

## SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

*Pollachius pollachius*

English name: <b>Pollack</b>	Scientific name: <b><i>Pollachius pollachius</i></b>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Actinopterygii Order: Gadiformes Family: Gadidae	Species authority: Linnaeus, 1758	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: –	Generation length: 12.8	
Past and current threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Fishing, Bycatch (F02)	Future threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Fishing, Bycatch (F02)	
IUCN Criteria: –	<b>HELCOM Red List Category:</b>	<b>NA Not Applicable</b>
Global / European IUCN Red List Category: NE/NE	Habitats Directive: –	
Previous HELCOM Red List Category (2007): EN		
Protection and Red List status in HELCOM countries: Denmark –/–, Estonia –/–, Finland –/–, Germany –/– (Baltic Sea), Latvia –/–, Lithuania –/–, Poland –/–, Russia –/–, Sweden <i>Protected from fishing during spawning 1st of January to 31st of March in coastal areas in Kattegat</i> / <b>CR</b>		

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

During the 20th century pollack was regularly occurring in the eastern parts of Kattegat and the northern parts of the Sound (Cardinale & Svedäng 2012). Larger individuals were mainly observed in late autumn. Numbers have been significantly lower during the last decades but regular observations are still made in the Kattegat and the Sound while it is sporadically reported as far into the Baltic Sea as Gulf of Riga (HELCOM 2012). Outside the HELCOM area, it inhabits the Northeast Atlantic from the Bay of Biscay to Norway and Iceland (Froese & Pauly 2012). Reproduction has not been confirmed within the HELCOM area.



Pollack. Photos by Vivica von Vietinghoff, Deutsches Meeresmuseum (top), Björn Fagerholm, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (bottom).

## SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

## *Pollachius pollachius*

### Habitat and ecology

The pollack is found either in mid-water or close to shore over hard bottoms. Juveniles may form schools with saithe (*P. virens*) but are also found solitary defending feeding territory. Larger individuals move to the open sea and are often found around rocky areas at 40–100 m depth in small shoals or individually. It mainly feeds on fish, and occasionally on cephalopods and crustaceans (shrimps and crabs). The species spawns in dense shoals from March to May, at a water temperature of 8–10°C, at deeper waters. The eggs and larvae are pelagic. Maximum total length of adults is 130 cm, maximum body weight 18.1 kg, maximum individual age 8 years, and age at maturity 2–3 years (Fricke 1987, Froese & Pauly 2012).

### Description of major threats

Caught as bycatch in cod and saithe fisheries. It has also previously been targeted in the Kattegat.

### Assessment justification

No confirmed reproduction within the HELCOM area and less than 2% of the European population occurring in the area makes the pollack Not Applicable (NA) for assessment in the HELCOM area.

### Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

No confirmed reproduction within HELCOM area but since it is threatened in adjacent areas fishing should be restricted. A TAC should be implemented also in the North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat.

### Common names

D –Pollack; DK – Lubbe; GB – Pollack; FIN – Lyyraturaska; LV - Pollaks; LT – Sidabrinis polakas; PL-Rdzawiec; RUS - Serebristaja saida ; S – Lyrtorsk/Bleka

### References

- Fricke, R. (1987). Deutsche Meeresfische. Bestimmungsbuch. Hamburg (DJN). 219 pp.
- Froese, R., Pauly, D. (eds.) (2012). FishBase. World Wide Web electronic publication. Available at: [www.fishbase.org](http://www.fishbase.org), version (10/2012).
- HELCOM (2007). HELCOM Red list of threatened and declining species of lampreys and fish of the Baltic Sea. Baltic Sea Environmental Proceedings No. 109. Helsinki Commission, Helsinki. 40 pp.
- HELCOM (2012). Checklist of Baltic Sea Macro-species. Baltic Sea Environment Proceedings No. 130. Helsinki Commission, Helsinki. 203 pp.
- 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>