

SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Barbus barbus

English name: Barbel	Scientific name: <i>Barbus barbus</i>	
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:	NA 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 <i>Protected by national and European law (Annex V Habitat Directive)</i> / R (Extremely rare, Baltic Sea), Latvia –/–, Lithuania –/–, Poland <i>Protection measures only in the freshwater</i> / –, 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.

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Barbus barbuis

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 -Flodbarb

References

- Freyhof, J. (2011). *Barbus barbuis*. In: IUCN 2012. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Available at: www.iucnredlist.org (viewed 3 March 2013)
- 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.
- 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. Fassung, Stand August 2013. Naturschutz und Biologische Vielfalt 70(2): 11–76.