

SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Nerophis lumbriciformis

English name: Worm pipefish	Scientific name: <i>Nerophis lumbriciformis</i>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Actinopterygii Order: Syngnathiformes Family: Syngnathidae	Species authority: Jenyns, 1835	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: <i>Syngnathus lumbriciformis</i>	Generation length: 2.5 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 NE/NE	Habitats Directive: –	
Previous HELCOM Red List Category (2007): VU		
Protection and Red List status in HELCOM countries: Denmark –/, Estonia –/, Finland –/, Germany –/, Latvia –/, Lithuania –/, Poland –/, Russia –/, Sweden –/LC		

Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

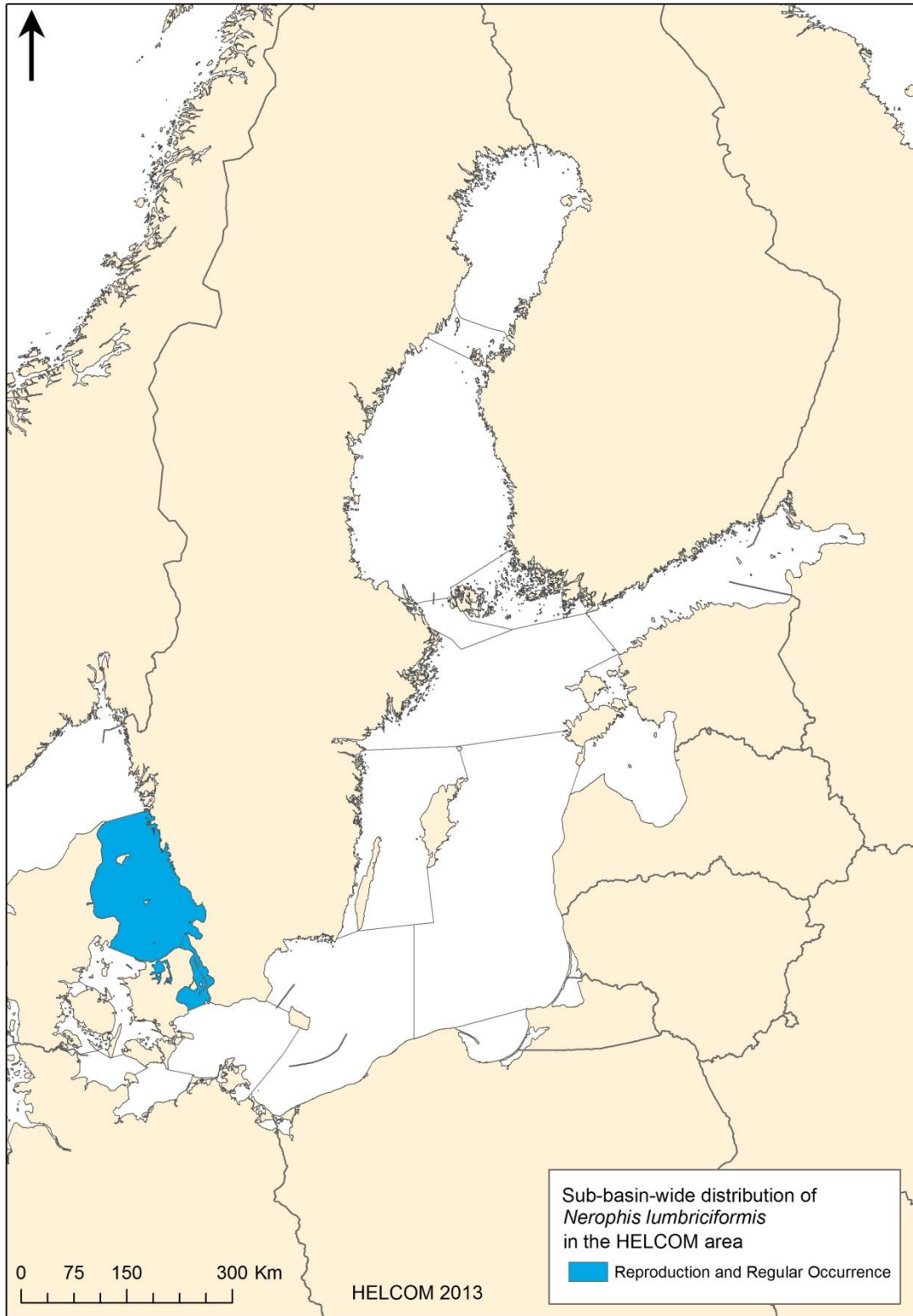
The worm pipefish is sparsely represented in Swedish coastal waters, where it is limited to the Skagerrak and Kattegat basins (Kullander et al. 2012). It is found in the *Fucus* belt. Like most species of the *Syngnathidae* family, the worm pipefish distribution and abundance is not monitored well with standardized test fishing nets because of its snakelike body.



Worm pipefish. Photo by Norbert Häubner, Klubban field station, Uppsala University.

Distribution map

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



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Habitat and ecology

The worm pipefish is a marine species that lives in the intertidal zone down to about 30 m among rocks or holdfasts and lower branches of red and brown algae. It spawns in the summer months. It feeds on small crustaceans and fish fry. The larvae are attached to the ventral surface of the males. Parental care is exclusively paternal and the male broods embryos attached to their abdomen. (Dawson 1986, Froese & Pauly 2012, Kullander et al. 2012)

Description of major threats

No major threats identified.

Assessment justification

The extent of occurrence (EOO) is below the threshold for Near Threatened (< 40 000 km²) according to the B1 criterion, however none of the required additional criterias of severe fragmentation, continuing decline or extreme fluctuations in population size or habitat is fulfilled. The estimated area of occupancy is above the threshold for being threatened according to the IUCN. There are no data on trends in habitat or population size but since no major threats are identified this species is considered Least Concern (LC) in the HELCOM area.

Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

No protection actions currently needed in the HELCOM area but more information should be collected on the status of this species.

Common names

D: Krummschnäuzige Schlangennadel; DK: Krumsnudet næbsnog; FI: Käyränokkaneula; GB: Worm pipefish; LI: Sliekžuvė; LV: Tārpzivis; RU: Червеобразный нерофис; SE: Krumnosig havsnål

References

- Dawson, C.E. (1986). Syngnathidae. p. 628–639. In: Whitehead, P.J.P., Bauchot, M.-L., Hureau, J.-C., Nielsen, J., Tortonese, E. (eds.) Fishes of the North-eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. Vol. 2. Unesco, Paris.
- Froese, R., Pauly, D. (eds.) (2012). FishBase. World Wide Web electronic publication. Available at: www.fishbase.org
- HELCOM (2007). HELCOM Red list of threatened and declining species of lampreys and fish of the Baltic Sea. Baltic Sea Environmental Proceedings No. 109. Helsinki Commission, Helsinki. 40 pp.
- HELCOM (2012). Checklist of Baltic Sea Macro-species. Baltic Sea Environment Proceedings No. 130. Helsinki Commission, Helsinki. 203 pp.
- Kullander, S.O., Nyman, L., Jilg, K., Delling, B. (2012). Nationalnyckeln till Sveriges flora och fauna. Strålfeniga fiskar. Actinopterygii. Artdatabanken, SLU, Uppsala. 517 pp. [in Swedish]