

SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Trachinus draco

English name: Greater weever	Scientific name: <i>Trachinus draco</i>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Actinopterygii Order: Perciformes Family: Trachinidae	Species authority: Linnaeus, 1758	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: –	Generation length:	
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 –/–, Finland –/–, Germany –/* (Not threatened, Baltic Sea), Latvia –/–, Lithuania –/–, Poland –/–, Russia –/–, Sweden –/LC		

Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

The greater weever is a marine species commonly occurring and reproducing in Kattegat, the Belt Seas and the Sound. It is occasionally found also in southern Baltic Sea but it is not reproducing there. Both monitoring data and commercial landings from the last decades show a positive trend in the HELCOM area.



Greater weever. Photo: Timo Moritz, Deutsches Meeresmuseum.

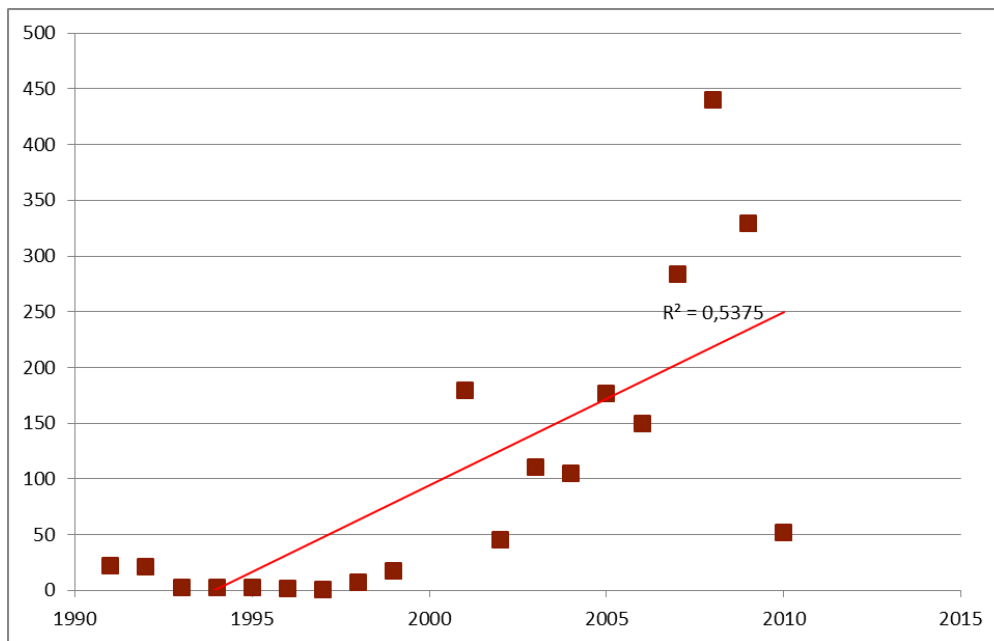


Fig.1 Catch per unit effort (number per trawling hour) of greater weever in international bottom trawl surveys in Kattegat (IBTS) during third quarter of the year (Linear fit and correlation coefficient from linear regression shown).

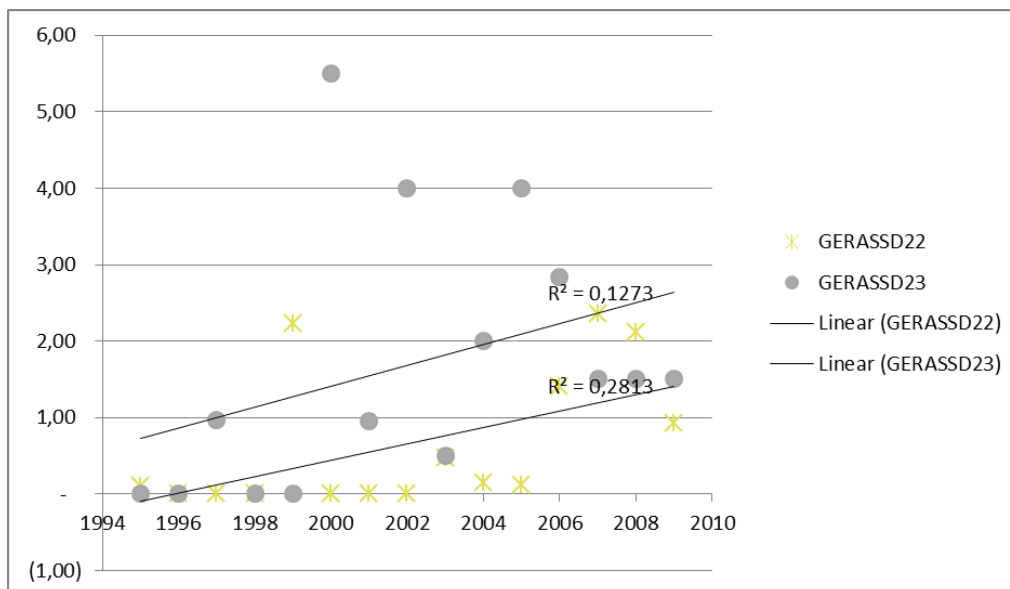
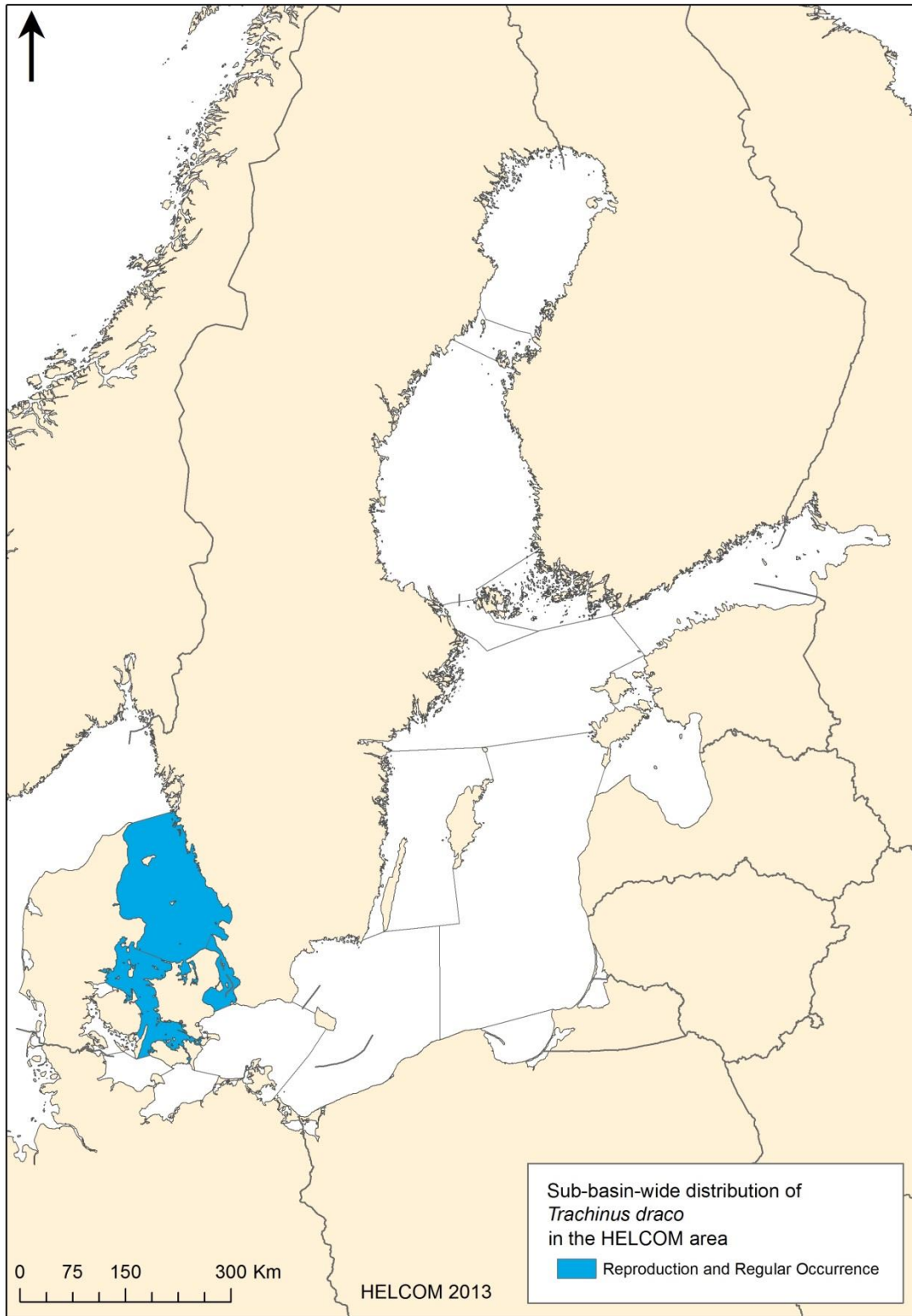


Fig.2 Catch per unit effort (number per trawling hour) in German Acoustic Survey in the Belt Sea (SD 22) and Öresund (SD 23). Linear fit and correlation coefficients from linear regression are shown.

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 greater weever spawns during summer in shallow coastal waters with soft bottoms with sand or gravel. During winter it migrates to deeper areas down to 150 m. It often lays buried with just the eyes and tip of first dorsal fin exposed. The first dorsal fin rays, as well as the spine on the preoperculum contain venomous spines protecting the species from predators. During night the greater weever leaves the burrow to feed on small invertebrates and fishes. Adults normally reach a total length of 25 cm. (Froese & Pauly 2012, Kullander et al. 2012)

Description of major threats

No major threats currently identified.

Assessment justification

Greater weever is caught in the international bottom trawl survey (IBTS) in Kattegat both in the first and third quarter of the year. Swedish IBTS in Kattegat show no long term trend in sampling in the first quarter but data from the third quarter sampling between 1991–2010 shows a strong increase after 2000. The same pattern is seen in a coastal bottom trawl monitoring in Kattegat. The German Acoustic survey only dates back to 1995 but shows the same pattern of increase in Kattegat as well as in Öresund and the Belt Seas in the 2000s. Swedish commercial landings from Kattegat 1999–2011 show a drastic increase from less than 10 tonnes yearly before 2006 to almost 800 tonnes in 2011. In all, this data show that the greater weever is currently increasing in the HELCOM area and since neither population size nor geographic distribution is very restricted this species currently does not fulfil any criteria for being threatened in the HELCOM area according to the IUCN system and it is hence listed as Least Concern.

Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

No protection actions currently needed in HELCOM area.

Common names

DE: Großes Petermännchen; DK: Almindelig fjæsing; ES:-; FI: Louhikala; GB: Greater weever ; LA: Lielā drakonzivs; LI: -; PL: Ostrosz; RU: -; SE: Fjärsing

References

- Froese, R., Pauly, D. (eds.) (2012). FishBase. World Wide Web electronic publication.
Available at: 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.
- Kullander, S.O., Nyman, L., Jilg, K., Delling, B. (2012). Nationalnyckeln till Sveriges flora och fauna. Strålfeniga fiskar. Actinopterygii. Artdatabanken, SLU, Uppsala. 517 pp. [in Swedish]
- Thiel, R., Winkler, H., Böttcher, U., Dänhardt, A., Fricke, R., George, M., Kloppmann, M., Schaarschmidt, T., Ubl, C. & Vorberg, R. (2013). Rote Liste und Gesamtartenliste der etablierten Neunaugen und Fische (Petromyzontida, Elasmobranchii & Actinopterygii) der marinen Gewässer Deutschlands. 5. Fassung, Stand August 2013. Naturschutz und Biologische Vielfalt 70(2): 11–76.