Larus hyperboreus -- Gunnerus, 1767

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- CHARADRIIFORMES -- LARIDAE

Common names: Glaucous Gull;

European Red List Assessment

European Red List Status
LC -- Least Concern, (IUCN version 3.1)

Assessment Information

Year published:	2015
Date assessed:	2015-03-31
Assessor(s):	BirdLife International
Reviewer(s):	Symes, A.
Compiler(s):	Ashpole, J., Burfield, I., Ieronymidou, C., Pople, R., Tarzia, M., Wheatley, H. & Wright, L.

Assessment Rationale

European regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)
EU27 regional assessment: Not Evaluated (NE)

Although this species may have a small range, it is not believed to 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 appears to be stable, and hence the species does not approach the thresholds for Vulnerable 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 species is Not Evaluated (NE) for the EU27 region as winter (non-breeding season) data were not available.

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Belgium; Denmark; Faroe Islands (to DK); Greenland (to DK); Estonia; Finland; France; Germany; Iceland; Ireland, Rep. of; Latvia; Lithuania; Netherlands; Norway; Svalbard and Jan Mayen (to NO); Poland; Romania; Russian Federation; Slovakia; Spain; Sweden; United Kingdom

Vagrant:

Austria; Bulgaria; Czech Republic; Hungary; Italy; Malta; Montenegro; Portugal; Serbia; Slovenia; Switzerland; Ukraine

Population

The European population is estimated at 46,500-135,000 pairs, which equates to 93,000-270,000 mature individuals. The species does not occur in the EU27. For details of national estimates, see Supplementary PDF .

Trend

In Europe the population size is estimated to be stable. For details of national estimates, see Supplementary PDF.

Habitats and Ecology

This species breeds in the Arctic regions of the northern hemisphere. Birds breeding in northern Europe tend to remain near the colony year-round. Migratory populations also use the Atlantic coast of Europe down to Brittany, France including the United Kingdom and Ireland (Burger and Gochfeld 2014). Preferred habitat includes coasts, bays, harbours, landfill sites and fishing wharves. It breeds on cliffs in the Arctic and subarctic, mainly in the coastal zone or a few kilometres inland, particularly near human settlements, and often near gull or goose colonies; also on islands offshore or in lakes (Burger and Gochfeld 2014). It feeds on fish, molluscs, crustaceans, rodents, birds, eggs and young of birds (especially ducks, auks, shorebirds), insects, berries, carrion, refuse and offal. In Iceland it consumes blue mussel (Mytilus edulis), Littorina palliata, crabs (Hyas), sea-urchins and sand eels (Ammodytes). In winter, southernmost birds feed mainly at

rubbish dumps, behind ships, at sewage outfalls, and on fish offal; also exploits spawning squid, pelagic crabs, mammal carcasses, and occasionally faeces of marine mammals.

Habitats & Altitude

Habitat (level 1 - level 2)	Importance	Occurrence
Artificial/Aquatic - Wastewater Treatment Areas	suitable	non-breeding
Artificial/Terrestrial - Urban Areas	suitable	breeding
Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Sea Cliffs and Rocky Offshore Islands	major	breeding
Marine Intertidal - Rocky Shoreline	suitable	non-breeding
Marine Intertidal - Sandy Shoreline and/or Beaches, Sand Bars, Spits, Etc	suitable	non-breeding
Marine Intertidal - Shingle and/or Pebble Shoreline and/or Beaches	suitable	non-breeding
Marine Intertidal - Tidepools	suitable	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Macroalgal/Kelp	suitable	breeding
Marine Neritic - Macroalgal/Kelp	suitable	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Pelagic	suitable	breeding
Marine Neritic - Pelagic	suitable	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Seagrass (Submerged)	suitable	breeding
Marine Neritic - Seagrass (Submerged)	suitable	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Loose Rock/pebble/gravel	suitable	breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Loose Rock/pebble/gravel	suitable	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Rock and Rocky Reefs	suitable	breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Rock and Rocky Reefs	suitable	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy	suitable	breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy	suitable	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy-Mud	suitable	breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy-Mud	suitable	non-breeding
Altitude	Occasional altitudinal limits	

Threats

The species is threatened by organohalogen pollution in its Arctic breeding range (Bustnes et al. 2004, Verreault et al. 2007) (there is evidence that organohalogen contaminants alter the species's basal metabolic rate (Verreault et al. 2007) and that organochlorines reduce the efficiency of its immune system (Bustnes et al. 2004)). In parts of its breeding range the species is also being displaced by Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) (Burger and Gochfeld 2014). Young birds are hunted in Greenland, mainly between August and November (Evans 1984).

Threats & Impacts

Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Biological resource use	Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals (persecution/ control)	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	European Herring Gull (Larus argentatus)	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
Pollution	Herbicides and pesticides	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Indirect ecosystem effects			

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

The species is covered under the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement. There are 16 Important Bird Areas which include this species. Within the EU there are 3 Special Protection Areas which include this species.

Conservation Actions Proposed

Monitoring of contaminant build up within individuals; Identification of important sites (breeding and at sea)

and designation as protected areas.

Bibliography

Burger, J., Gochfeld, M. & de Juana, E. (2014). Glaucous Gull (Larus hyperboreus). In: del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A., Sargatal, J., Christie, D.A. & de Juana, E. (eds.) (2014). Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive. Lynx Editions, Barcelona.

Bustnes, J. O.; Hanssen, S. A.; Folstad, I.; Erikstad, K. E.; Hasselquist, D.; Skaare, J. U. 2004. Immune Function and Organochlorine Pollutants in Arctic Breeding Glaucous Gulls. Archives of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology 47: 530-541

Evans, P. G. H. 1984. The seabirds of Greenland: their status and conservation. In: Croxall, J. P.; Evans, P. G. H.; Schreiber, R. W. (ed.), Status and conservation of the world's seabirds, pp. 49-84. International Council for Bird Preservation, Cambridge, UK.

Verreault, J.; Bech, C.; Letcher, R. J.; Ropstad, E.; Dahl, E.; Gabrielsen, G. W. 2007. Organohalogen contamination in breeding glaucous gulls from the Norwegian Arctic: Associations with basal metabolism and circulating thyroid hormones. Environmental Pollution 145: 138-145.

Map (see overleaf)

Larus hyperboreus

NE | DD | LC LEAST CONCERN | NT | VU | EN | CR | EW | EX

Range

- Extant (breeding)
- Extant (non breeding)
- Extant (resident)

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

Map created 05/12/2015