

## SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

*Atelecyclus rotundatus*

English name: <b>Circular crab/Old mans face crab</b>	Scientific name: <b><i>Atelecyclus rotundatus</i></b>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Malacostraca Order: Decapoda Family: Atelecyclidae	Species authority: Olivi, 1792	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: <i>Atelecyclus heterodon</i> Leach, 1815 <i>Atelecyclus septemdentatus</i> Bouvier, 1940 <i>Cancer (Hippa) septemdentatus</i> Montagu, 1813 <i>Cancer (Hippa) septemdentatus</i> Montagu <i>Cancer rotundatus</i> Olivi, 1792	Generation length: –	
Past and current threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Sedimentation caused by eutrophication (H01.05) and bottom trawling (F02.0.2.01)	Future threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Sedimentation caused by eutrophication (H01.05) and bottom trawling (F02.0.2.01)	
IUCN Criteria: <b>D2</b>	<b>HELCOM Red List Category:</b>	<b>VU Vulnerable</b>
Global / European IUCN Red List Category NE/NE	Habitats Directive: –	
Protection and Red List status in HELCOM countries: Denmark –/–, Estonia –/–, Finland –/–, Germany –/–, Latvia –/–, Lithuania –/–, Poland –/–, Russia –/–, Sweden –/VU		

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

Within the HELCOM area *Atelecyclus rotundatus* is only reported from one locality on the offshore bank Fladen in the Kattegat. In the Skagerrak the species is reported from two localities within Swedish waters. No data from Denmark is available. Due to its habitat the species is naturally rare, and there are no indications of decline. However, the preferred habitat – gravel bottoms with sand – is sensitive to sedimentation caused by e.g. bottom trawling.

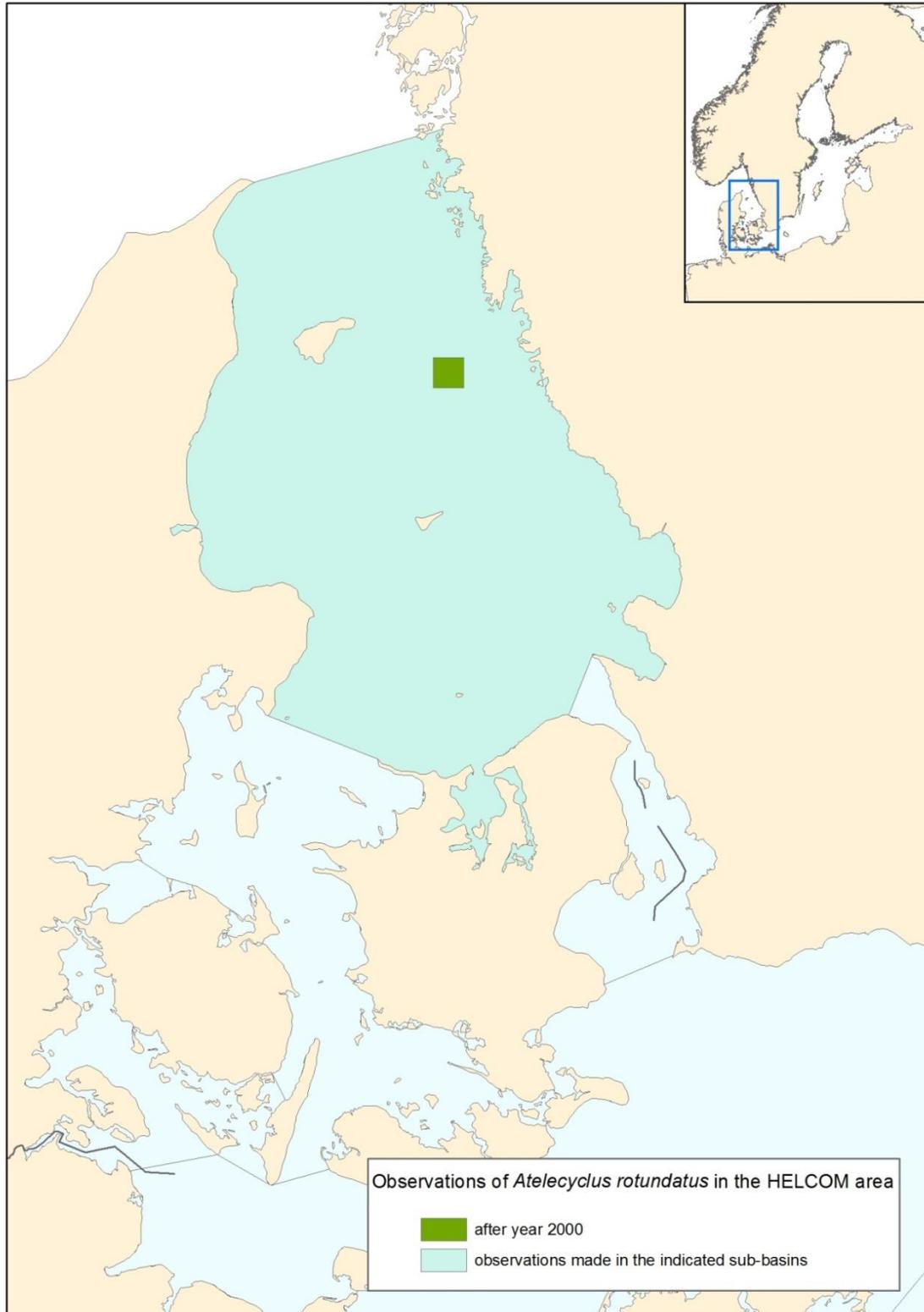


*Atelecyclus rotundatus*. Photo by Matz Berggren. University of Gothenburg, Biological and Environmental Sciences.

## SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

*Atelecyclus rotundatus***Distribution Map**

The records of species received from the species database of the Swedish Species Information Centre (Artportalen).



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## *Atelecyclus rotundatus*

### Habitat and ecology

*Atelecyclus rotundatus* is a small crab with a characteristic appearance. Within the HELCOM area the species is extremely rare and has been found only from one offshore bank area. Therefore, not much is known about its ecology in the Baltic Sea region.

Outside the HELCOM region the species can be found from shallow sublittoral bottoms down to >300 m depth off-shore on sand or gravel substrates. *Atelecyclus rotundatus* bears eggs from February to September with planktonic larvae present from February to November. This species is eaten e.g. by *Gadus morhua* and *Raja* spp. *A. rotundatus* buries itself by digging backwards into the substrata, and reverses its respiratory water flow through its branchial chambers to prevent suffocation (Taylor, 1984). In order to maintain sufficient respiratory currents, this species holds its chelipeds close to its body creating a respiratory channel with the larger second antenna. When buried, its gill bailer (scaphognathite) beats in the opposite direction to normal, pumping water out at the base of the limbs instead of drawing water in (MarLIN).

### Description of major threats

The habitat of the species, gravel bottoms with sand, is sensitive to sedimentation caused by e.g. trawling and eutrophication.

### Assessment justification

The species appears to be reported only from one locality within the HELCOM area, but data is lacking from the Sound and Denmark. The preferred habitat is probably very rare within the HELCOM area, and the number of locations is therefore expected to be less than 5. The species is categorized as Vulnerable (VU) according to criteria D2.

### Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

In general the negative effects of eutrophication and trawling on marine biotopes need to be reduced. Specifically shallow bottoms with sand and gravel need to be mapped, and when possible protected.

### Common names

Denmark: –, Estonia: –, Finland: –, Germany: –, Latvia: –, Lithuania: –, Poland: –, Russia: –, Sweden: –

### References

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- Swedish Species Gateway. Swedish Species Information Centre and Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. Available at [www.artportalen.se](http://www.artportalen.se).
- World Register of Marine Species WoRMS. Available at <http://www.marinespecies.org/aphia.php?p=taxdetails&id=107273>