

SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Gammarus inaequicauda

English name: –	Scientific name: <i>Gammarus inaequicauda</i>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Malacostraca Order: Amphipoda Family: Gammaridae	Species authority: Stock, 1966	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: –	Generation length: 1,5 years	
Past and current threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Eutrophication (through decline of macrophyte meadows; H01.05), Construction (J02.01.02, J02.02.02)	Future threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Eutrophication (through decline of macrophyte meadows; H01.05), Construction (J02.01.02, J02.02.02)	
IUCN Criteria: –	HELCOM Red List Category:	DD Data Deficient
Global / European IUCN Red List Category: NE/NE	Habitats Directive: –	
Protection and Red List status in HELCOM countries: Denmark –/–, Estonia –/RE, Finland –/–, Germany –/G (endangered by unknown extent, incl. North Sea), Latvia –/–, Lithuania –/–, Poland –/NT, Russia –/–, Sweden –/–		

Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

Gammarus inaequicauda is a rare amphipod that lives mainly in the southern Baltic Sea where it inhabits mostly sheltered areas, such as bays and lagoons with macrophyte meadows. Normally the limit of the distribution of this marine species is in the Polish waters where it has been found at the Hel peninsula. A record exists also from the Russian waters of the Gulf of Finland.



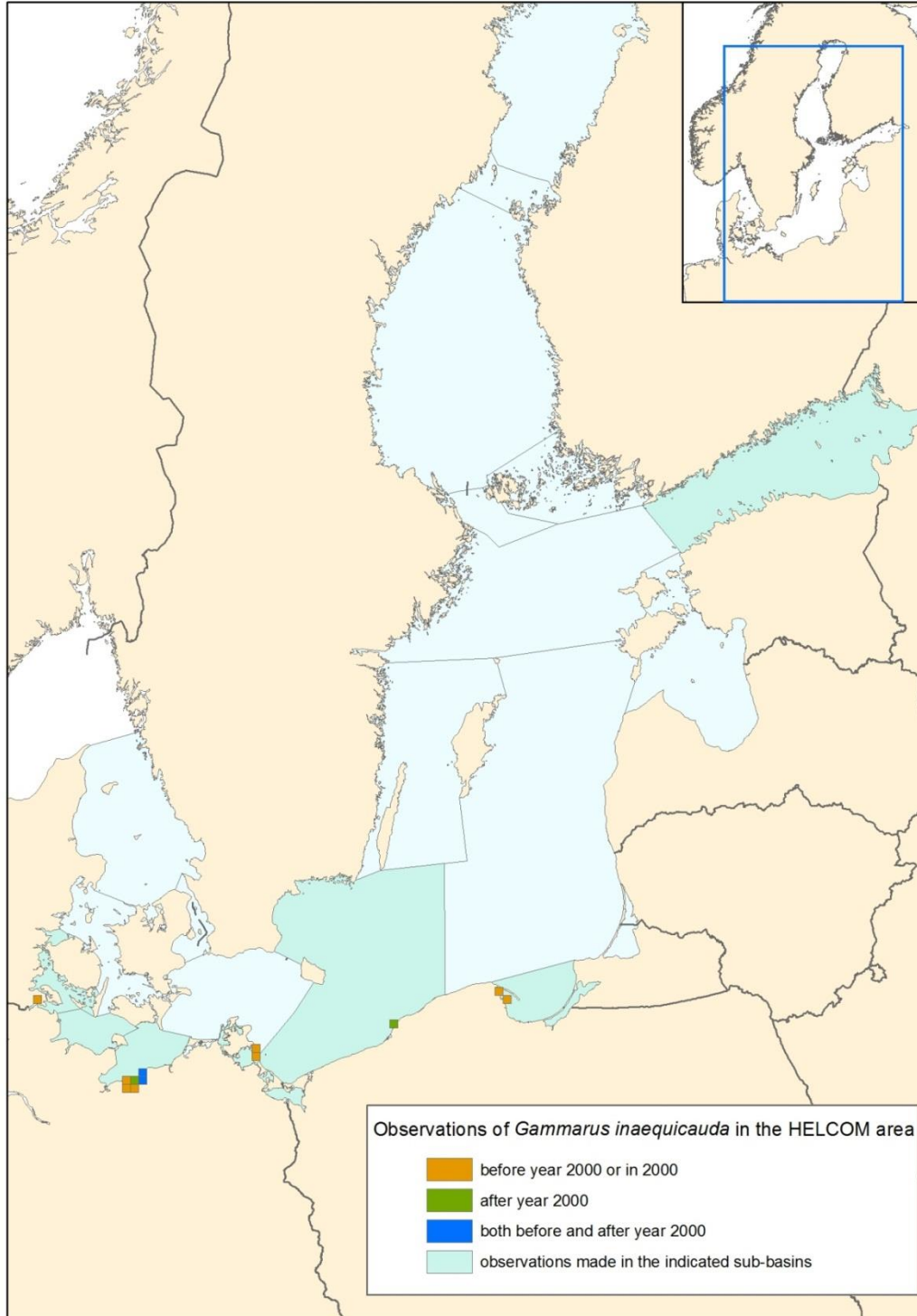
Gammarus inaequicauda. Photo by Michael Zettler, Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde (IOW).

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Distribution map

The georeferenced records of species compiled from the Danish national database for marine data (MADS), database of the Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research (IOW), and Jazdzewski (2005).



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Habitat and Ecology

G. inaequicauda is a gammarid that inhabits well-oxygenated waters mostly in sheltered areas, like bays and lagoons with macrophyte meadows.

Description of major threats

Since this species requires well-oxygenated waters it is sensitive to eutrophication and the consequent changes in water quality. Eutrophication has probably affected the species negatively, e.g. through decline in macrophyte meadows. Also other pressures that disturb or destroy the habitats of the species, such as coastal engineering, are regarded as major threats to the species.

Assessment justification

Gammarus inaequicauda is a rare species that lives mainly in the southern Baltic Sea in macrophyte-rich habitats. It is difficult to identify and hard to find. Part of the material may actually represent *G. locusta*. In Germany the species has been searched for specifically. Most German data are from the 1980s, and only three records are from the 2000s. A few old records exist from Polish waters. The species was described first time for the Baltic Sea from the Puck Bay in the 1970s but it has since probably disappeared from there (Jazdzewski personal information). The species is categorized as Data Deficient (DD).

Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

The knowledge of the distribution and biology of the species should be improved before any other recommendations can be given.

Common names

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

Sweden: –

References

- Estonian Red List of Threatened Species (2008). Available at <http://elurikkus.ut.ee/prmt.php?lang=eng>. IOW database. Observational data from the database of the Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research.
- Jazdzewski, K. 1970. *Gammarus inaequicauda* Stock in the Baltic Sea (Amphipoda, Gammaridea). *Crustaceana* 18: 216–217.
- Jazdzewski, K. 2005. Changes in the diversity of the populations of gammarid crustaceans in the southern Baltic offshore waters. Available at <http://www.biomareweb.org/2.2.html>.
- MADS, The Danish national database for marine data. NERI: University of Aarhus; National Environmental Research Institute. Downloaded in June 2011.
- Rachor, E., Bönsch, R., Boos, K., Gosselck, F., Grotjahn, M., Günther, C.-P., Gusky, M., Gutow, L., Heiber, W., Jantschik, P., Krieg, H.-J., Krone, R., Nehmer, P., Reichert, K., Reiss, H., Schröder, A., Witt, J. & Zettler, M. L. 2012. Rote Liste und Artenliste der bodenlebenden wirbellosen Meerestiere. Vierte Fassung, Stand Dezember 2007, einzelne Aktualisierungen bis 2012. Naturschutz und Biologische Vielfalt 70(2). Bundesamt für Naturschutz.
- World Register of Marine Species WoRMS. Available at <http://www.marinespecies.org/aphia.php?p=taxdetails&id=102279>.