

SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Enchelyopus cimbrius

English name: Four-bearded rockling	Scientific name: <i>Enchelyopus cimbrius</i>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Actinopterygii Order: Gadiformes Family: Lotidae	Species authority: Linnaeus, 1766	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: <i>Rhinonemus cimbrius</i> (Gill 1863)	Generation length: 5 years	
Past and current threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Unknown	Future threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): By-catch (F02)	
IUCN Criteria: A2b	HELCOM Red List Category:	NT Near Threatened
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 –/DD, Estonia –/–, Finland –/–, Germany –/*(Not threatened, Baltic Sea), Latvia –/–, Lithuania –/–, Poland –/–, Russia –/–, Sweden –/DD		

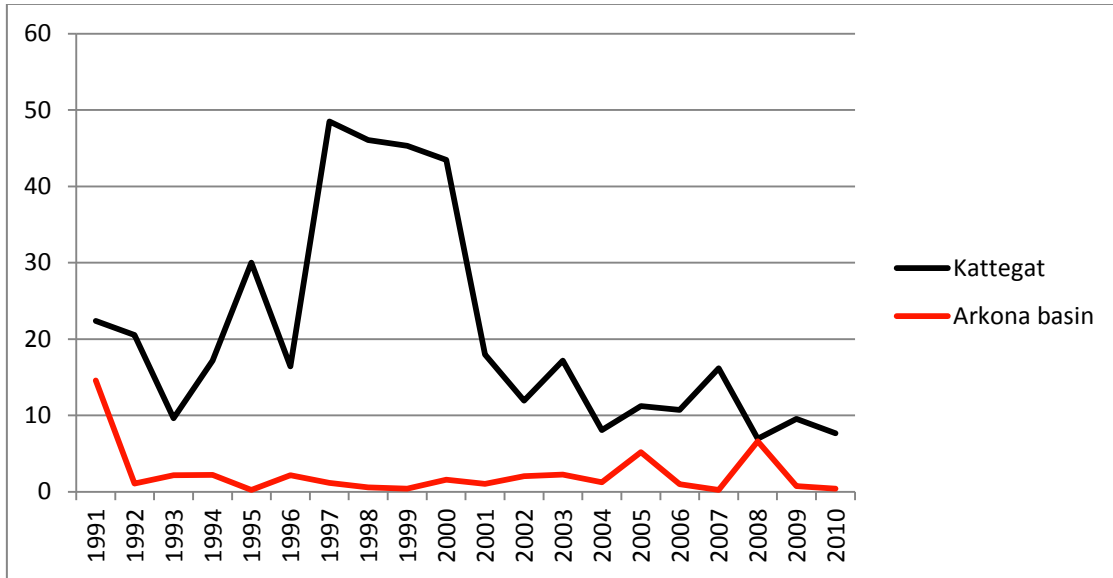
Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

The four-bearded rockling is to a large extent mainly distributed in marine waters but can also be found in the brackish waters of the Baltic Sea. Bottom trawling surveys in Kattegat show a 74 % decrease during the assessment period from 1995 to 2010. German trawl surveys from Arkona basin (ICES SD 24) and the Belt Seas (ICES SD 22) show no trend while Swedish trawl survey data show a tendency for decline since 2001 in the same area. It is possible that the decrease in Kattegat is due to a resume to more natural values after high CPUE in trawling catches during 1997 to 2000. However data from 1991 to 2010 still display a significant decrease of 54 %.



Four-bearded rockling. Photo by David Andersson, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

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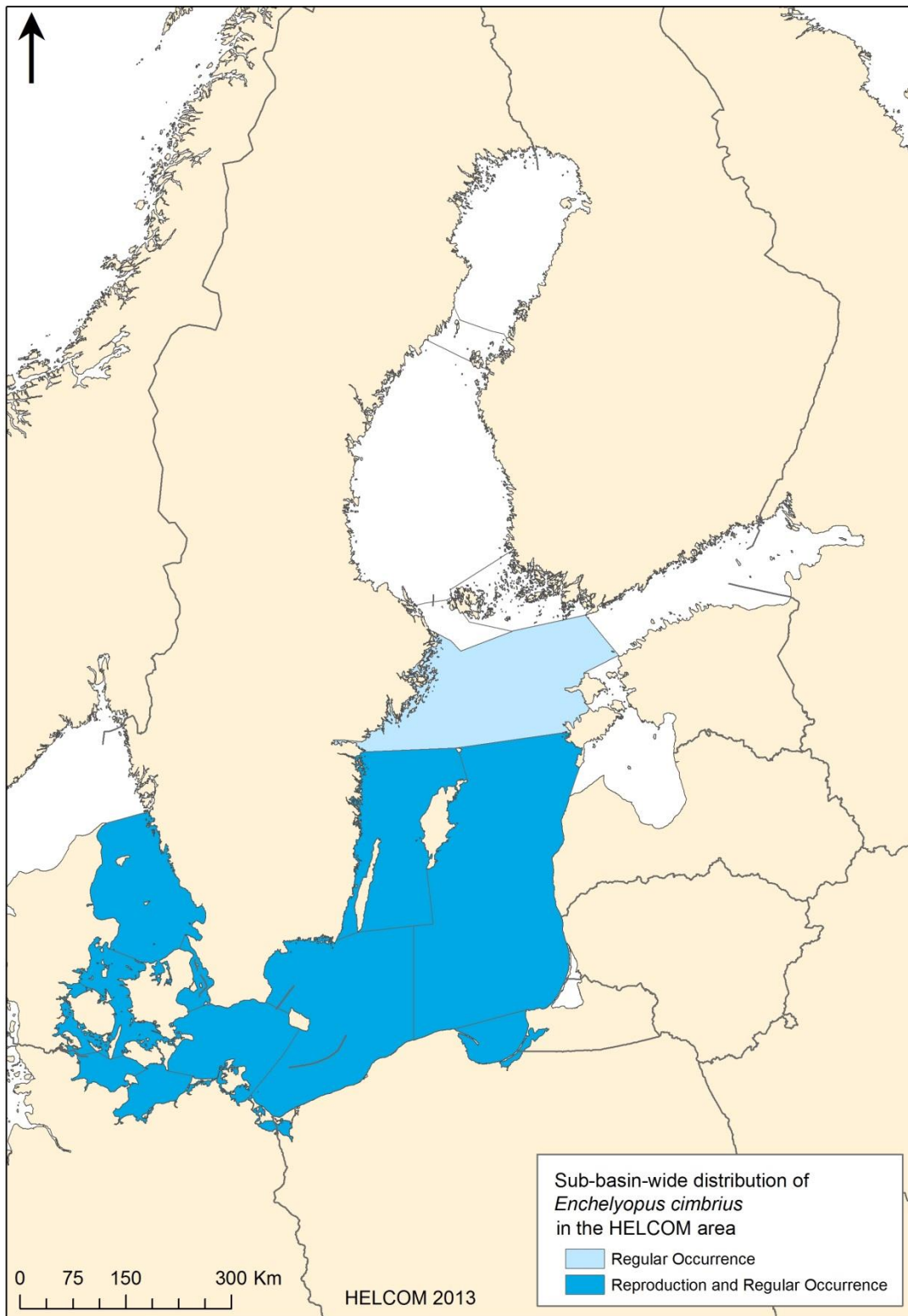
Number of four-bearded rocklings caught per hour in Swedish Bottom trawl surveys (IBTS and BITS). Assessment period is 1995–2010.

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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 2012a).



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Habitat and ecology

A bottom-living sedentary rockling which is generally captured on muddy or sandy bottoms in 20–250 m depth; it has been caught as deep as 550 m (Muus & Nielsen 1999). In the northern parts of its range it is usually found in shallower areas, whereas in the south it lives in deep waters. It feeds mainly on crustaceans, and to a lesser extent on worms and molluscs. It breeds in deep water in late spring and summer; the eggs and larvae are pelagic (Froese & Pauly 2012).

Description of major threats

No major threats have been identified but it is caught unintentionally in the cod trawl fishery, which could present a threat.

Assessment justification

Data from 1991 to 2010 gives a significant decrease in cpue of 54% in the Kattegat while data from the Arkona Sea and the Belt Sea show no trend. Assuming that the data represents equal parts of the total population the overall decrease is $(54+0/2) = 27\%$ resulting in NT category. Due to the species sedentary behaviour possible immigration from the Skagerrak is not deemed to be of such a magnitude that the category should be lowered.

Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

The population trend of the species should be monitored and the extent of bycatch in trawl fishery should be investigated and possibly reduced.

Common names

D: Vierbärtelige Seequappe; DK: Firtrådet havkvabbe; ES: neljapoiseluts; FI: Neliviiksimade; GB: Four-bearded rockling; LA: Četrtaustekļu jūras vēdzele; LI: Keturūsė vėgėlė; PL: Motela; RU: Четырекусий налим; SE: Fyrtömmad skärlånga

References

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