

## SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

## *Myoxocephalus scorpius*

English name: <b>Shorthorn sculpin</b>	Scientific name: <i>Myoxocephalus scorpius</i>
Taxonomical group: Class: Actinopterygii Order: Scorpaeniformes Family: Cottidae	Species authority: Linnaeus, 1858
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: –	Generation length: 5 years
Past and current threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): –	Future threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): –
IUCN Criteria: –	<b>HELCOM Red List Category:</b> <b>LC</b> <b>Least Concern</b>
Global / European IUCN Red List Category NE/NE	Habitats Directive: –
Previous HELCOM Red List Category (2007): VU	
Protection and Red List status in HELCOM countries: Denmark –/–, Estonia –/DD, Finland –/DD, Germany –/D (Data deficient, Baltic Sea), Latvia –/–, Lithuania –/–, Poland –/–, Russia –/–, Sweden –/LC	

### Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

The shorthorn sculpin inhabits coastal and shallow offshore habitats in marine and brackish waters. The species is very common in the Kattegat and its abundances decrease towards the northeastern Baltic Sea with the decreasing salinity.

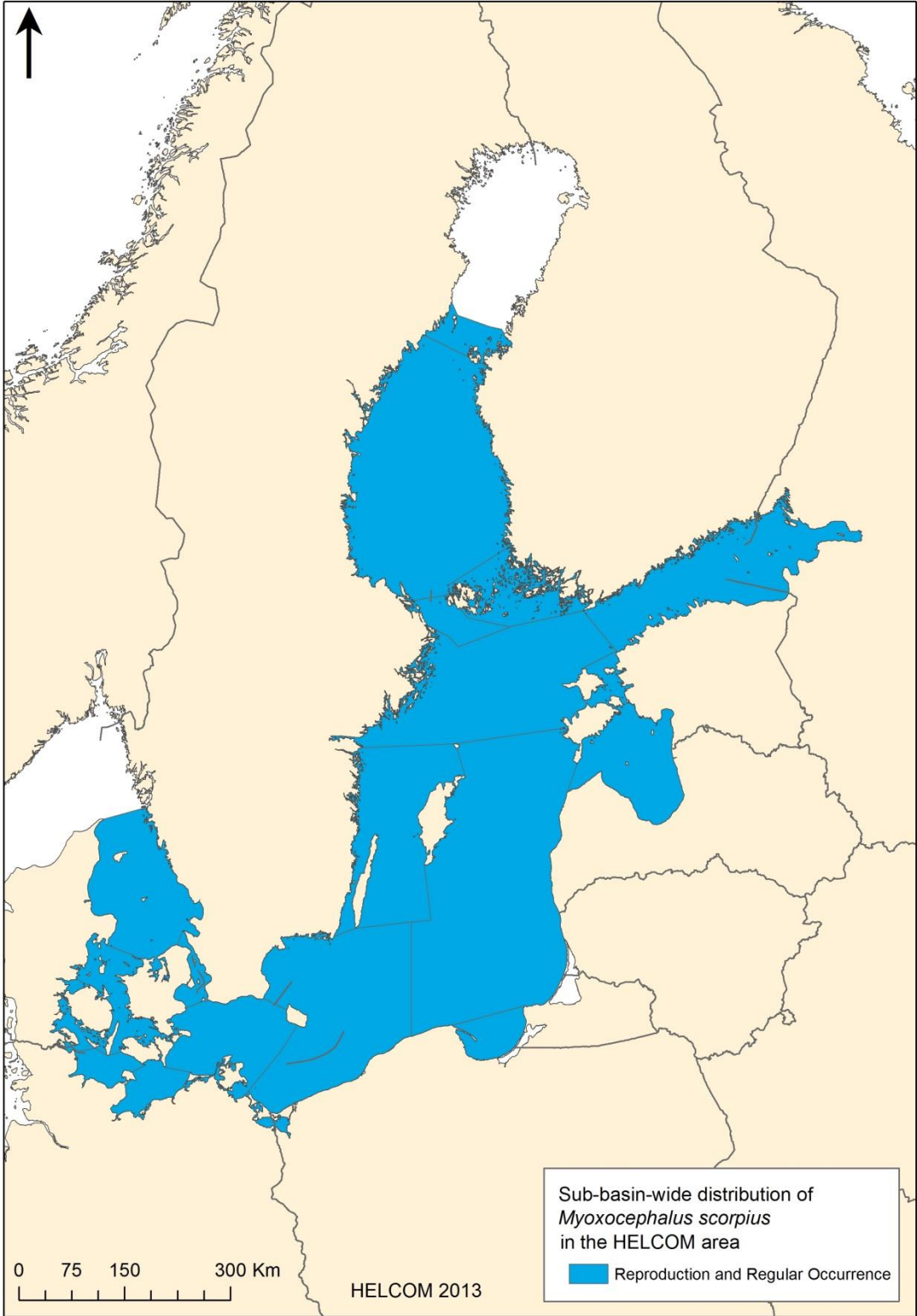
A Swedish monitoring series from Kvädöfjärden in the Western Gotland basin shows a positive trend between 1996 and 2011. The species also shows increasing occurrences the last decade in Swedish fish monitoring in Northern Baltic Proper. In Kattegat however there is a negative development during the same time period.



Shorthorn sculpin. Photo by Björn Fagerholm, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

**Distribution map**

The map shows the subbasins in the HELCOM area where the species is known to occur regularly and to reproduce (HELCOM 2012).



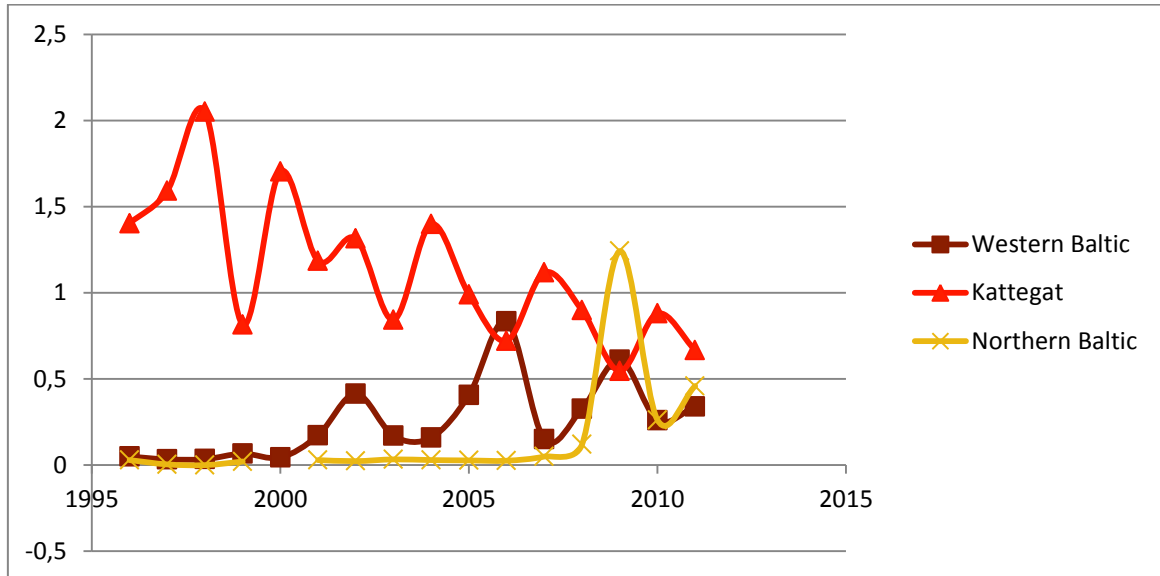


Fig.1 Catch per unit effort in Swedish monitoring net fishing in western Baltic Proper, Northern Baltic proper and in Kattegat.

## Habitat and ecology

The shorthorn sculpin is a benthic species found on rocky bottoms with sand or mud, or among seaweeds. It feeds on fish, large crustaceans, occasionally polychaetes and amphipods. During the spawning season (from December to March), the male's underside becomes deep red with white spots. (Fedorov 1986, Froese & Pauly 2005)

## Description of major threats

No major threats identified within the HELCOM area.

## Assessment justification

The number of mature individuals exceeds the limit for red listing. The extent of occurrence (EOO) and area of occupancy (AOO) exceed the limits for red listing. There are signs of significant population change in the Kattegat, however given the species positive trend in available data from the Baltic Sea the total decrease in the HELCOM area is probably less than 15%. Hence the species falls in the category Least Concern (LC).

## Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

No protection actions currently needed in the HELCOM area.

## Common names

D - Seeskorpion; ES – nolgus; GB – Shorthorn sculpin; DK - Almindelig ulk; FIN – Isosimppu; LV - Ziemeļu buļļzivis; LT - Builis; PL - Kur diabeł; RUS - Evropeiskij kerchak; S – Rötsimpa

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### References

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