

SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Inachus phalangium

English name: Leach's spider crab	Scientific name: <i>Inachus phalangium</i>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Malacostraca Order: Decapoda Family: Inachidae	Species authority: Fabricius, 1775	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: <i>Cancer phalangium</i> Fabricius, 1775 (nomen protectum) <i>Cancer satuak</i> Herbst, 1782 <i>Cancer tribulus</i> Linnaeus, 1767 (suppressed, ICZN Opinion 708) <i>Inachus dorhynchus</i> Leach, 1814 (synonym) <i>Inachus dorynchus</i> Leach, 1814 <i>Macropus arachnides</i> Risso, 1816	Generation length: –	
Past and current threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Fishing (bottom trawling; F02.02.01), Eutrophication (H01.05)	Future threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Fishing (bottom trawling; F02.02.01), Eutrophication (H01.05)	
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 –/–, Finland –/–, Germany –/D (Data deficient, incl. North Sea), Latvia –/–, Lithuania –/–, Poland –/–, Russia –/–, Sweden –/DD		

Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

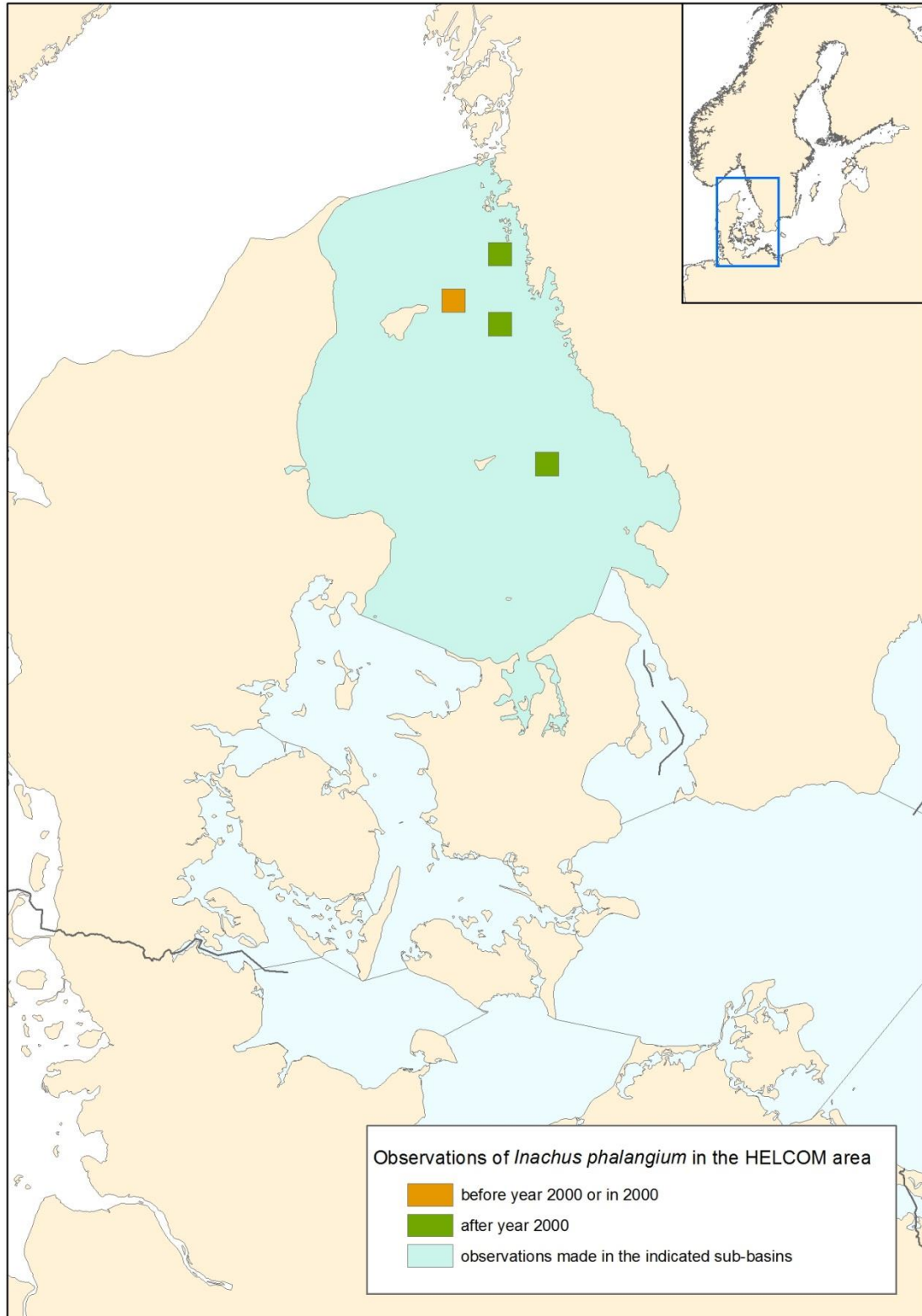
Inachus phalangium is a rare species, and within the HELCOM area its main distribution seems to be on the shallow offshore banks of the Kattegat. However, data is very limited and Danish data is lacking altogether. Outside the HELCOM area the species is reported from a few localities in the Skagerrak and one on the western coast of Norway. The species is associated with sea anemones and can therefore be difficult to sample. Data from Sweden indicate a decline in the Skagerrak (Bohuslän), but the status in the Kattegat is unknown.

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Distribution map

The records of species obtained from the species database of the Swedish Species Information Centre (Artportalen).



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Habitat and Ecology

Inachus phalangium is a spider-like crab with long legs. It occurs sparsely on sandy bottoms with stones, rocks, gravel and shells. Depth distribution is between 10–16 meters approximately. The species is known to associate with different species of sea anemones, and can therefore be difficult to detect and sample. Ovigerous females and larvae have been detected in all months.

Description of major threats

The species is probably negatively affected by the intense bottom trawling, both directly by being caught as bycatch and indirectly by the sedimentation caused by trawling. It is probably also negatively affected by eutrophication that leads to increased sedimentation of the habitat.

Assessment justification

Only very limited data from the Kattegat is available. Data from the Skagerrak indicate a decline, but the trend in the Kattegat is unclear. The species is rare, and difficult to detect and sample due to its ecology. The information available is thus insufficient to determine which of the redlist categories that is most likely. The species is categorized as Data Deficient (DD).

Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

It is difficult to suggest specific measures. In general the negative effects of eutrophication and trawling on marine biotopes need to be reduced. More information on the species distribution and status within the HELCOM area is needed.

Common names

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

References

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- Swedish Species Gateway. Swedish Species Information Centre and Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. Available at www.artportalen.se.

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World Register of Marine Species WoRMS. Available at

<http://www.marinespecies.org/aphia.php?p=taxdetails&id=107333>