

SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Pontoporeia femorata

English name: –	Scientific name: <i>Pontoporeia femorata</i>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Malacostraca Order: Amphipoda Family: Pontoporeiidae	Species authority: Krøyer, 1842	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: <i>Pontoporeia ekmani</i> Bulycheva, 1936 <i>Pontoporeia furcigera</i> Bruzelius, 1859 <i>Pontoporeia sinuata</i> Ekman, 1913	Generation length: –	
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: –	
Protection and Red List status in HELCOM countries: Denmark –/–, Estonia –/–, Finland –/–, Germany –/V (Near threatened), Latvia –/–, Lithuania –/–, Poland –/–, Russia –/–, Sweden –/–		

Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

Pontoporeia femorata is distributed throughout the Baltic Sea, but is more common in the southern and central parts than in the northern sub-basins. It has declined in the south-western Baltic Sea due to eutrophication but no recent declines are known from other parts of the Baltic Sea region.

Its distribution ranges from Arctic waters of the North Atlantic to the boreal areas of the Norwegian deep in the Skagerrak, Kattegat and the whole Baltic Sea.



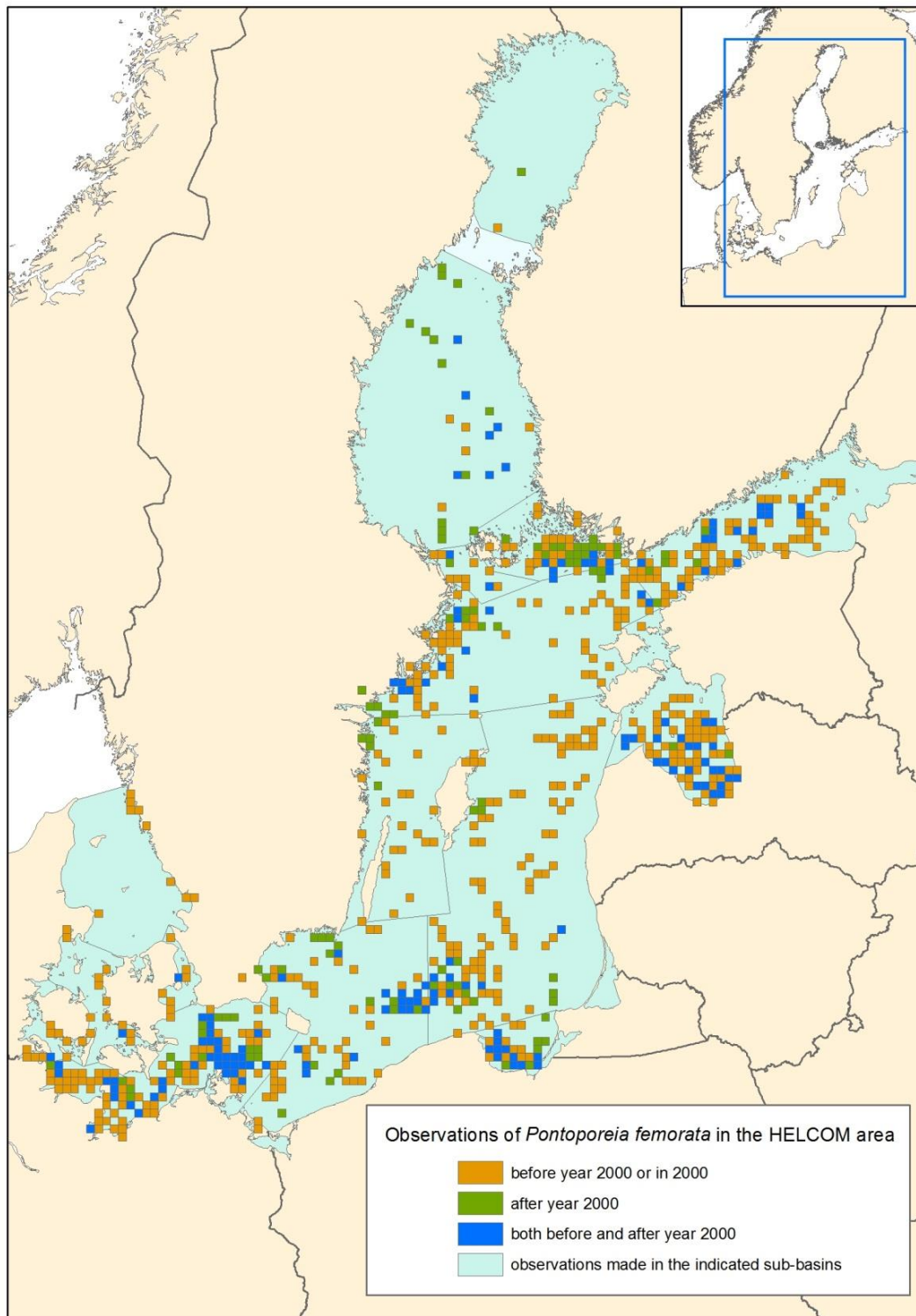
Pontoporeia femorata. Photo by Joanna Legeżyńska.

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Distribution map

The georeferenced records of species compiled from the Danish national database for marine data (MADS), from the databases of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute, Finnish Environment Institute, Estonian Marine Institute, and the Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research (IOW). Additional data was received from Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Poland, and Russia from other sources.



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Habitat and ecology

P. femorata is an amphipod species of marine arctic origin. It is restricted to the deep (found in over 10 meter depths) cold water zones on silt bottoms in the Baltic Sea. The species tolerates reduced salinities down to 6 psu. *P. femorata* is a deposit feeder, which feeds mainly on settled phytoplankton and other detrital organic matter. The amphipod is found deeper in the sediment than *M. affinis*. It is an active bioturbator, thus influencing the sediment structure, nutrient fluxes and oxygen availability in the sediment. Dense populations are up to 2.000 ind./m² (Askö area).

Description of major threats

The loss of oxygen in the Baltic Sea bottoms has reduced the abundance of *P. femorata*.

Assessment justification

P. femorata is a common species in most of the Baltic Sea. It has declined in the south-western Baltic Sea due to eutrophication but no recent declines are known from other parts of the Baltic Sea region. The species does not meet any of the Red List criteria and is considered Least Concern (LC).

Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

Reduction of nutrient loading would eventually improve the situation of *P. femorata*.

Common names

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

References

Database of the Marine Research Centre, Finnish Environment Institute, all observations 1964–2007.

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EMI, observational data from the database of the Estonian Marine Institute.

Gosselck, F. 2009. *Pontoporeia femorata* (Kroyer 1842) (Crustacea). HELCOM fact sheet.

International Council for the Exploration of the Sea ICES data portal. Available at

<http://ecosystemdata.ices.dk/inventory/index.aspx>.

IOW database. Observational data from the database of the Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research.

MADS, The Danish national database for marine data. NERI: University of Aarhus; National Environmental Research Institute. Downloaded in June 2011.

Rachor, E., Bönsch, R., Boos, K., Gosselck, F., Grotjahn, M., Günther, C.-P., Gusky, M., Gutow, L., Heiber, W., Jantschik, P., Krieg, H.-J., Krone, R., Nehmer, P., Reichert, K., Reiss, H., Schröder, A., Witt, J. & Zettler, M. L. 2012. Rote Liste und Artenliste der bodenlebenden wirbellosen Meerestiere. Vierte Fassung, Stand Dezember 2007, einzelne Aktualisierungen bis 2012. Naturschutz und Biologische Vielfalt 70(2). Bundesamt für Naturschutz.

SMHI database. Observational data for zoobenthos from the database of the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute, all observations 1971–2010. Downloaded in 9 April 2011.

World Register of Marine Species WoRMS. Available at

<http://www.marinespecies.org/aphia.php?p=taxdetails&id=103079>