

BIOTOPE INFORMATION SHEET

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| English name: Baltic aphotic sand dominated by striped venus (<i>Chamelea gallina</i>) | | Code in HELCOM HUB: AB.J2K7 | |
| Characteristic species: <i>Chamelea gallina</i> | | | |
| Past and Current Threats (Habitat directive article 17): | | Future Threats (Habitat directive article 17): | |
| Red List Criteria: A1 | Confidence of threat assessment: L | HELCOM Red List Category: | NT Near Threatened |
| Previous HELCOM Red List threat assessments | | | |
| BSEP 75 (1998): "3" Endangered 2.5 Sandy bottoms 2.5.1 Aphotic zone | | BSEP 113 (HELCOM 2007): | |
| Greater concern stated by: | | | |

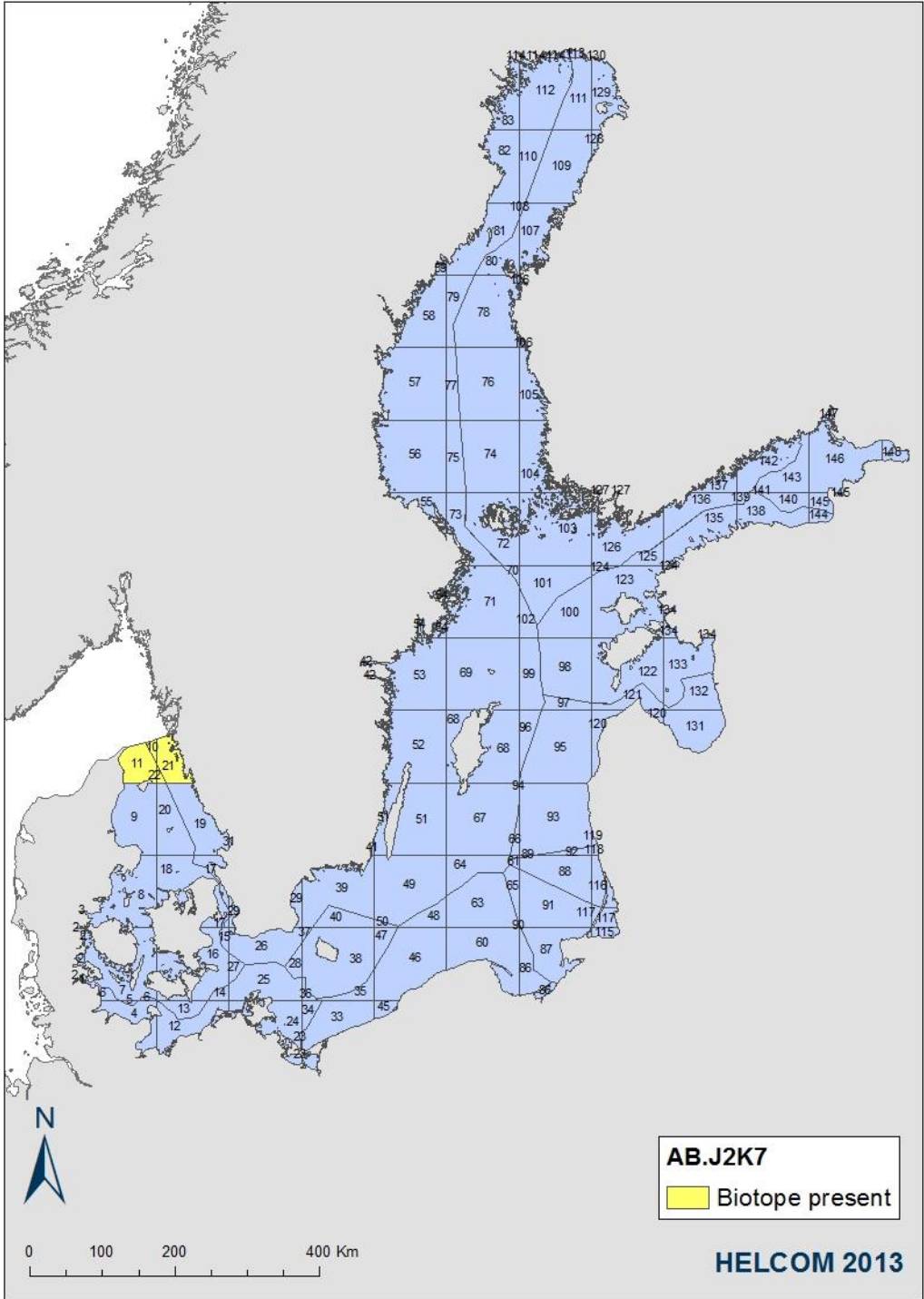
Habitat and Ecology

The biotope occurs in the aphotic zone on bottoms with at least 90% coverage of sand. The biomass is dominated by infauna and the clam *Chamelea gallina* constitutes at least 50% of the biomass. *Chamelea gallina* can live both buried in sand (Carter 2008) or on the sediment surface. The clam is a filter feeder and does not burry very deep into the sediment. The clam requires clean sandy substrates and can reach an age of over 10 years (Carter 2008).

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Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

The biotope is known to occur in the northern Kattegat in Swedish and Danish waters. The distribution map indicates the area in the 100 x 100 km grid where biotope is known to occur.



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Description of Major threats

Globally the clam *Chamelea gallina* is commercially fished with dredges, hackles and occasionally with bottom trawls (FAO).

Eutrophication can lead to an increase of organic matter accumulating on the bottom. The biotope dominated by *Chamelea gallina* requires clean sandy substrates. Eutrophication is not considered to be very severe in the northern Kattegat where the biotope is known to occur, however periodical hypoxia is known to occur due to eutrophication which may have a strong adverse effect on the relatively long lived clam.

Assessment justification

A1

The quantity of the biotope is inferred to have declined by >25% during the past 50 years.

Recommendations for actions to conserve the biotope

Common names

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References

Carter, M. (2008). *Chamelea gallina*. Striped venus clam. Marine Life Information Network: Biology and Sensitivity Key Information Sub-programme. Plymouth: Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom. Available at: <http://www.marlin.ac.uk/speciesinformation.php?speciesID=2952> (viewed 22 July 2013)

FAO Fisheries & Aquaculture. Species Fact Sheet – *Chamelea gallina* (Linnaeus, 1758). Available at: <http://www.fao.org/fishery/species/2697/en> (viewed 22 July 2013)