

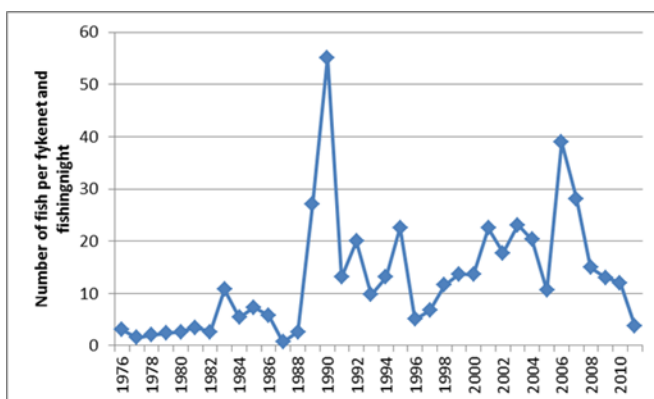
SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Symphodus melops

English name: Corkwing wrasse	Scientific name: <i>Symphodus melops</i>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Actinopterygii Order: Perciformes Family: Labridae	Species authority: Linnaeus, 1758	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: <i>Labrus melops</i> , <i>Crenilabrus melops</i>	Generation length: 5 years	
Past and current threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): –	Future threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): –	
IUCN Criteria: –	HELCOM Red List Category:	LC Least Concern
Global / European IUCN Red List Category LC/NE	Habitats Directive: –	
Previous HELCOM Red List Category (2007): VU		
Protection and Red List status in HELCOM countries: Denmark –/–, Estonia –/–, Finland –/–, Germany –/D (Data deficient, Baltic Sea), Latvia –/–, Lithuania –/–, Poland –/–, Russia –/–, Sweden –/LC		

Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

The corkwing wrasse is commonly found in the Kattegat and down to the Sound. It is rare in the southwestern Baltic Sea. Outside the HELCOM area the species is distributed along the Atlantic coast from central Norway south to Morocco and the Azores and along the northern Mediterranean coast.

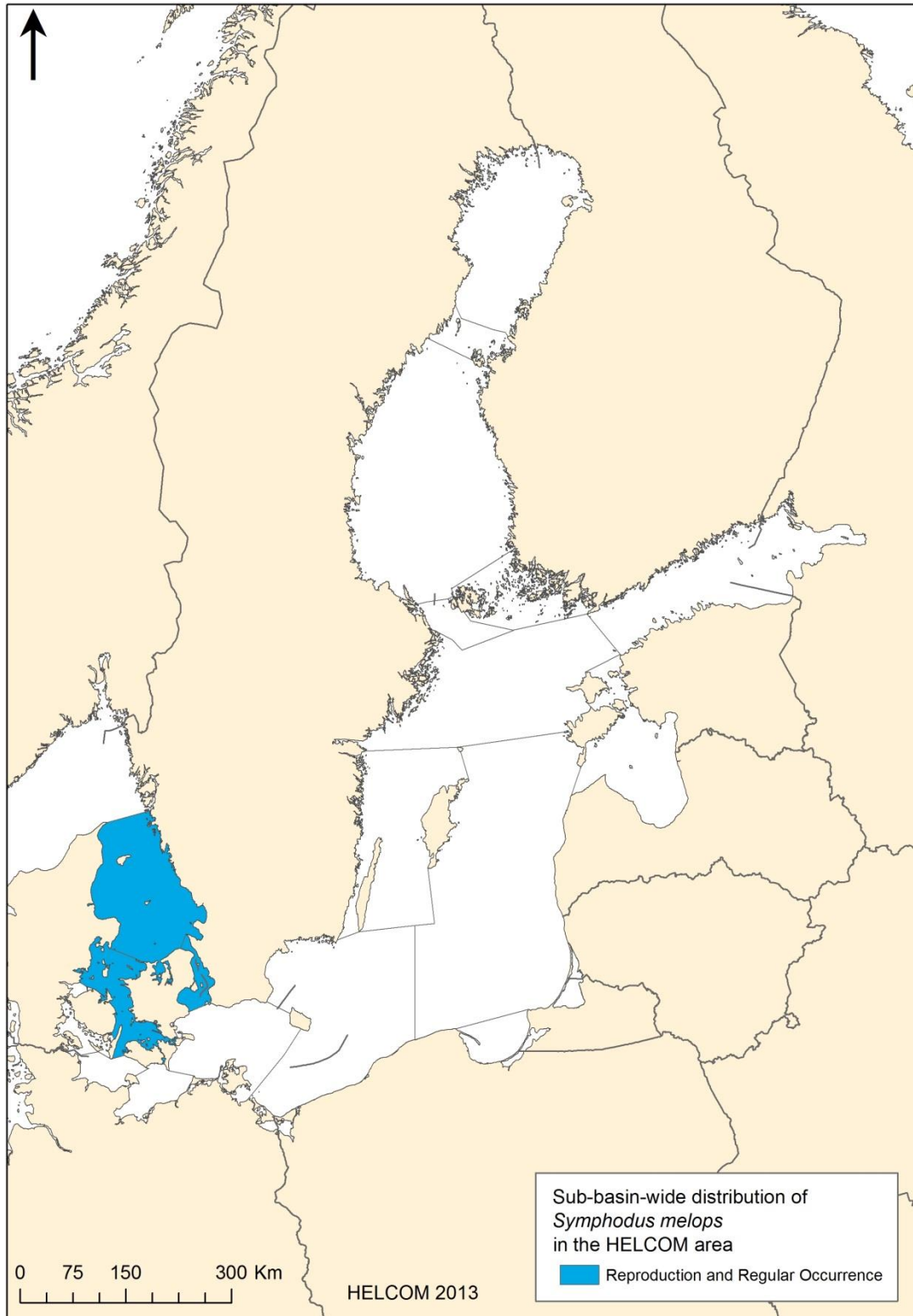


Corkwing wrasse. Photos by Vivica von Vietinghoff, Deutsches Meeresmuseum (left) and Martin Karlsson, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (right).

Fig 1. Catch per unit effort of corkwing wrasse in Swedish coastal fyke net monitoring in the Kattegat.

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

The corkwing wrasse is a marine territorial coastal fish inhabiting rocky habitats and eelgrass beds from shallow water down to 30 meters depth. This species lives in small groups of individuals of different sizes and seems to stay within a small local area throughout their lifecycle (Froese & Pauly 2012, Kullander et al 2012). Their diet consists of various small animals, including mussels, snails, crustaceans, bryozoans and various worms (Quignard and Pras 1986). Sex change from female to male has been observed but this species is essentially dioecious. The corkwing wrasse is commercially used because of its ability to remove parasites from other fish and is used in salmon aquaculture to remove the salmon louse (*Lepeophtheirus salmonis*) (Potts 1973).

Description of major threats

No major threats are identified for corkwing wrasse and coastal monitory fishing shows a positive trend.

Assessment justification

Corkwing wrasse reproduces in the Kattegat, the Great Belt and the Sound meaning that both the extent of occurrence (EOO) and the area of occupancy (AOO) are just above the limits for redlisting according to the IUCN criteria. Fykenet monitory fishing in the Kattegat shows no trend over the last three generations (15 years) and a positive trend over the entire investigated period 1976–2011. Hence this species is considered LC, Least Concern.

Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

No protection actions currently needed in HELCOM area.

Common names

D: Goldmaid; DK: Savgylte; FI: Rantahuulikala; GB: Corkwing wrasse; LI: Tamsiadryžė žaliažuvė; LV: Melnacu lūpzivs; PL: Wargacz melops; SE: Skärnsultra

References

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