

SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Sabella pavonina

English name: Peacock worm	Scientific name: <i>Sabella pavonina</i>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Polychaeta Order: Sabellida Family: Sabellidae	Species authority: Savigny, 1822	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: –	Generation length: –	
Past and current threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Potentially eutrophication (H01.05), Fishing (bottom trawling; F02.02.1)	Future threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Potentially eutrophication (H01.05), Fishing (bottom trawling; F02.02.1)	
IUCN Criteria: B1ab(iii)	HELCOM Red List Category:	NT Near Threatened
Global / European IUCN Red List Category NE/NE	Habitats Directive: –	
Protection and Red List status in HELCOM countries: Denmark –/–, Estonia –/–, Finland –/–, Germany –/–, Latvia –/–, Lithuania –/–, Poland –/–, Russia –/–, Sweden –/–		

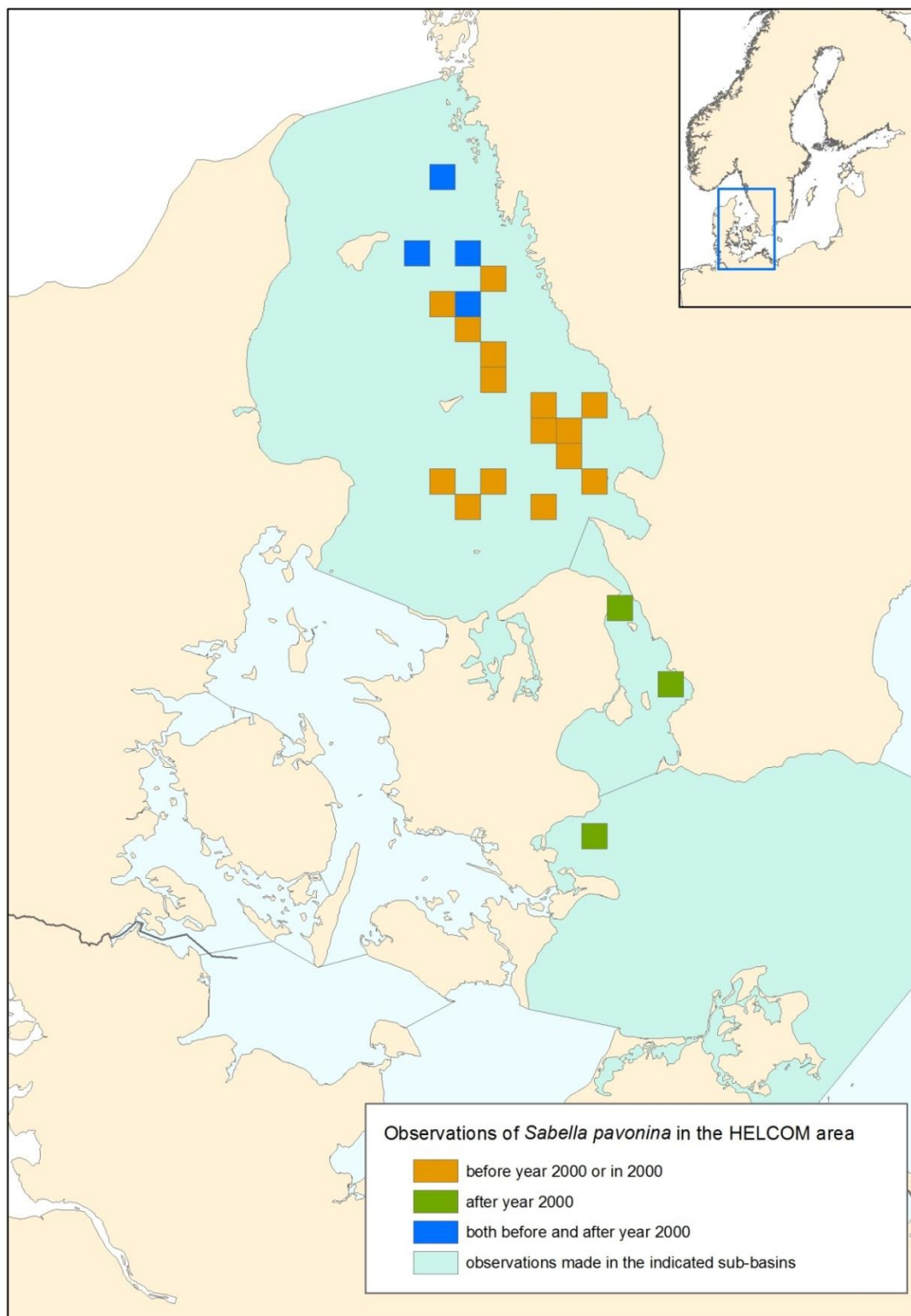
Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

The main distribution of *S. pavonina* within the HELCOM area is in the Kattegat and the Sound. Outside the HELCOM area the species occurs in the Skagerrak and in the North Sea. A comparison between historical and present Swedish data indicates a decline in distribution, particularly in the southern parts of the Kattegat. As the species lives on varied substrata, e.g. on stones in mud and sand, it is difficult to say what the cause of this decline might be other than a general deterioration of the marine environment due to e.g. eutrophication and bottom trawling.

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*Sabella pavonina***Distribution map**

The georeferenced records of species compiled from the databases of the Swedish Species Information Centre (Artportalen) and the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute.



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Habitat and ecology

Sabella pavonina is a long and slender tube-building bristleworm that may reach a length of up to 300 mm. The clay-coloured tube is soft, thin and narrow. The tentacle crown is brightly coloured and banded. The species is a suspension feeder that can be found on a variety of bottom substrata. Depth range in the Scandinavian area is from 5 meters down to several hundred meters.

Description of major threats

It is difficult to say what the cause of the species' decline might be other than a general deterioration of the marine environment due to e.g. eutrophication and bottom trawling.

Assessment justification

Only limited data are available. These indicate a decrease in distribution in recent decades. Due to general deterioration of the marine environment the distribution is expected to decrease further, as an effect of deterioration of the habitat quality. The number of locations is estimated to be less than 20. Present distribution (EOO) is estimated to 10 000 (8000–12000) km². In combination with few locations and continuing decline the B-criterion is thus fulfilled.

Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

It is difficult to suggest specific measures, as the reason behind the decline is not known. In general the negative effects of eutrophication and trawling on marine biotopes need to be reduced. Also more data on the species distribution within the HELCOM area is needed.

Common names

Denmark: –, Estonia: –, Finland: –, Germany: Pfauenfederwurm, Latvia: –, Lithuania: –, Poland: –, Russia: –, Sweden: –

References

- Hansson, H. G. 1998. Sydsandinaviska marina flercelliga evertabrater. Utgåva 2
- Hayward, P. J & Ryland, J. S. (eds). 2002. Handbook of the Marine Fauna of North-West Europe. 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.
- Swedish Species Gateway. Swedish Species Information Centre and Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. Available at www.artportalen.se.