

## SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

*Zeugopterus punctatus*

English name: <b>Topknot</b>	Scientific name: <i>Zeugopterus punctatus</i>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Actinopterygii Order: Pleuronectiformes Family: Scopthalmidae	Species authority: Bloch, 1787	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: –	Generation length:	
Past and current threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Not known	Future threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Not known	
IUCN Criteria: –	<b>HELCOM Red List Category:</b>	<b>DD Data Deficient</b>
Global / European IUCN Red List Category: NE/NE	Habitats Directive: –	
Previous HELCOM Red List Category (2007): RA		
Protection and Red List status in HELCOM countries: Denmark –/–, Estonia –/–, Finland –/–, Germany –/– (Baltic Sea), Latvia –/–, Lithuania –/–, Poland –/–, Russia –/–, Sweden –/LC		

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

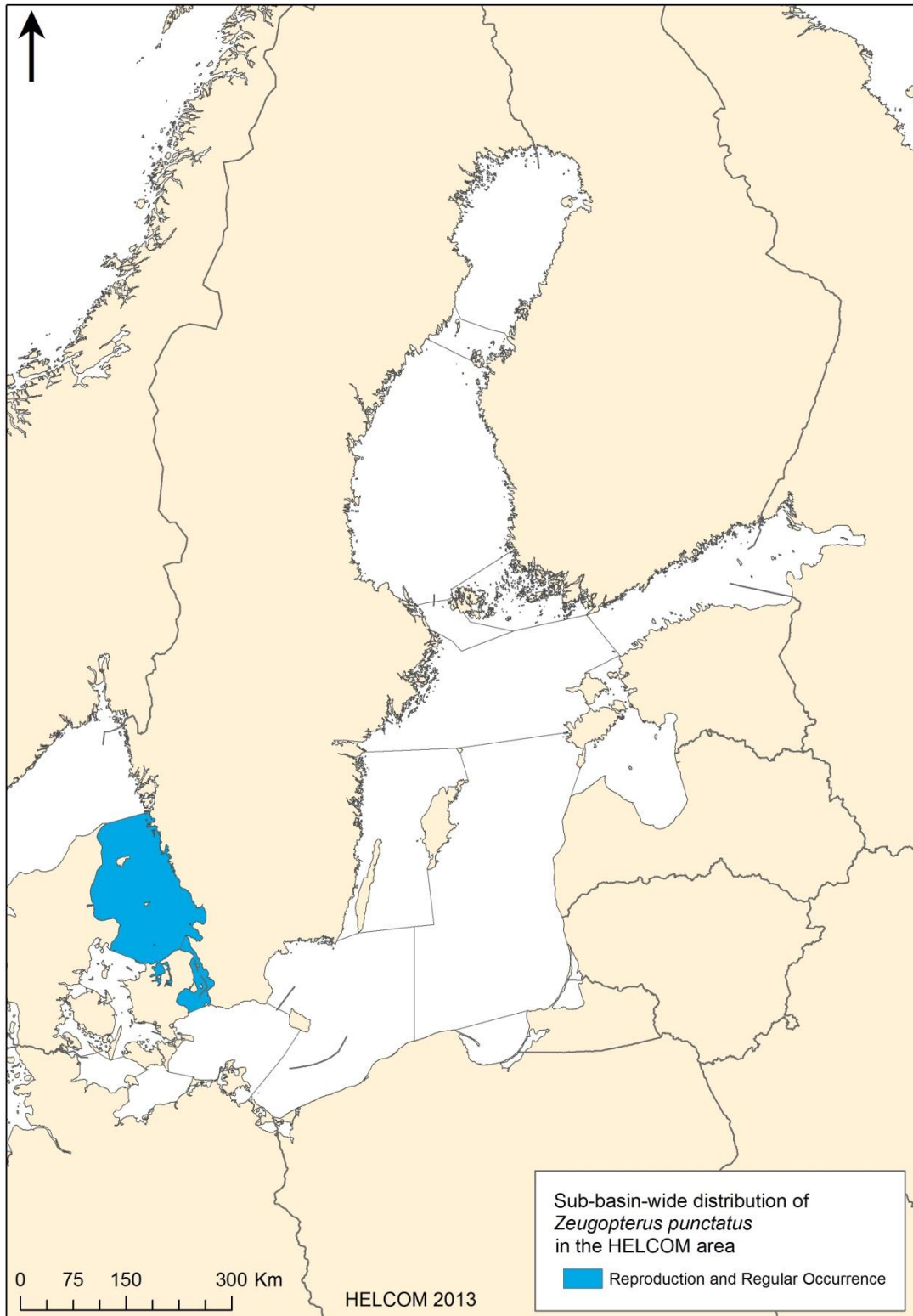
The topknot is common in the Skagerrak and northern Kattegat, and occurs regularly in the southern Kattegat and the Sound and also sporadically in the Belt Seas (Froese & Pauly 2012, Kullander 2012). No information is available on the status of this species.



Topknot. Photo by Björn Fagerholm, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

**SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET*****Zeugopterus punctatus*****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 topknot is a marine bottom dweller that inhabits rocky bottoms from 10 to 40 meters depth (usually 10 to 15 m). Normally camouflaging with the surrounding habitat the species keeps its body tight to vertical rocky walls or sloping hard bottoms. The topknot feeds on small fish and invertebrates. Spawning takes place in spring and early summer. It can reach a total length of 25 cm.

### Description of major threats

Not known.

### Assessment justification

No information available but it is possible that the species had declined more than 80 % over the last three generations. The possible decline between 0 and 80% results in Data Deficient (DD) status for this species.

### Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

There is a need to improve knowledge on distribution, abundance, essential habitat requirements and population structure of the species before any recommendations can be given.

### Common names

D: Haarbutt; DK: Hårhvarre; FI: Kalliokampela GB: Topknot; PL: Ptera; LV: Plankumainā akmeņplekste; LT: Dėmėtasis otas; RUS: Pjatinistyj topknot; SE: Bergvar

### References

- 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.
- Kullander, S.O., Nyman, L., Jilg, K., Delling, B. (2012). Nationalnyckeln till Sveriges flora och fauna. Strålfeniga fiskar. Actinopterygii (in Swedish). Artdatabanken, SLU, Uppsala. 517 pp.