

## SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

## *Phoxinus phoxinus*

English name: <b>Minnow</b>	Scientific name: <i>Phoxinus phoxinus</i>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Actinopterygii Order: Cypriniformes Family: Cyprinidae	Species authority: Linnaeus, 1758	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: <i>Several species may be within the P. phoxinus (Freyhoff &amp; Kottelat 2008).</i>	Generation length: 4.3 years	
Past and current threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): –	Future threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): –	
IUCN Criteria: –	<b>HELCOM Red List Category:</b>	<b>LC Least Concern</b>
Global / European IUCN Red List Category LC/LC	Habitats Directive: –	
Previous HELCOM Red List Category (2007): VU		
Protection and Red List status in HELCOM countries: Denmark –/LC, Estonia –/LC, Finland –/LC, Germany –/* (Not threatened, freshwaters), Latvia –/–, Lithuania –/–, Poland <i>Prohibited to kill, catch or disturb this species under strict protection</i> / –, Russia –/–, Sweden –/LC		

### Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

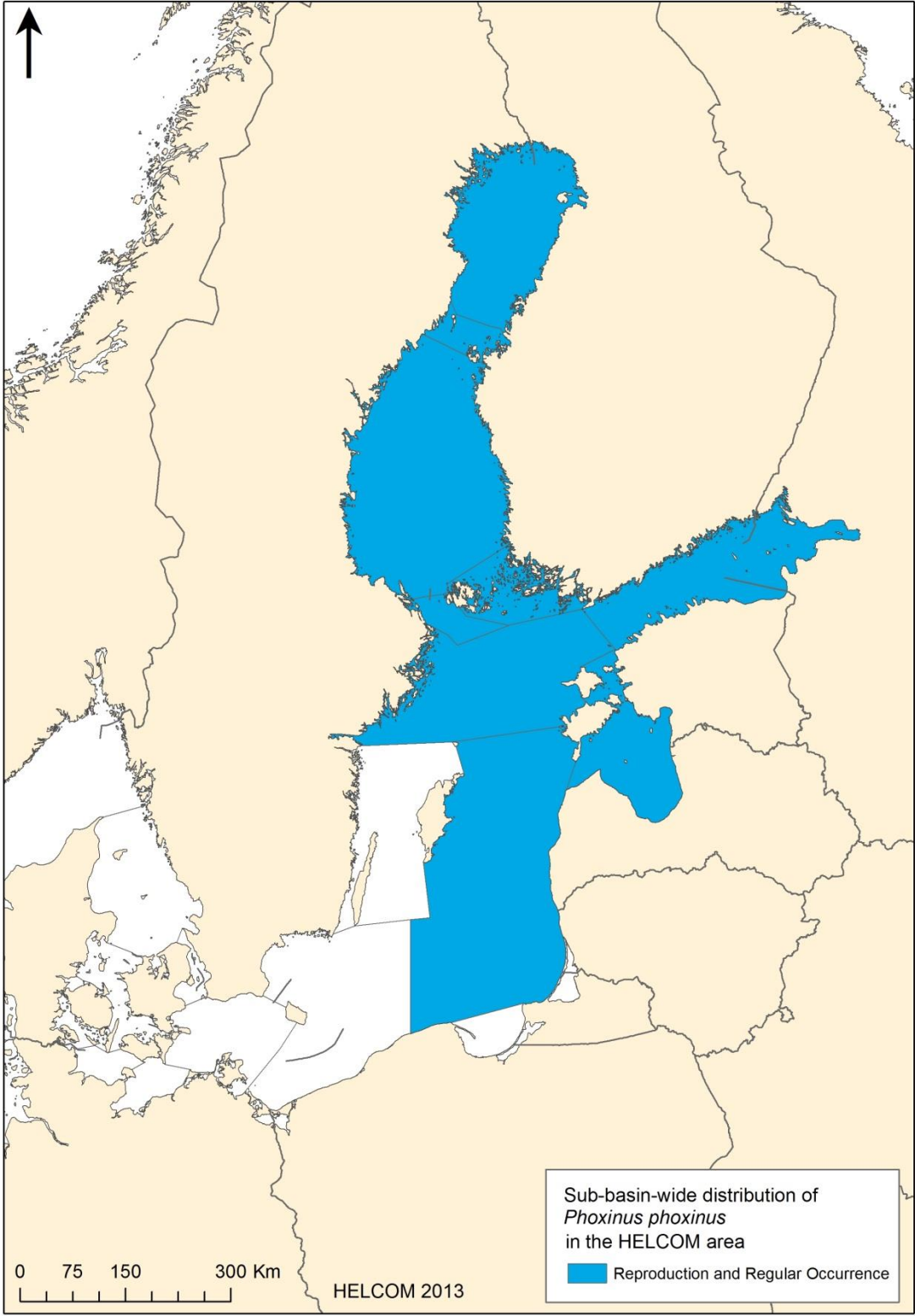
This river associated freshwater fish also spawns in coastal areas in the northern and eastern part of the Baltic Sea. Although it is common in shallow coastal areas it is not caught in any regular environmental monitoring in the Baltic Sea. Data from Swedish rivers however show no change in occurrence during the last 25 years (Degerman et al. 2009). There is an observed decrease in eutrophicated Finnish coastal areas, though no numerical data is available for the decrease.



Minnow. Photo by Martin Karlsson, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

**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

This gregarious small species inhabits a wide range of cold and well oxygenated habitats in rivers, lakes and less saline coastal areas. It is often associated with salmonid fishes and thrives in running waters. The minnow spawns for the first time at two years and lives up to 11 years but more usually up to 4–5 years. The species spawns in shoals and females deposit the sticky eggs deep into clean gravel. It feeds on invertebrates, algae and detritus. It can reach a maximum length of 14 cm but is seldom more than 7 cm long. (Freyhof & Kottelat 2008)

### Description of major threats

No major threats perceived at the moment in the HELCOM area although increased eutrophication could become a future threat. Pollution and excessive stocking of species of *Salmo* spp. are identified as threats in the global IUCN list.

### Assessment justification

Number of reproductive individuals, extent of occurrence and area of occupancy are all well above thresholds for red-listing according to IUCN system. Although there are some indications for decline in eutrophicated areas the decline is estimated to be less than 15% in the overall HELCOM population and hence this species is categorized as Least Concern.

### Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

No protection actions currently needed in HELCOM area but information on habitats and population size in coastal areas should be collected.

### Common names

D - Elritze; GB – Minnow; EST - Iepamaim; DK - Elritse; FIN – Mutu; LV - Mailīte; LT - Rainė; PL - Strzebla błotna; RUS - Obiknovenniy gol'yan; S – Elritsa

### References

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