

SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Ammodytes tobianus

English name: Sandeel	Scientific name: <i>Ammodytes tobianus</i>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Actinopterygii Order: Perciformes Family: Ammodytidae	Species authority: Linnaeus, 1758	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: –	Generation length: 3.3	
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 –/D (Data deficient, Baltic Sea), Latvia –/–, Lithuania –/–, Poland –/–, Russia –/–, Sweden –/LC		

Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

This originally marine species is commonly occurring and reproducing in all parts of the HELCOM area, except for the least saline lagoons. It is commercially exploited in a fishery targeting all sandeel species in the Kattegat. This fishery is assessed by ICES but unfortunately not enough data are available for Kattegat to perform an assessment (ICES 2012). The sandeel is not caught in regular fish monitoring surveys, due to its small, snake-like bodyshape and survey data are only available from one area in the Kattegat and one in Åland Sea. These data show large inter-annual variation but no overall trend during the sampling period 1981–2010.



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

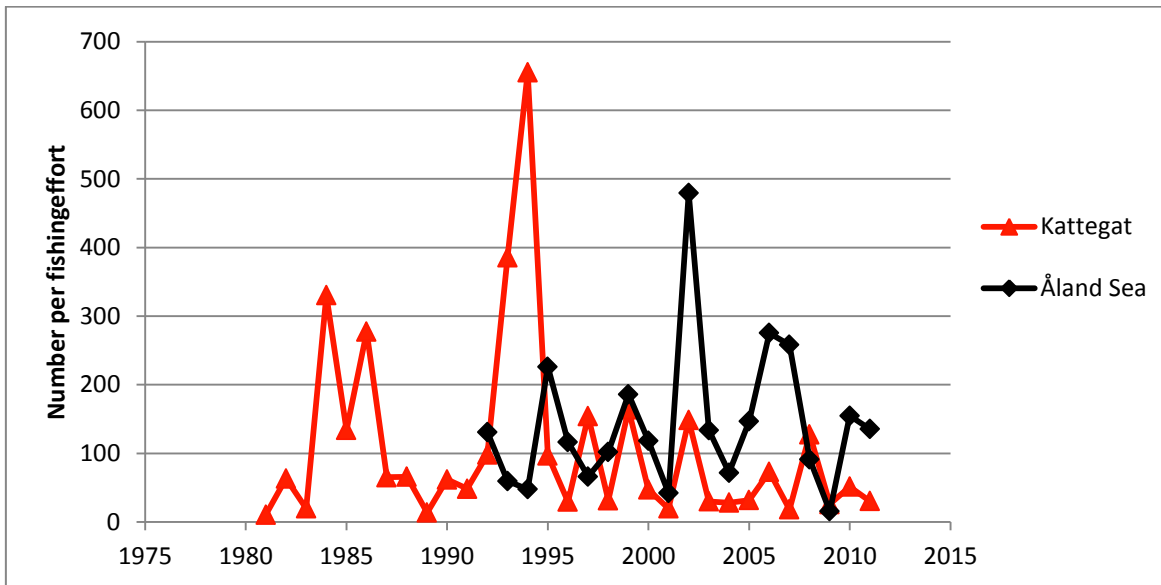
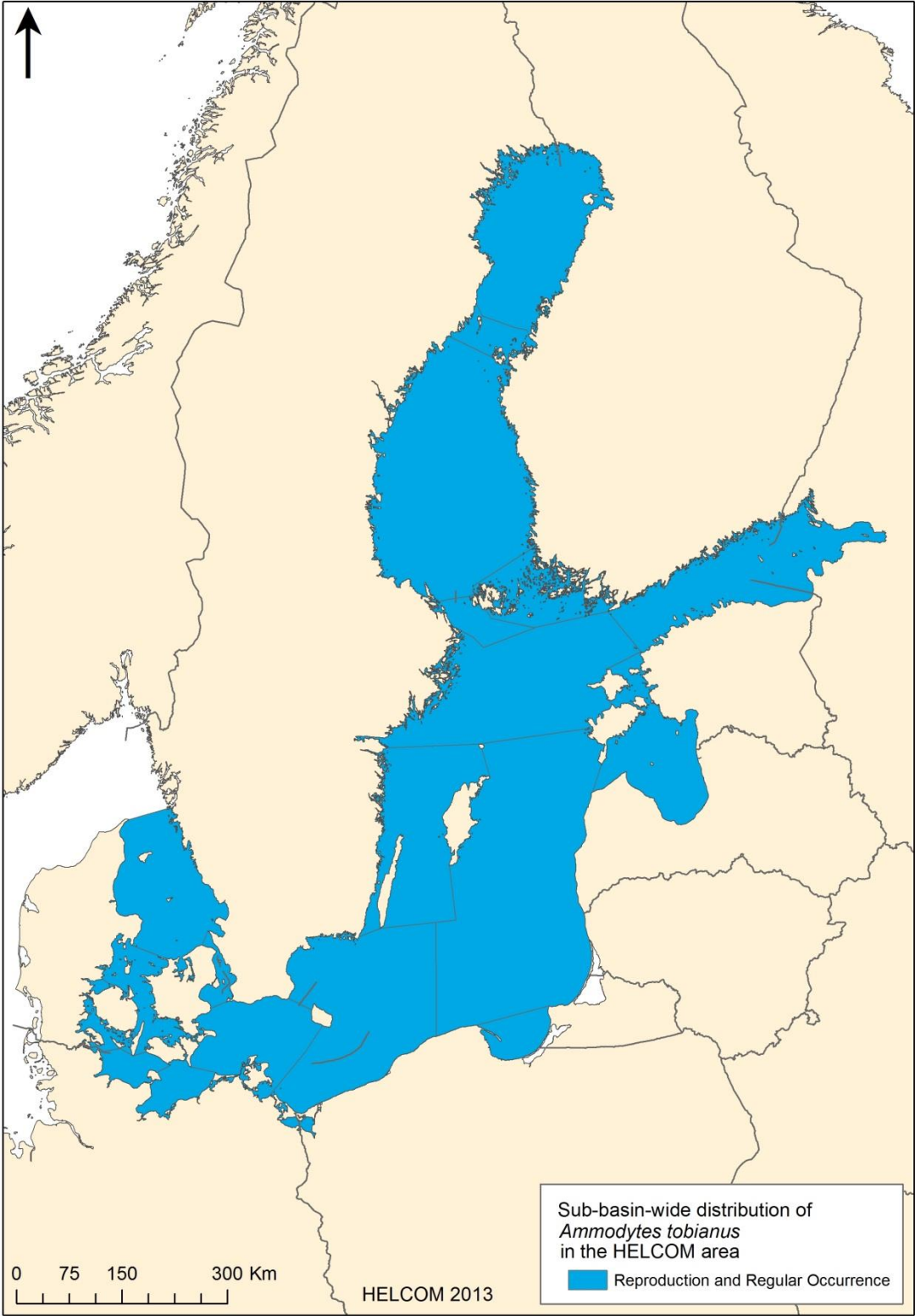


Fig 1. *Ammodytes* spp. caught in the Swedish fish monitoring at Ringhals nuclear powerplant in Kattegat and Forsmark nuclear powerplant in the Åland Sea.

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

Sandeel is a short-lived species, reaching maturity at 1 or 2 years age and living a maximum of ten years. It reaches a total length of 20 cm. It lives in coastal areas on sandy bottoms. During winter and when light conditions are poor the sandeel digs into the sand. When currents are strong the sandeel leaves the sand and forms large shoals. It spawns from November to February and eggs are deposited on sand or fine gravel bottoms. Sandeels are largely stationary after settlement. Sandeel feeds on plankton and is itself prey for many predators like cod and haddock but also fisheating birds. (Froese & Pauly 2012)

Description of major threats

No current major threats identified.

Assessment justification

Sandeel (mostly *A. marinus* but also *A. tobianus* and *H. lanceolatus*) is caught in the commercial sandeel fishery and ICES assesses these species jointly in some areas. The state of the stock in Kattegat is unknown since the available information (only landings) is inadequate to evaluate stock status or trends (ICES 2012). However, the stock adjacent to HELCOM area (central eastern North Sea including Skagerrak) where there are data on spawning stock biomass, have an overall positive trend for the last 10 years (Data from ICES 2012). Due to its shape it is not caught in regular monitoring but sampling in the cooling water intake at Ringhals nuclear powerplant in Kattegat show that the catch per unit effort of *Ammodytes* spp. have no trend over the last 10 years and also no trend during the whole investigated period 1981–2010. The same is true for the cooling water intake in Forsmark, Åland Sea, where there is no trend in *Ammodytes tobianus* over the assessment period (10 years) nor over the whole investigation period 1992–2011. In conclusion, despite sparse data there is no indication of decline or identified threats for this species in the HELCOM area. Therefore the species is considered LC.

Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

No protection actions currently needed in HELCOM area.

Common names

DE: Kleiner Sandaal; DK: Kysttobis; ES: väike tobias; FI: Pikkutuulenkala; GB: Sandeel; LA: Tübīte; LI: Mažasis tobis; PL: Tobiasz; RU: Malopozvonkovaya peschanka; SE: Kusttobis

References

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- 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.
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- ICES 2012. ICES Advice 2012. Book 6.
- 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.

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