

SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Melanogrammus aeglefinus

English name: Haddock	Scientific name: <i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Actinopterygii Order: Gadiformes Family: Gadidae	Species authority: Linnaeus, 1758	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: –	Generation length: 9.3 years	
Past and current threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Fishing (F02.02.01;F02.02.02;F02.03)	Future threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Fishing (F02.02), Eutrophication (H01.05)	
IUCN Criteria: B1a+2a	HELCOM Red List Category:	NT Near Threatened
Global / European IUCN Red List Category VU (A1d+2d) in 1996/NE	Habitats Directive: –	
Previous HELCOM Red List Category (2007): VU		
Protection and Red List status in HELCOM countries: TAC regulation by EU. Denmark –/–, Estonia –/–, Finland –/–, Germany –/* (Not threatened, Baltic Sea), Latvia –/–, Lithuania –/–, Poland –/–, Russia –/–, Sweden <i>Protected from fishing during spawning (1st of January to 31st of March) in the Kattegat coastal area. Minimum landing size of 27 cm in Kattegat.</i> /EN		

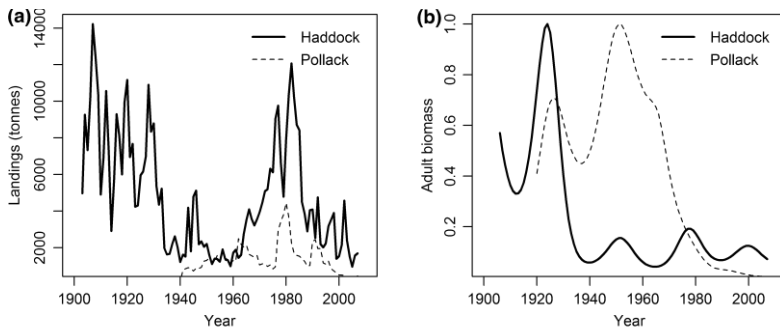
Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

Haddock occurs in the Kattegat, the Belt Sea and the Sound but currently spawning is only known from the sound. In recent years, the haddock stock has increased in the North Sea and Skagerrak (ICES 2011). However, if the stock development is analysed over a longer period of time a, a variable pattern in commercial landings can be depicted: a drastic decline in the 1930s, an increase after the WWII, decline once more in the 1950s, and an increase from 1960 to 1980 followed by collapse in landings during the last two decades (Cardinale *et al.* 2012). It should also be observed that the increase in the stock in the 1960s–1980s was entirely located to the western part of the Skagerrak whereas landings of haddock in the Kattegat were scarce. It has been estimated that less than 1% of the haddock stock in the Kattegat compared to the stock size in the beginning of the 20th century (Cardinale *et al.* 2012).



Haddock. Photo by Vivica von Vietinghoff, Deutsches Meeresmuseum.

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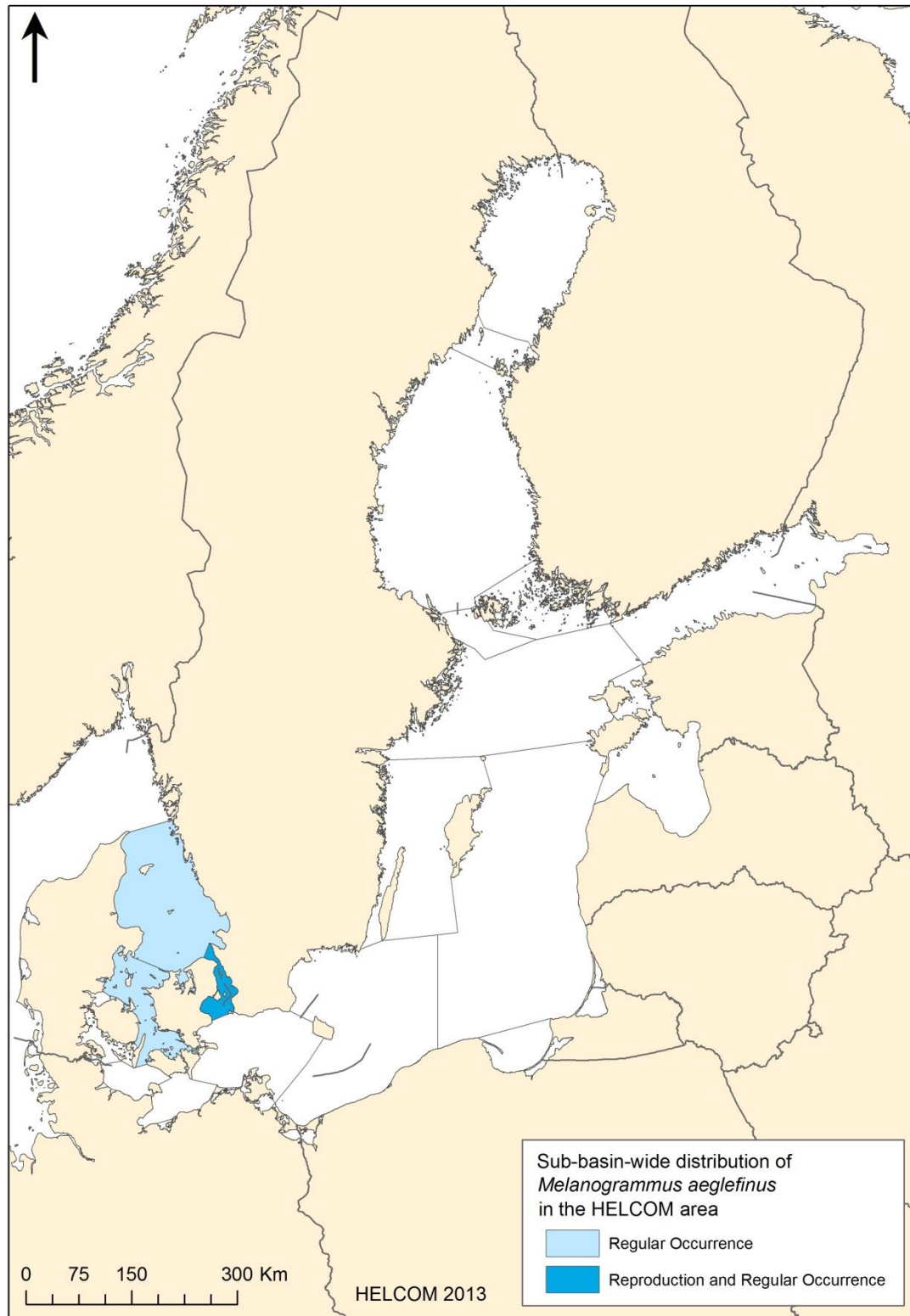
Historical trends of (a) total official ICES landings, (b) adult biomass [in relative scale] for haddock (and pollack) in the Skagerrak and Kattegat. From Cardinale *et al.* 2012.

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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

Haddock is a demersal species inhabiting the Northwest and Northeast Atlantic and foraging on benthos, mostly mussels, brittle stars and polychaetes. It lives on soft bottoms at depth ranges of 10–450 m, usually at 10–200 m depths. Haddock are seldom longer than 1 m and the maximum weight is just below 20 kg. The species sexually matures at ages 2–5 years. Eggs and larvae are pelagic. Most juvenile haddock in the Kattegat probably originate from the North Sea and return migrations to spawning localities in the North Sea can be assumed to occur in similarity to cod (Svedäng *et al.* 2007).

Description of major threats

The major threat is commercial fishing, i.e. benthic, demersal and pelagic trawling and demersal seining. Eutrophication is a potential threat as it might lead to oxygen depletion and deterioration of nursery areas.

Assessment justification

After a severe reduction during the last century the haddock is currently increasing in Kattegat. The estimated population size is above the threshold for being threatened.

Spawning is today restricted only to the Sound so a very restricted area of occupancy (10–500km²) and extent of occurrence (<5 000km²) together with a low number of spawning locations satisfy the B criterion for Near Threatened. Although immigration is possible from outside the HELCOM area this is not deemed to currently be of significance to change the threat status since the Kattegat population is currently totally depleted.

Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

A prerequisite for recovery is an effectively reduced fishery in the Kattegat. Spawning areas should be identified and given a sufficient protection. Recovery of the haddock stock in the Kattegat will not occur unless fishing effort is reduced.

Common names

D – Schellfisch ; DK – Kuller; GB – Haddock; FIN –Kolja; LV - Pikša; LT - Juodadėmė menkė; PL - Plamiak; RUS - Piksha; S – Kolja

References

- Cardinale, M., Svedäng, H, Bartolino, V., Maiorano, L., Casini, M., Linderholm, H. (2012). Spatial and temporal depletion of haddock and pollack during the last century in the Kattegat-Skagerrak. *Journal of Applied Ichthyology* 28: 200–208.
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- Svedäng, H., Righton, D., Jonsson, P. (2007). Migratory behaviour of Atlantic cod *Gadus morhua*: natal homing is the prime stock-separating mechanism. *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 345: 1–12.
- Svensson, M., Degerman, E, Florin, A.-B., Hagberg, J., Kullander, S. O., Nathanson, J. E. & Stenberg, C. (2010). Fiskar – Fish. Pisces. In Gärdenfors, U. (ed.) *Rödlistade arter i Sverige 2010 – The 2010 Red List of Swedish Species*. ArtDatabanken, SLU, Uppsala. P. 323–332. Red List categories available also at <http://www.artfakta.se/GetSpecies.aspx?SearchType=Advanced>
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sötvatten – Resurs och miljööversikt 2011. Danagårds Grafiska, Ödeshög. 247 pp. [in Swedish]

Available at:

<https://www.havochvatten.se/download/18.472732f513318aaf1af800075/1319016178229/ROM+2011.pdf>

Thiel, R., Winkler, H., Böttcher, U., Dänhardt, A., Fricke, R., George, M. Kloppmann, M., Schaarschmidt, T., Ubl, C. & Vorberg, R. (2013). Rote Liste und Gesamtartenliste der etablierten Neunaugen und Fische (Petromyzontida, Elasmobranchii & Actinopterygii) der marinen Gewässer Deutschlands. 5. Fassung, Stand August 2013. Naturschutz und Biologische Vielfalt 70(2): 11–76.