

SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Phrynorhombus norvegicus

English name: Norwegian topknot	Scientific name: <i>Phrynorhombus norvegicus</i>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Actinopterygii Order: Pleuronectiformes Family: Scopthalmidae	Species authority: Günther, 1862	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: –	Generation length: –	
Past and current threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): –	Future threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): –	
IUCN Criteria: –	HELCOM Red List Category:	DD Data Deficient
Global / European IUCN Red List Category: NE/NE	Habitats Directive:	
Previous HELCOM Red List Category (2007): RA		
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 Norwegian topknot is common in the Skagerrak and northern Kattegat, and occurs regularly in the southern Kattegat and the Sound and also sporadically in the Belt Seas. Very little information is available on the status of this species. Swedish bottom trawling surveys in Ustö in the Kattegat have caught this species regularly from 1994 to 2007. However, it has not been caught during the last four years after this.



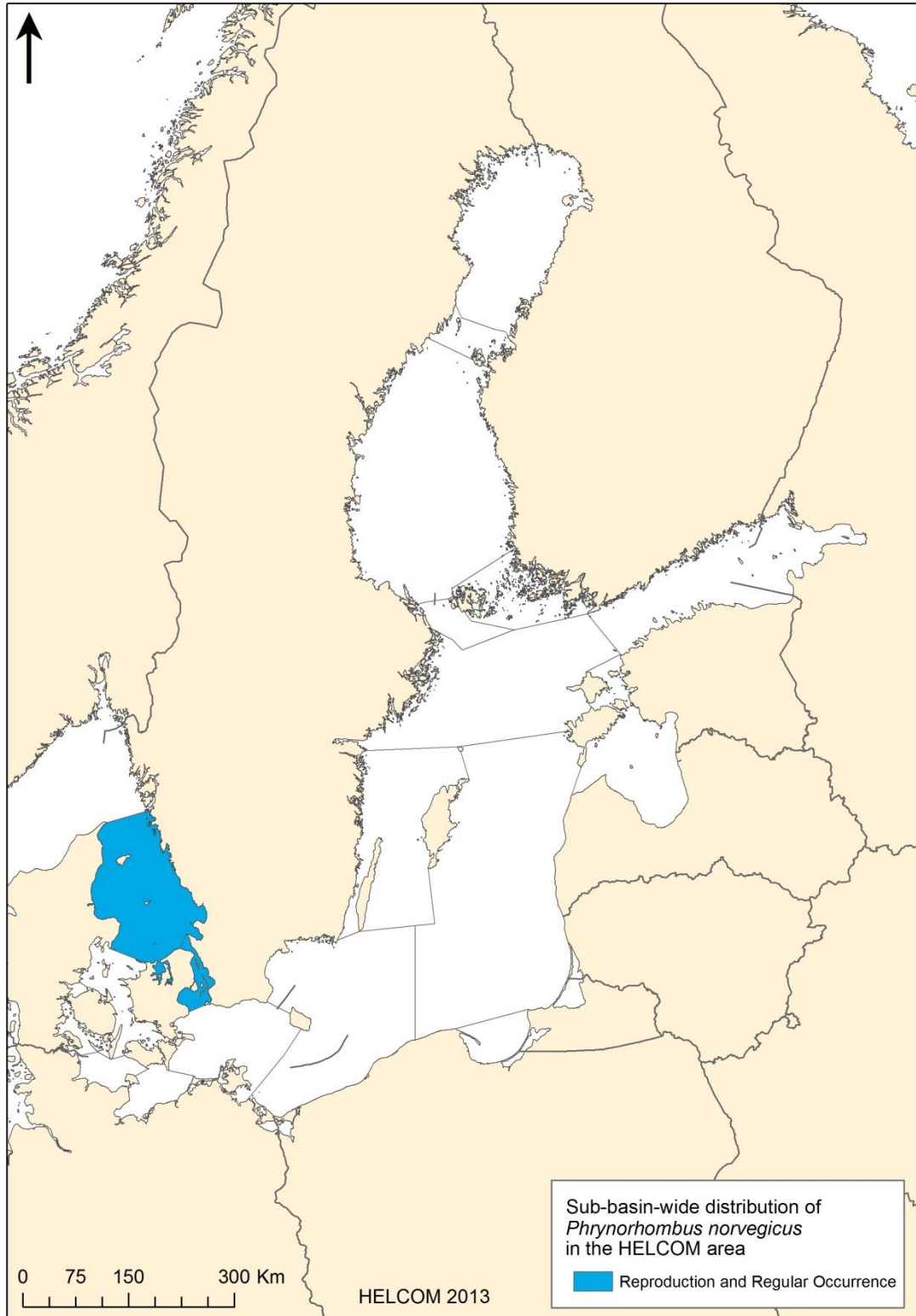
Norwegian topknot. Photo by Björn Fagerholm, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

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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 is the smallest flatfish occurring in the HELCOM area with a maximum total length of 12 cm. It is a marine bottom dweller that inhabits rocky bottoms from 10 to 200 meters depth, usually 25 to 40 m (Muus & Jensen 1999, Froese & Pauly 2012). Normally camouflaging with the surrounding habitat the species keeps its body tight to vertical rocky walls or sloping hard bottoms. It feeds on fish fry and small invertebrates and spawns from April to August.

Description of major threats

No major threats have been identified.

Assessment justification

Very little information is available on this species but it is possible that the species has declined more than 80 % the last three generations. The possible decline between 0 to 80 % results in DD status for this species.

Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

There is a need to improve the knowledge on distribution and abundance of this species together with essential habitat requirements and population structure of the species before any recommendations can be given.

Common names

D: Zwergbutt; DK: Småvarre; FI: Pikkukampela GB: Norwegian topknot; PL: Turbotek norweski LV: Norvēģu akmeņplekste, mazā akmeņplekste; LT: Norveginis mažasis otas; RUS: Норвежская карликовая камбала SE: Småvar

References

- Froese, R., Pauly, D. (eds.) (2012). FishBase. World Wide Web electronic publication.
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- 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.
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- Kullander, S.O., Nyman, L., Jilg, K., Delling, B. (2012). Nationalnyckeln till Sveriges flora och fauna. Strålfeniga fiskar. Actinopterygii (in Swedish). Artdatabanken, SLU, Uppsala. 517 pp.
- Muus, B.J., Nielsen, J.G. (1999). Sea fish. Scandinavian Fishing Year Book, Hedehusene, Denmark. 338 pp.