**Barbus barbus**

**English name:** Barbel  
**Scientific name:** *Barbus barbus*

**Taxonomical group:**  
Class: Actinopterygii  
Order: Cypriniformes  
Family: Cyprinidae  
Species authority: Linnaeus, 1758

**Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms:** –  
**Generation length:** Not known

**Past and current threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes):** –  
**Future threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes):** –

**IUCN Criteria:** –  
**HELCOM Red List Category:** Not Applicable

**Global / European IUCN Red List Category:** LC/LC  
**Habitats Directive:** Annex V

**Previous HELCOM Red List Category (2007):** EN

**Protection and Red List status in HELCOM countries:**  
Denmark –/–, Estonia –/–, Finland –/–, Germany Protected by national and European law (Annex V Habitat Directive) / R (Extremely rare, Baltic Sea), Latvia –/–, Lithuania –/–, Poland Protection measures only in the freshwater / –, Russia –/–, Sweden –/–

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

The barbel is a freshwater species which occurs rarely in brackish water. It is occurring in some Pomeranian rivers and lakes in contact with the Baltic Sea, but rarely (found in estuaries and coastal area.

![Barbel. Photo by Vivica von Vietinghoff, Deutsches Meeresmuseum.](image-url)
Habitat and ecology
The barbel occurs in medium to large rivers, and occasionally in lakes. Adults often shoal and overwinter in large aggregations in slow-flowing river habitats. It reaches maturity at an age of 3–6 years, males one year earlier and live up to 15 years. Adults migrate to spawning areas during summer where males exhibit courtship behaviour and single females spawn with several males repeatedly during the season. Eggs are deposited in excavations in the gravel and hatched larvae drift to shallow shoreline habitat. Juveniles leave the shores for faster flowing water as they grow. The barbel feeds on benthic invertebrates, small fish and sometimes algae (Freyhof 2011).

Description of major threats
The barbel declined sharply during the 20th century due to building of water reservoirs and pollution but has since then stabilised and is considered LC on a global level. It is locally threatened by pollution and river regulation in some drainage areas of the southern Baltic Sea.

Assessment justification
There is no evidence for reproduction within the Baltic Sea and there is only irregular occurrence in estuaries. Therefore this species does not fulfil the criteria for being assessed according to the IUCN guidelines and is hence considered Not applicable (NA) for assessment.

Recommendations for actions to conserve the species
No protection actions currently needed in the HELCOM marine area.

Common names
D -Barbe; ES –Pardkala; GB -Barbel ; DK -Flodbarbe; FIN -Jokibarbi; LV -Barbe ; LT -Ūsorius; PL -Brzana; RU -Barbus; S -Floðbarb

References

