

SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Cyclopterus lumpus

English name: Lumpsucker	Scientific name: <i>Cyclopterus lumpus</i>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Actinopterygii Order: Scorpaeniformes Family: Cyclopteridae	Species authority: Linnaeus, 1758	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: –	Generation length: 7 years	
Past and current threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Fishing (F02), By-catch (F02)	Future threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Fishing (F02), By-catch (F02)	
IUCN Criteria: A2b	HELCOM Red List Category:	NT Near Threatened
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 –/* (Not threatened, Baltic Sea), Latvia –/–, Lithuania –/–, Poland –/–, Russia –/–, Sweden –/NT		

Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

The lumpsucker is distributed and reproducing all over the Baltic Sea. It is targeted in fishery and its roe is highly appreciated. In the Baltic proper the ICES Baltic International Bottom Trawl Survey (BITS) shows no decline from 1988 to 2010 but in the Arkona Sea the survey indicates a 60–70% decline the last 20 years. In Kattegat the International Bottom Trawl Survey (IBTS) shows a 90% decline from the end of the 1980s to today. This could to some extent be due to some very good years in the late 1980s. Looking at a longer timeframe 1979 to 2010 reveal that catch per unit effort in IBTS in Kattegat the last 5 years is 75% lower than before the high abundance in 1988–1991 (Fig. 1).



Lumpsucker. Photo by Timo Moritz Deutsches Meeresmuseum (left), Jón Már Halldórsson (right).

SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

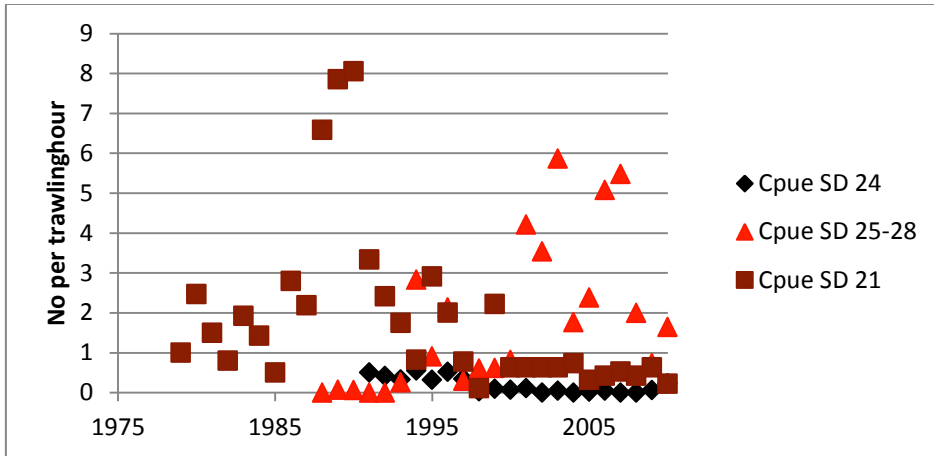
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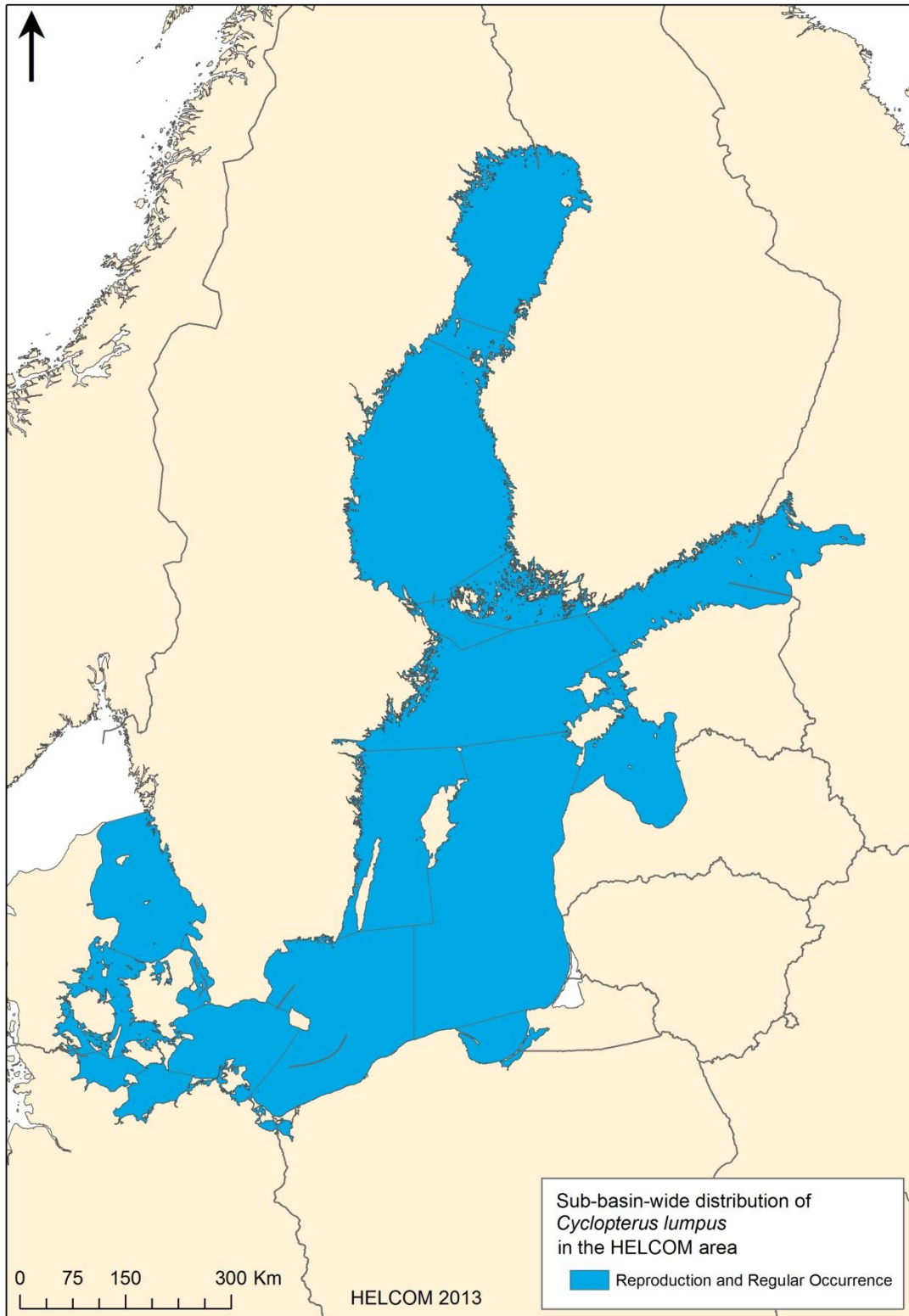
Fig. 1 Catch per unit effort (cpue) of lumpsucker in the International Bottom Trawl Survey in Kattegat (ICES SD 21) and in the Baltic International Trawl Survey in the Arkona basin (SD 24) and in the Baltic proper (ICES SD 25–28).

SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

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Distribution map

The map shows the sub-basins in the HELCOM area where the species is known to occur regularly and reproduce (HELCOM 2012).



SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

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Habitat and ecology

Lumpsucker is basically solitary rather than a schooling fish with an epibenthic-pelagic behaviour. It inhabits rocky bottoms but may occur among floating seaweeds. The lumpsucker migrates considerable distances in an annual cycle between deeper waters in winter and shallower waters in summer and have a homing instinct (Coad & Reist 2004, Davenport 1985). During the spawning season the male becomes reddish in colour on the underside, whereas the female is blue-green. Lumpsucker feeds on ctenophores, medusas, small crustaceans, polychaetes and small fishes (Froese & Pauly 2012).

Description of major threats

The major threat is fishing, both commercial, recreational and as by-catch.

Assessment justification

The ICES Baltic International Bottom Trawl Survey (BITS) data show no decline in the eastern part of the Baltic Sea (SD25–28) from 1988 to 2010. Catches are generally low in the Arkona basin but BITS data still show a 60 to 70% decline from 1991 to 2010. Data from BITS in Öresund and the Belt Seas are too scarce to draw any conclusions on trend. In Kattegat the German acoustic surveys showed a 50% decline from 1996 to 2010, and in the same area Swedish data from the International Bottom Trawl Survey (IBTS) showed a 90% decrease from 1988 to 2010. This could however be due to some very good years in the late 1980s. Looking at a longer timeframe 1979 to 2010, IBTS reveal that catch per unit effort the last 5 years are 75% lower than before the high abundance in 1988–1991 (Fig. 1).

Lumpsucker is distributed and reproducing all over the Baltic Sea. Hence, even though a drastic decline in Kattegat and western Baltic Sea (as stated above) has been observed, the overall decrease in abundance is less than 30% but more than 15% resulting in an NT category (A2b). This is not downgraded due to possible immigration from outside the HELCOM area since the status of this species is unknown in adjacent areas.

Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

Fishery should be regulated and better information on population size is needed.

Common names

D - Seehase; GB – Lumpsucker; EST - Merivarblane; DK - Stenbider; FIN – Rasvakala; LV - Zaķzivs, jūras zaķis; LT - Ciegorius; PL - Tasza; RUS - Pinagor; S – Sjurygg

References

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SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET*Cyclopterus lumpus*

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