

SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Labrus bergylta

English name: Ballan wrasse	Scientific name: <i>Labrus bergylta</i>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Actinopterygii Order: Perciformes Family: Labridae	Species authority: Linnaeus, 1758	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: –	Generation length: 13.7 years	
Past and current threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): –	Future threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): –	
IUCN Criteria: –	HELCOM Red List Category:	LC Least Concern
Global / European IUCN Red List Category LC/NE	Habitats Directive: –	
Previous HELCOM Red List Category (2007): EN		
Protection and Red List status in HELCOM countries: Denmark –/–, Estonia –/–, Finland –/–, Germany –/* (Not threatened, Baltic Sea), Latvia –/–, Lithuania –/–, Poland –/–, Russia –/–, Sweden –/LC		

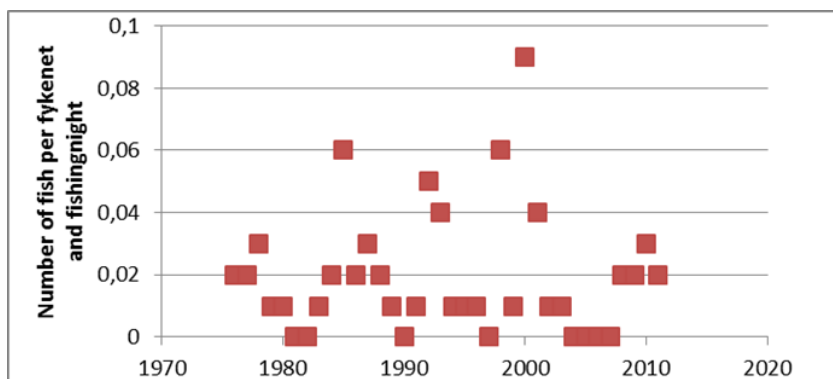
Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

The ballan wrasse is a relatively common species in the Kattegat and the Sound and it has also been encountered in the southwestern Baltic Sea. The ballan wrasse is caught regularly at low numbers at coastal monitoring fyke-net fishing in the Kattegat with no signs of decline. Surveys have also shown that ballan wrasse is commonly occurring on offshore banks. It has hitherto not been used commercially.



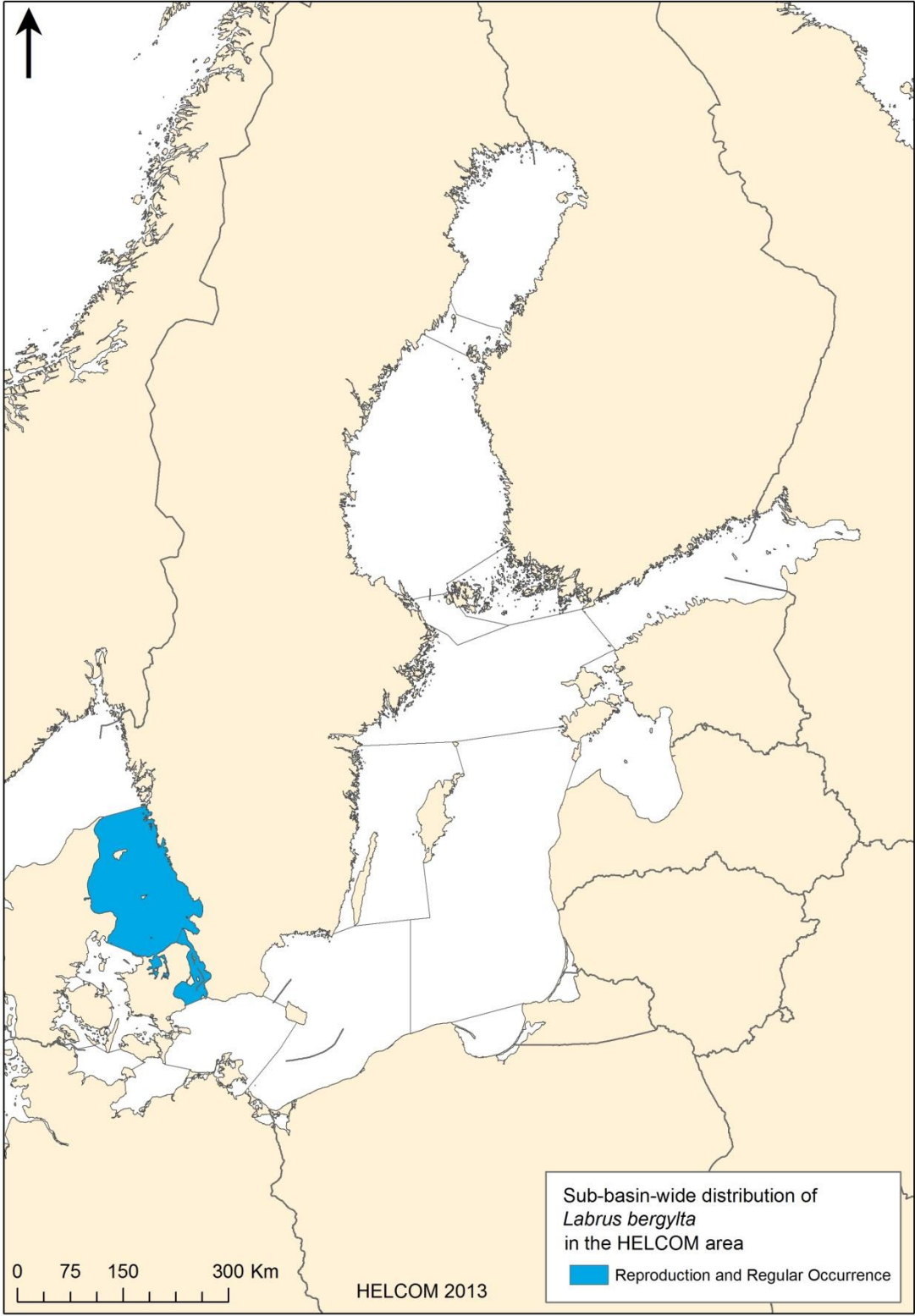
Ballan wrasse. Photo by Martin Karlsson, Swedish University of Agricultural sciences.

Fig. 1. Ballan wrasse caught in Swedish coastal fish monitoring in the Kattegat.



Distribution map

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



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Habitat and ecology

This species is found mainly in inshore waters down to 30 meters depth around rocks, offshore reefs and amongst seaweeds. Young individuals are often found in intertidal areas. It feeds on crustaceans and molluscs (Quignard & Pras 1986).

All individuals are born females, and they change sex when they are between four and 14 years old (Froese & Pauly 2012, Kullander et al 2012), but not every female changes sex. One or more females spawn in a nest built of algae by the male in a rocky crevice. The male guards the nest for one to two weeks until the eggs hatch. The larvae are pelagic (Muus & Nielsen 1999, Froese & Pauly 2012, Kullander et al 2012).

Description of major threats

There are no major threats known for this species.

Assessment justification

Ballan wrasse is only known to reproduce in the Kattegat and in the Sound meaning an extent of occurrence of less than 40 000 km² but more than 20 000 km². Similarly, the area of occupancy is probably less than 4 000 km² but more than 2 000 km². The limited distribution area however does not qualify for red listing since the species is not considered severely fragmented, nor have extreme fluctuations in abundance or available habitat and the only available time series shows no signs of decline over the last 30 years. There is also a possibility for immigration into the HELCOM area from Skagerrak that could act as a source population. With its complicated lifecycle and long lifespan the species could be regarded sensitive to environmental deterioration or disturbance but no immediate threats has been identified, and the species is classified as Least Concern.

Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

No protection actions currently needed in HELCOM area.

Common names

D: Gefleckter Lippfisch; DK: Bergylte; FI: Viherhuulikala; GB: Ballan wrasse; LI: Vaivorykštinė lūpažuvė; LV: varavīksnes lūpzivis; PL: Wargacz kniazik; RU: Labrus; SE: Berggylta

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