: Valsa lucītis; RU: Tonkij likod; SE: Ålbrosme

**References**
Available at: www.fishbase.org, version (10/2012).