

SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Syngnathus typhle

English name: Broad-nosed pipefish/Deepsnouted pipefish	Scientific name: <i>Syngnathus typhle</i>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Actinopterygii Order: Syngnathiformes Family: Syngnathidae	Species authority: Linnaeus, 1758	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: –	Generation length: 1.8 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 NE/NE	Habitats Directive: –	
Previous HELCOM Red List Category (2007): VU		
Protection and Red List status in HELCOM countries: Denmark –/–, Estonia –/DD, Finland –/LC, Germany –/* (Not threatened, Baltic Sea), Latvia –/–, Lithuania –/–, Poland <i>Prohibited to kill, catch or disturb this species under strict protection</i> / CR, Russia –/–, Sweden –/LC		

Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

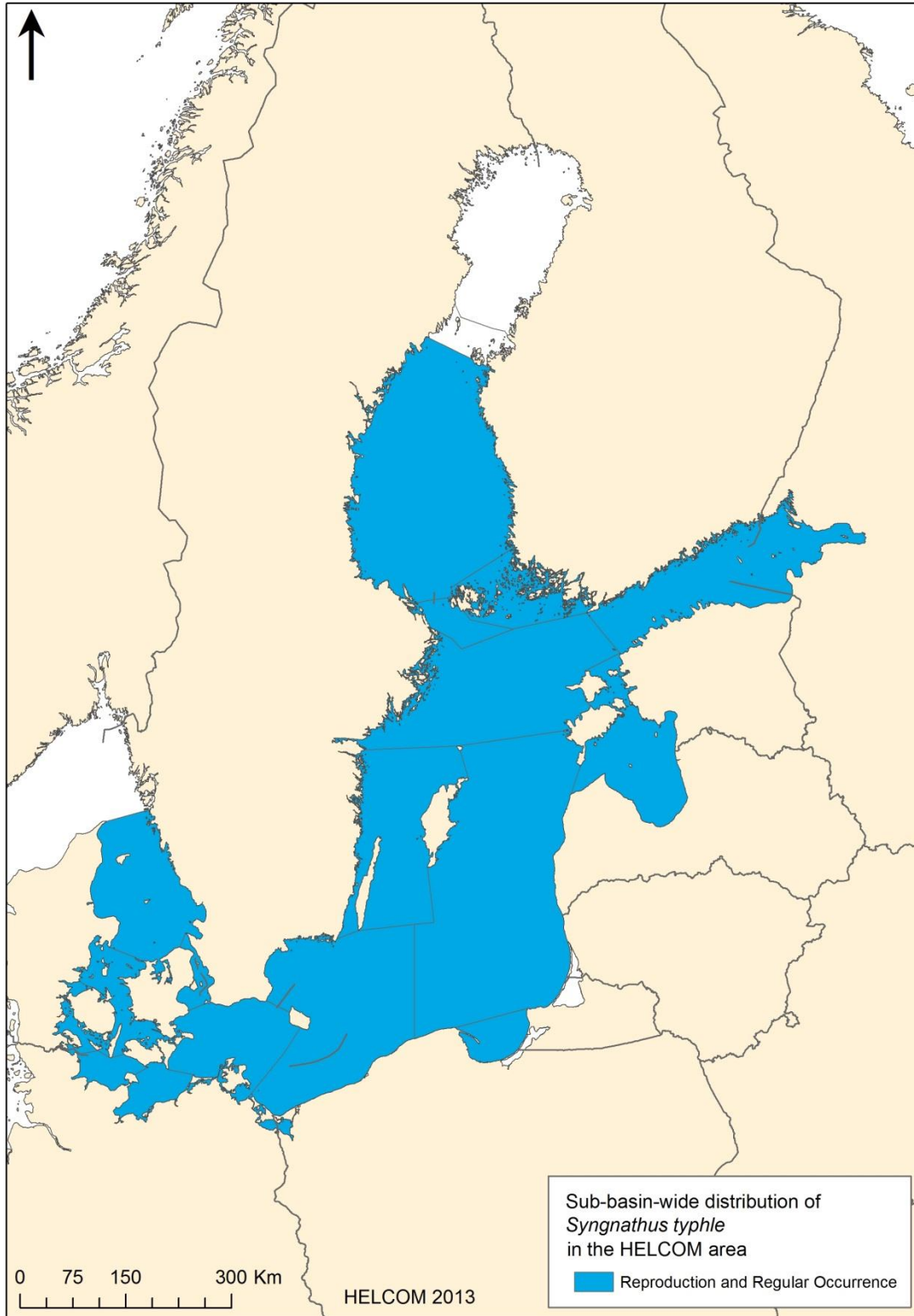
The broad-nosed or deepsnouted pipefish is together with the greater pipefish (*Syngnathus acus*) the most widespread species of all syngnathids in the HELCOM area. It occurs mainly in *Zostera* meadows in shallow waters or in soft and sandy bottoms down to 20 m depth (Kullander et al. 2012). In the Puck Bay (Poland) the species occurs in the *Pilayella* blooms where many specimens are observed in loosely floating algae. In the monitoring of cooling water intake at the power plant Ringhals in the Kattegat the abundance of the broad-nosed pipefish is showing weak positive trend over the last decade. A smaller amount is caught at the power plant Forsmark cooling water intake in the Åland Sea and the trend is negative with a 90 % decrease over the last 10 years.



Broad-nosed pipefish. Photos by Anders Berglund, Uppsala University (left) and Vivica von Vietinghoff, Deutsches Meeresmuseum (right).

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 broad-nosed pipefish is mainly a marine species that lives in coastal waters down to around 20 meters depth. It inhabits vegetated sandy or mud bottoms, preferably with eelgrass (*Zostera*). It is also common in the Baltic Sea in brackish water and can also be found in estuaries. The diet of the species consists of fish larvae, small fish and small invertebrates. The spawning takes place in pairs in dense vegetation during April to August and the eggs are deposited in the male's brood pouch. The male spawns with several females and can brood up to a couple of hundred embryos, which he also supplies with nutrition. (Dawson 1986, Froese & Pauly 2012, Kullander et al. 2012)

Description of major threats

The species is not considered threatened at the moment but its population has been negatively affected by the loss of suitable habitats, e.g. fragmentation of *Zostera* beds and removal of algae.

Assessment justification

Assuming that the data from Forsmark are representative for the Åland Sea and the data from Ringhals for the Kattegat Basin and that the population size is proportional to area a drastic decline of 90 % in the Åland Sea and no change in the Kattegat could at most lead to <20% population decline. The main habitats of the broad-nosed pipefish, *Zostera* meadows and possibly also other macrophyte rich habitats, have declined or deteriorated considerably within the HELCOM area and it could be assumed that the population of the species has also declined together with the habitat changes. However, these changes have in most areas happened several decades ago and currently the situation has stabilized, if not improved. As the broad-nosed pipefish is a short-lived species for which the time-period of population decline evaluation is only 10 years, the largest habitat changes, as well as the possible decline in population, have no effect on the assessment under criterion A. The species is widespread and still common in the Baltic Sea, and does not meet any of the other criteria either, and is therefore categorized as Least Concern (LC). Not assessed globally.

Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

No protection actions currently needed in the HELCOM area but more information should be collected on the status of this species.

Common names

D: Grasnadel; DK: Almindelig tangnål; ES: Merinöel FI: Särmäneula; GB: Broad-nosed pipefish, Deep-snouted pipefish; LI: Paprastoji jūru adata; LV: Adatzivs; PL: Iglicznia; RU: Dlinnorylaja igla-ryba; SE: Tångsnälla

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