

Histrionicus histrionicus -- (Linnaeus, 1758)

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- ANSERIFORMES -- ANATIDAE

Common names: Harlequin Duck; Harlequin

European Red List Assessment

European Red List Status

LC -- Least Concern, (IUCN version 3.1)

Assessment Information

Year published:	2015
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Assessor(s):	BirdLife International
Reviewer(s):	Symes, A.
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Assessment Rationale

European regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)

EU27 regional assessment: Not Applicable (NA)

This species has a very large range, and hence does not approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the range size criterion (Extent of Occurrence 10% in ten years or three generations, or with a specified population structure). The population trend is not known, but the population is not believed to be decreasing sufficiently rapidly to approach the thresholds under the population trend criterion (30% decline over ten years or three generations). For these reasons the species is evaluated as Least Concern in Europe.

The bird is considered vagrant in the EU27 and is assessed as Not Applicable (NA) for this region.

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Greenland (to DK); Iceland

Vagrant:

Austria; Belgium; Croatia; Denmark; France; Germany; Italy; Montenegro; Netherlands; Norway; Svalbard and Jan Mayen (to NO); Poland; Serbia; Slovakia; Sweden; Switzerland; Ukraine; United Kingdom

Population

The European population is estimated at 4,000-7,000 pairs, which equates to 8,000-14,000 mature individuals. The species does not occur in the EU27. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Trend

In Europe the population size trend is unknown. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Habitats and Ecology

The species is a river specialist during the breeding season and winters along exposed rocky seashores. Laying occurs in May and June. It nests on small islands in rivers (Tucker and Heath 1994). The nest is a thin layer of grass occasionally with a few dry twigs and leaves and lined with down (Carboneras and Kirwan 2013) and is usually concealed in dense vegetation (Tucker and Heath 1994). It usually lays five to seven eggs (Kear 2005). In summer the species occurs at high densities around lake outlets where it feeds on its favoured food resource: blackfly (*Simulium vittatum*) larvae (Bengtson and Ulfstrand 1971, Gudmundsson 1971). It also takes molluscs (Kear 2005). In summer it feeds on insect larvae and pupae, other invertebrates and small fish (Kear 2005, Carboneras and Kirwan 2013). In winter it forages along exposed rocky seashores where it feeds on intertidal and subtidal invertebrates (Tucker and Heath 1994). In Iceland birds from the north and north-east of the island move to the west and south-west coasts in winter (Carboneras and Kirwan 2013).

Habitats & Altitude		
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)	Importance	Occurrence
Marine Intertidal - Rocky Shoreline	major	non-breeding
Marine Intertidal - Tidepools	major	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Macroalgal/Kelp	major	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Seagrass (Submerged)	major	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Loose Rock/pebble/gravel	major	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Rock and Rocky Reefs	major	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy	major	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy-Mud	major	non-breeding
Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Rivers/Streams/Creeks (includes waterfalls)	major	breeding
Altitude	Occasional altitudinal limits	

Threats

In Europe, the species is threatened by the development of hydroelectric schemes which result in the diversion and siltation of rivers (Tucker and Heath 1994, Carboneras and Kirwan 2013); one colony may have been lost through the diversion of the River Thorisos. The large-scale introduction of Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) and Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta*) can result in competition for blackfly larvae and pupae, the ducks main food source. In the 1930s American Mink (*Mustela vison*) were introduced and subsequently escaped; these may have reduced breeding success although this has not been studied (Tucker and Heath 1994). Oils spills have been known to cause significant mortality outside of Europe (Carboneras and Kirwan 2013). Also dredging for minerals in Lake Mývatn may affect algae blooms which form an important food source (Tucker and Heath 1994).

Threats & Impacts					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
		Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
Climate change & severe weather	Habitat shifting & alteration	Future	Whole (>90%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation; Indirect ecosystem effects			
Energy production & mining	Renewable energy	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation					
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	American Mink (<i>Neovison vison</i>)	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
Species disturbance					
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Atlantic Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation					
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Brown Trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>)	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation					
Natural system modifications	Other ecosystem modifications	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation					
Pollution	Oil spills	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Future	Majority (50-90%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
Species mortality					

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

CMS Appendix II. Bern Convention Appendix II. The species is protected against hunting and egg-collecting in Iceland. The core area, River Laxá, is partly protected by law, is an Important Bird Area (IBA) and a Ramsar Site (Tucker and Heath 1994).

Conservation Actions Proposed

The identification of other rivers with high numbers of breeding pairs is needed and these should be protected from development. A study of the effect of the American mink on the species should be undertaken (Tucker and Heath 1994). Research should also be undertaken on resource use on the coast, individual females and the survival of small young and the relationship between breeding, moulting and wintering sites (Gardarsson 2008).

Bibliography

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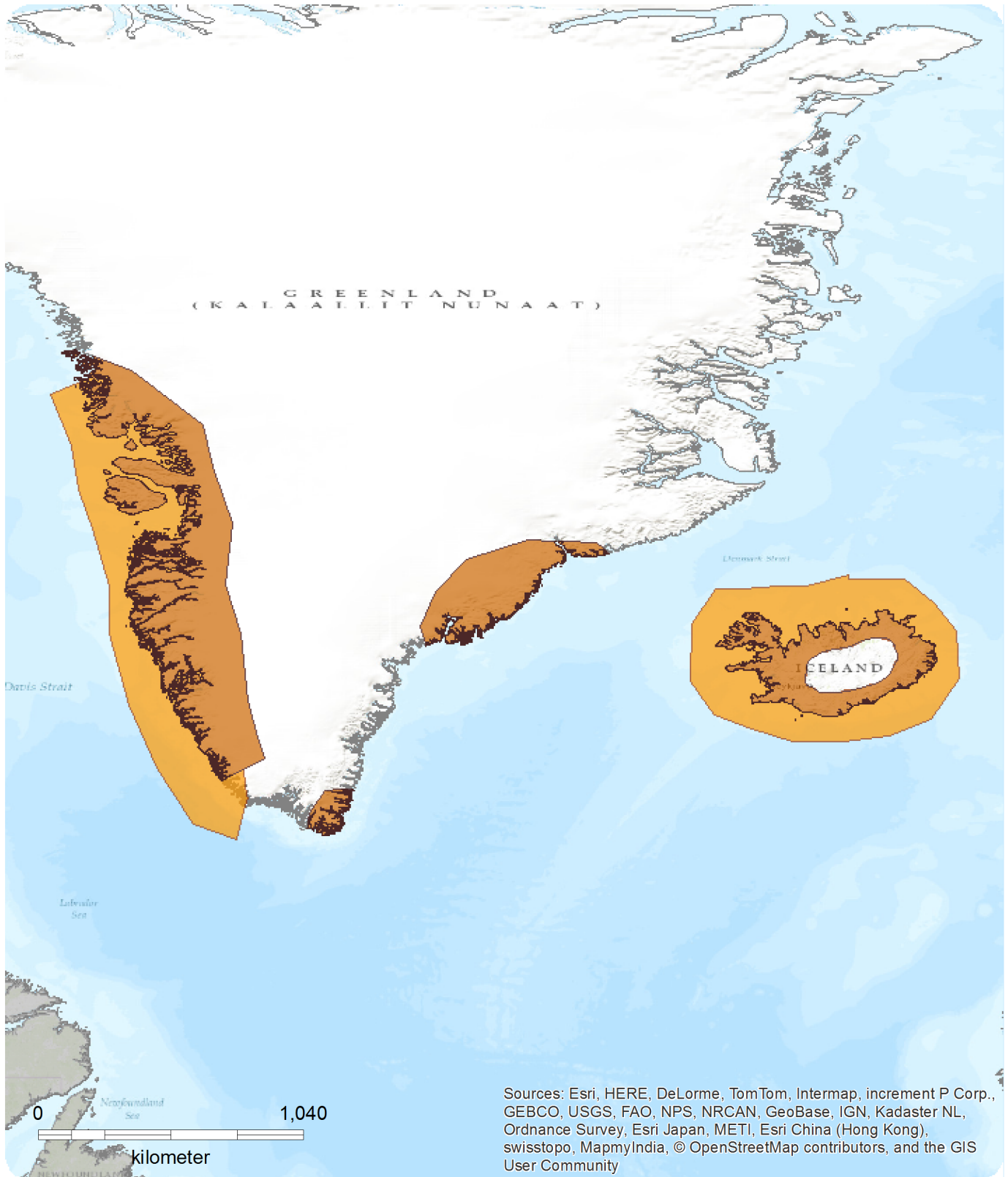
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Map (see overleaf)

European Regional Assessment



Histrionicus histrionicus

Range

- Extant (breeding)
- Extant (non breeding)

Citation:
BirdLife International (2015)
European Red List of Birds



Map created 05/13/2015

