

SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Lamna nasus

English name: Porbeagle	Scientific name: <i>Lamna nasus</i>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Elasmobranchii Order: Lamniformes Family: Lamnidae	Species authority: Bonnaterre, 1788	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: –	Generation length: 18.8 years	
Past and current threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Fishing (F02), By-catch (F02)	Future threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Fishing (F02), By-catch (F02)	
IUCN Criteria: A2bd	HELCOM Red List Category:	CR Critically Endangered
Global / European IUCN Red List Category: CR)/NE	Habitats Directive: –	
Previous HELCOM Red List Category (2007): CR		
Protection and Red List status in HELCOM countries: Denmark <i>Zero-TAC in Denmark and EU since 2010</i> / –, Estonia –/–, Finland –/–, Germany –/–, Latvia –/–, Lithuania –/–, Poland –/–, Russia –/–, Sweden <i>Prohibited to fish for and land this species all year round</i> / CR		

Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

Porbeagle is a migrant species that occurred regularly in the Kattegat and the Sound during the 19th century and until the mid-1900s. Small groups followed migrating *Clupea harengus* and *Scomber scombrus* as they entered the HELCOM-area. Porbeagle still occurs regularly in the North Sea and Skagerrak, but is nowadays a very rare visitor in Kattegat, and even more so further south into the Sound and is associated with annual migration routes. The number of mature individuals regularly occurring in the area is very small. Porbeagle has been the subject of targeted fisheries since the 1930s. Landings have decreased dramatically since the late 1940s and the Northeast Atlantic population size is estimated to have decreased by approximately 90% (80–95%) during the last three generations (57 years) (ICES 2012). Porbeagle is listed in CITES Appendix II meaning that trade is strictly regulated to protect the species.



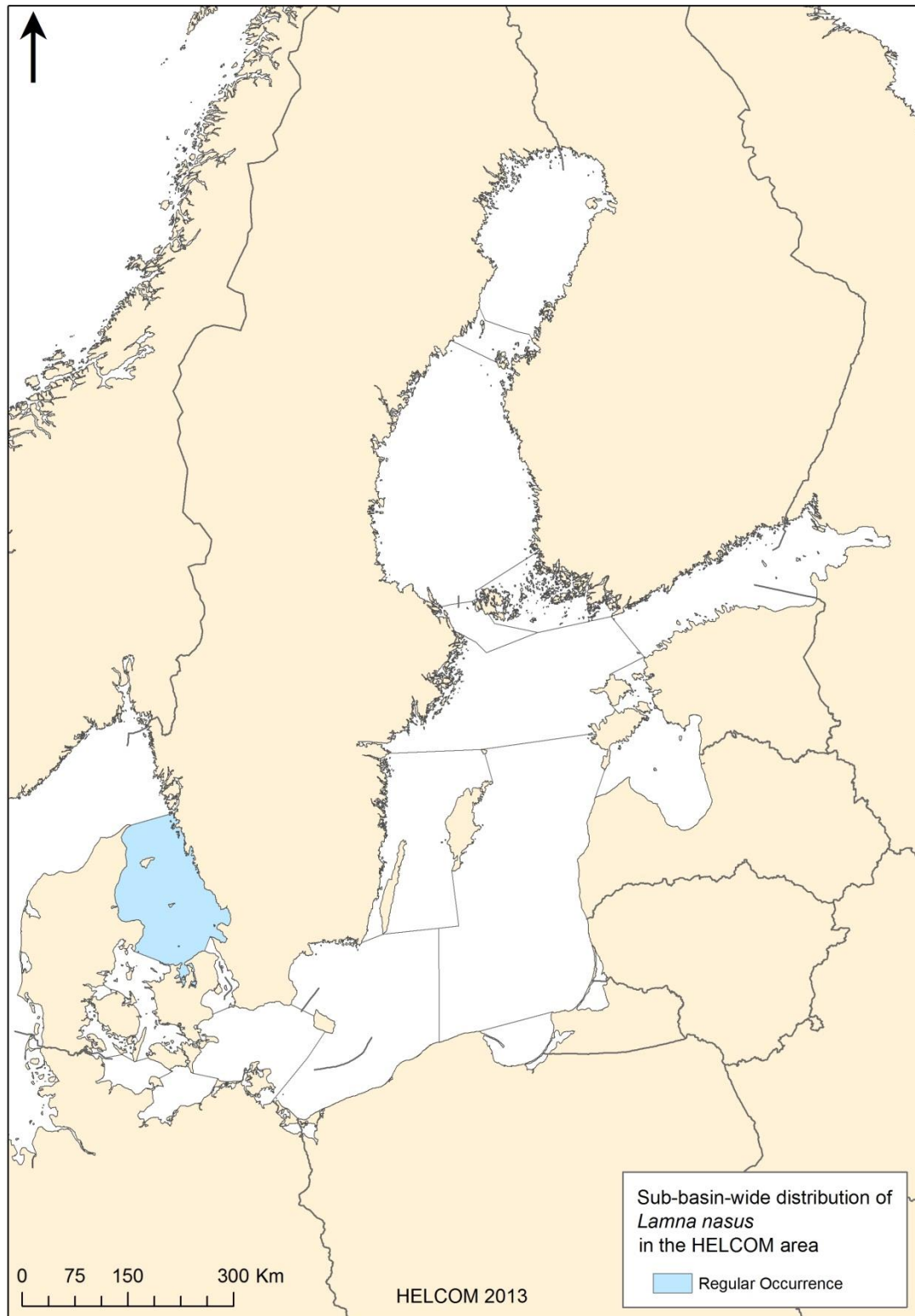
Porbeagle. Illustration by Citron.

SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Lamna nasus

Distribution map

The map shows the sub-basin in the HELCOM area where the species is known to occur (HELCOM 2012). Porbeagle has occurred regularly in the Kattegat and the Sound until the mid-1900s but currently it is a very rare visitor in the Kattegat region.



SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Lamna nasus

Habitat and ecology

The porbeagle is a shark species that is specialized on following large schools of fish (especially herrings), which serve as its prey. It lives pelagically in the sea but follows its prey into inshore waters and even river mouths, where its distribution is mainly determined by salinity conditions (down to 10 psu). Porbeagles probably mate in summer; they are ovoviviparous, giving birth to 1–5 juveniles. The resilience of this species is very low, with individuals maturing at over 14 years (Fricke, 1987; Froese & Pauly 2012). The species reaches 350 cm total length, a weight of 230 kg, and an individual age of 45–46 years in an unfished population (today only 24–25 years) (Natanson *et al.* 2002).

Description of major threats

The porbeagle is a rare species and highly sensitive to human activities. The populations have significantly declined throughout the distribution range in HELCOM area. The porbeagle is threatened by fisheries, and it is caught as by-catch in pelagic and trawl fisheries on schooling fish species like herrings and mackerel.

Assessment justification

Both the extent of occurrences (EOO), estimated to 25 000 km², and the area of occupancy (AOO), exceeds the limit for red listing. The number of reproductive individuals is estimated to 100 (0–200) which is below the level of being considered Endangered (EN) according to the D criterion. Further reductions of the population are expected. The rate of decline has amounted to 90 (80–95) % for the last 60 years. This rate of decline exceeds the threshold for Critically Endangered (CR) in the A criterion (i.e. A2bd). The threat category is not downgraded by immigration from outside the HELCOM area since the situation for porbeagle is critical in the whole Northeast Atlantic.

Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

Fishing methods might be optimized to reduce porbeagle by-catch. As porbeagle is threatened also outside the HELCOM area in the adjacent OSPAR area, OSPAR officials could be contacted to consider conservation measures for the species.

Common names

DE: Heringshai; DK: Sildehaj; FI: Sillihai; GB: Porbeagle; LA: Siļķu haizivs ; LI: Atlantinis silkiaryklis ; PL: Żarłacz śledziowy ; RU: Атлантическая се'лдьовая акула; SE: Håbrand/Sillhaj

SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Lamna nasus

References

- Fricke, R. (1987). Deutsche Meeresfische. Bestimmungsbuch. Hamburg (DJN). 219 pp.
- Froese, R., Pauly, D. (eds.) (2012). FishBase. World Wide Web electronic publication.
Available at: www.fishbase.org, version (10/2012).
- 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.
- HELCOM (2012). Checklist of Baltic Sea Macro-species. Baltic Sea Environment Proceedings No. 130. Helsinki Commission, Helsinki. 203 pp.
- ICES (2012). ICES Advice 2012, Book 9.
- Natanson, L.J., Mello, J.J., Campana, S.E. (2002). Validated age and growth of the probeagle shark, *Lamna nasus*, I the western North Atlantic Ocean. Collective Volume of Scientific Papers ICCAT 54: 1261–1279.
- Svensson, M., Degerman, E, Florin, A.-B., Hagberg, J., Kullander, S. O., Nathanson, J. E. & Stenberg, C. (2010). Fiskar – Fish. Pisces. In Gärdenfors, U. (ed.) Rödlistade arter i Sverige 2010 – The 2010 Red List of Swedish Species. ArtDatabanken, SLU, Uppsala. P. 323–332. Red List categories available also at <http://www.artfakta.se/GetSpecies.aspx?SearchType=Advanced>.