

## SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

*Taurulus bubalis*

English name: <b>Longspined bullhead</b>	Scientific name: <i>Taurulus bubalis</i>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Actinopterygii Order: Scorpaeniformes Family: Cottidae	Species authority: Euphrasen, 1786	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: –	Generation length: 2.5 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 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 –/RA, Lithuania –/–, Poland –/–, Russia –/–, Sweden –/LC		

### Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

The longspined bullhead inhabits coastal and shallow offshore habitats in marine and brackish waters. It is very common in the Kattegat and its distribution and abundance decrease towards northeast in the Baltic Sea together with decreasing salinity. The species is only caught in good numbers in Swedish fish monitoring with fyke nets in Vendelsö, in the Kattegat, and catches indicate a decrease from the 1990s but also a recent increase, resulting in no trend over the last 10 years.



Longspined bullhead. Photos by Martin Karlsson, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (left), Timo Moritz, Deutsches Meeresmuseum (right).

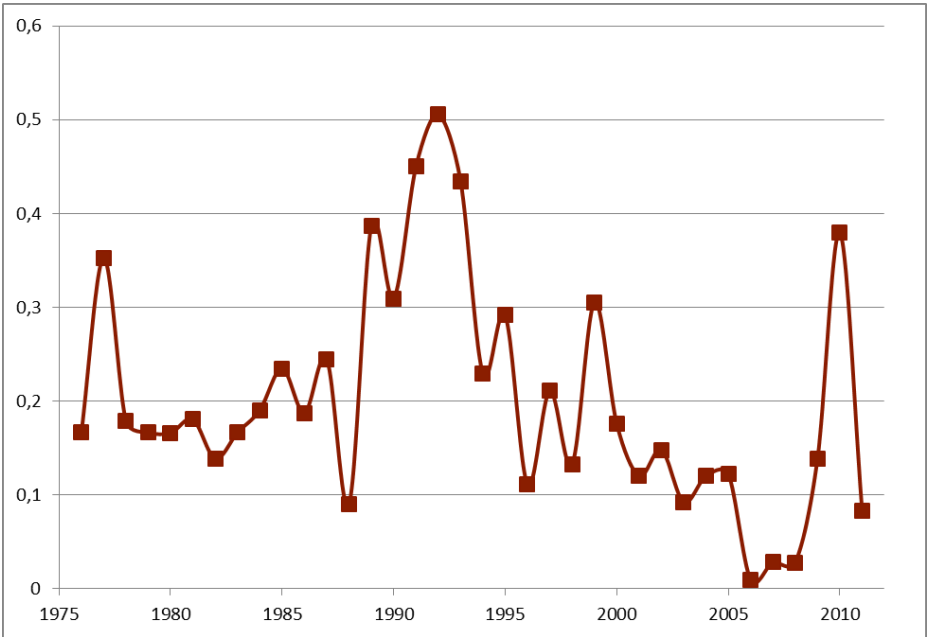
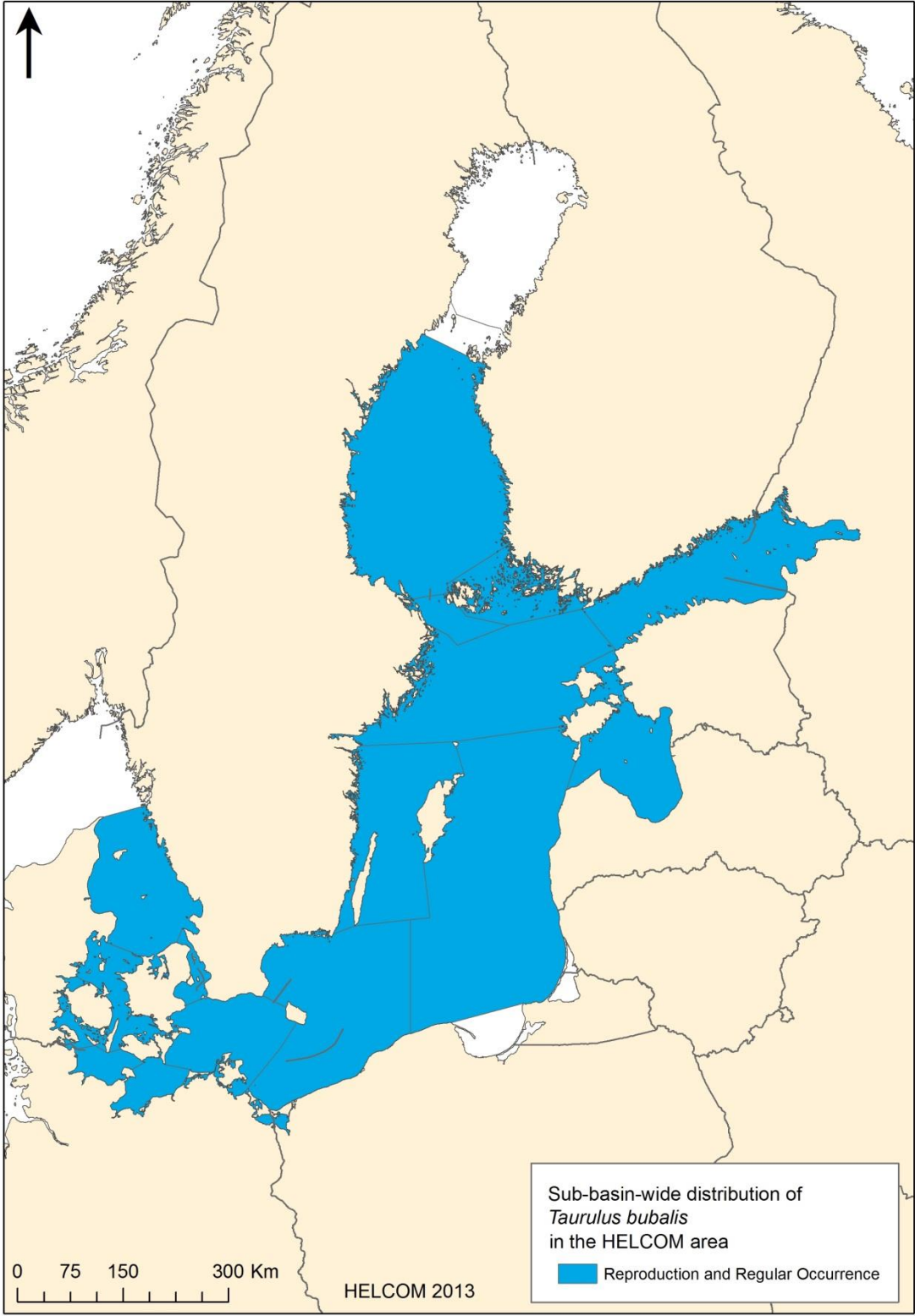


Fig.1 Catch per unit effort of longspined bullhead in fykenet monitoring in Kattegat.

**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 longspined bullhead is a resident benthic species with homing behavior (Gibson 1999). It inhabits tide pools and inshore waters on rocky bottoms or among algae at 0–30 m depth (Froese & Pauly 2005). It feeds on mysids, amphipods (gammarids), decapods, polychaetes, molluscs, ophiuroids and fish (Fedorov 1986). The longspined bullhead can breathe air when out of water (Martin & Bridges 1999).

### Description of major threats

No major threats identified within the HELCOM area.

### Assessment justification

The number of mature individuals, as well as the extent of occurrence (EOO) and the area of occupancy (AOO) exceed the limits for red listing. There are no signs of significant population change. The estimated values for which the assessment is based on are all within the range of the category of Least Concern (LC).

### Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

No protection actions currently needed in HELCOM area.

### Common names

D – Seebull; ES – Meripühvel; GB – Longspined bullhead; DK - Langtornet ulk; FIN – Piikkisimppu; LV - Jūras dzeloņgalve; LT - Buivolas; PL - Kur głowacz; RUS Европейский бычок-буйвол; S – Oxsimpa

### References

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