

SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Pelonaia corrugata

English name: –	Scientific name: <i>Pelonaia corrugata</i>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Ascidiacea Order: Pleurogona Family: Styelidae	Species authority: Goodsir & Forbes, 1841	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: <i>Pelonaia arenifera</i> Stimpson, 1851; <i>Pelonaia glabra</i> Forbes & Goodsir, 1841; <i>Pelonaia villosa</i> Sars, 1859;	Generation length: –	
Past and current threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Eutrophication (sedimentation; H01.05), Fishing (sedimentation caused by bottom trawling; F02.02.01)	Future threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Eutrophication (sedimentation; H01.05), Fishing (sedimentation caused by bottom trawling; F02.02.01)	
IUCN Criteria: D2	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 –/–, Latvia –/–, Lithuania –/–, Poland –/–, Russia –/–, Sweden –/– VU		

Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

The main distribution of *Pelonaia corrugata* within the HELCOM area is in the Kattegat but the species has also been observed in the Sound. Most observations are from the Swedish part of the Kattegat, primarily from the shallow offshore banks. Outside the HELCOM area the species occurs in the Skagerrak and along the Norwegian coast. The habitat of the species - well oxygenated sand bottoms at 30–50 meters depth - are probably very rare in the HELCOM area.



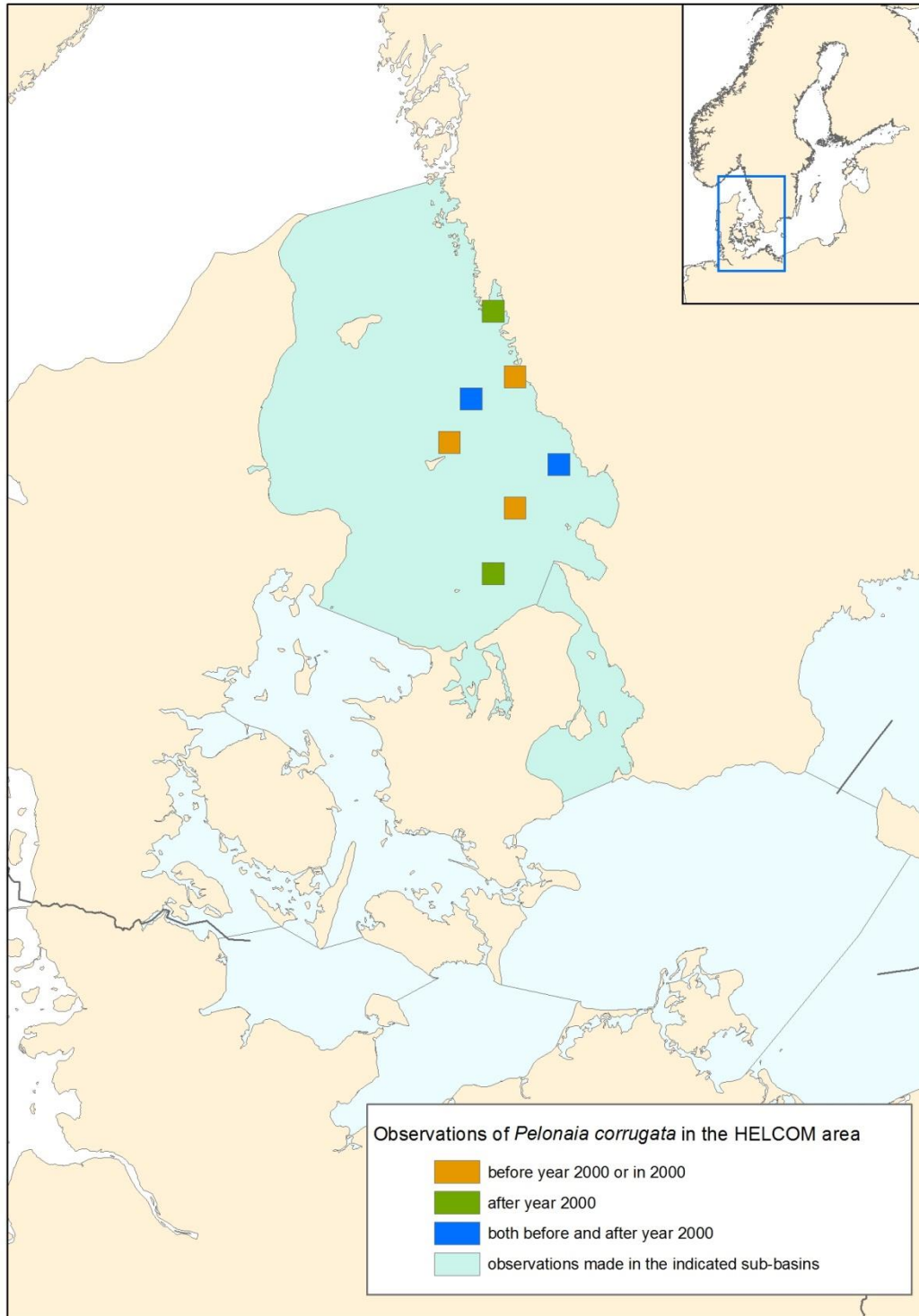
Pelonaia corrugata. Photo by Anders Salesjö Photography, Undervattensbilder.se.

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Distribution map

The records of species compiled from the databases of the Swedish Species Information Centre, Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute, Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research (IOW), and from the Danish national database for marine data (MADS).



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Habitat and ecology

Pelonaia corrugata is a slender wormlike ascidian (sea squirt). It reaches a length of 4–5 cm, but can in extreme cases become up to 12 cm long. The species lives unattached and partly imbedded in soft sediments, with only the siphons sticking up. It is usually found on depths between 30 and 50 meters on well oxygenated sand bottoms. Unlike most other ascidians the species lives for several years, at least 2–3 years, and becomes sexually mature only during its second year. The species is oviparous, and lays heavy eggs that sink to the sea bottom. Larval development is direct, lacking a tadpole-like stage.

Description of major threats

Well oxygenated sand bottoms represent a rare habitat in the HELCOM area. They are sensitive to sedimentation caused by eutrophication, trawling, or other human activities.

Assessment justification

The species lives in well oxygenated sand bottoms which is a rare habitat in the Kattegat. The number of locations is estimated to 2 (2–4). There are indications of populations decline, related to decreased quality of the habitat. The distribution is so restricted that the limit values for Vulnerable (VU) are fulfilled according to the D-criterion.

Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

In general the negative effects of eutrophication and trawling on marine biotopes need to be reduced. The habitat of the species needs to be mapped and given adequate protection.

Common names

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

References

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- Karlsson, A. Agrenius, S. Berggren, M., Cedhagen, T. Hansson, H. G., Kautsky, H., Lundin, K., Lundälv, T., Schander, C. & Smith, S. 2010. Manteldjur – Tunicates. Tunicata. In Gärdenfors, U. (ed.) Rödlitade arter i Sverige 2010 – The 2010 Red List of Swedish Species. ArtDatabanken, SLU, Uppsala. P. 333–337. Red List categories available also at <http://www.artfakta.se/GetSpecies.aspx?SearchType=Advanced>
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- MADS, The Danish national database for marine data. NERI: University of Aarhus; National Environmental Research Institute. Downloaded in June 2011.
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