

SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Inachus dorsettensis

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| English name: Scorpion spider crab | Scientific name: <i>Inachus dorsettensis</i> | |
| Taxonomical group: Class: Malacostraca Order: Decapoda Family: Inachidae | Species authority: Pennant, 1777 | |
| Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: <i>Cancer dodecos</i> Linnaeus, 1767 <i>Cancer dorsettensis</i> Pennant, 1777 <i>Cancer scorpio</i> Fabricius, 1779 <i>Doclea fabriciana</i> Risso, 1827 <i>Inachus scorpio</i> Fabricius, 1798 <i>Macropus parvirostris</i> Risso, 1816 | Generation length: – | |
| Past and current threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Eutrophication (H01.05) | Future threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Eutrophication (H01.05) | |
| IUCN Criteria: B1ab(iii) | HELCOM Red List Category: | NT Near Threatened |
| 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 –/NT | | |

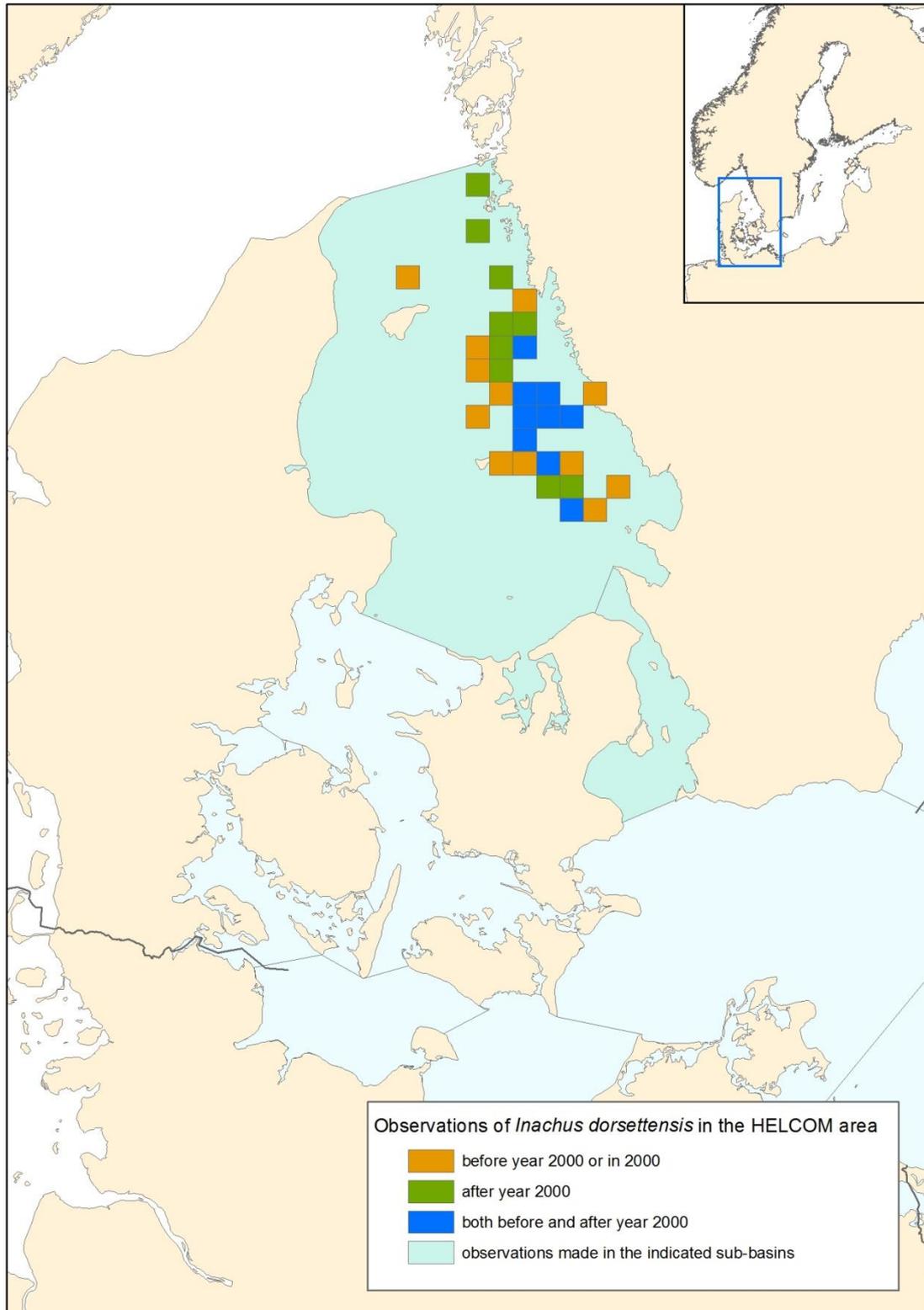
Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

The main distribution of *I. dorsettensis* within the HELCOM area is along the Swedish coast of the Kattegat, and Öresund. The present distribution seems to be primarily on the shallow offshore banks in the Kattegat. Outside the HELCOM area the species occurs in the Skagerrak, along the Norwegian west coast and in the North Sea. The species used to be common in the algal belt, but seems to have suffered a decline in later decades. A comparison between historical and present Swedish data indicates a decline in distribution, both in the Kattegat and the Skagerrak, primarily in coastal areas.

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*Inachus dorsettensis***Distribution map**

The records of species compiled from the species database of the Swedish Species Information Centre (Artportalen) and from the Danish national database for marine data (MADS).



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Habitat and ecology

I. dorsettensis is a spider-like crab with long legs. It is normally found in the algal belt, but can also occur in many other habitats, e.g. soft and muddy bottoms. Depth distribution is wide, 4–300 meters (maximum depth of the Kattegat area is approximately 130 meters). The species covers itself in tiny pieces of sponge and sea weed to provide camouflage.

Description of major threats

Eutrophication which causes deterioration of coastal algal belts.

Assessment justification

Limited data, mainly from Sweden. These indicate a decrease in distribution, primarily in coastal areas. The species present distribution within the HELCOM area seems to be primarily on the shallow offshore banks in the Kattegat. The area of estimated extent of occurrence (EOO) in the Kattegat is 6 000 km² (3000–9000), and number of locations estimated to be 8 (6–12). The restricted geographic range together with continuing decline in habitat quality qualifies for the category Near Threatened (NT) according to B1ab(iii).

Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

The emission of eutrophication substances to the marine environment needs to be reduced

Common names

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

References

- Berggren, M. 2007. *Inachus dorsettensis*. Artfaktablad. Artdatabanken. Available at http://www.artfakta.se/Artfaktablad/Inachus_Dorsettensis_217775.pdf
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- Edwards, R. 2005. *Inachus dorsettensis*. Scorpion spider crab. Marine Life Information Network: Biology and Sensitivity Key Information Sub-programme [on-line]. Plymouth: Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom. [cited 07/08/2012]. Available at <http://www.marlin.ac.uk/speciesinformation.php?speciesID=3561>
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- MADS, The Danish national database for marine data. NERI: University of Aarhus; National Environmental Research Institute. Downloaded in June 2011.
- Marine Species Identification Portal. Available at http://species-identification.org/species.php?species_group=crustacea&id=198
- Swedish Species Gateway. Swedish Species Information Centre and Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. Available at www.artportalen.se.