Hydroprogne caspia -- (Pallas, 1770)
ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- CHARADRIIFORMES -- LARIDAE

Common names: Caspian Tern; Sterne caspienne

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>European Red List Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LC -- Least Concern, (IUCN version 3.1)</td>
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European Red List Assessment

Assessment Information

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year published:</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date assessed:</td>
<td>2015-03-31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessor(s):</td>
<td>BirdLife International</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reviewer(s):</td>
<td>Symes, A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compiler(s):</td>
<td>Ashpole, J., Burfield, I., Ieronymidou, C., Pople, R., Tarzia, M., Wheatley, H. &amp; Wright, L.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assessment Rationale

European regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)
EU27 regional assessment: Near Threatened (NT)

In Europe this species has a very large range, and hence does not approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the range size criterion (Extent of Occurrence <20,000 km² combined with a declining or fluctuating range size, habitat extent/quality, or population size and a small number of locations or severe fragmentation). The population size may be moderately small to large, but it is not believed to approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the population size criterion (<10,000 mature individuals with a continuing decline estimated to be >10% in ten years or three generations, or with a specified population structure). The population trend appears to be increasing, 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.

In the EU27 the small population is declining and therefore is classified as Near Threatened. There is not considered to be significant potential for rescue from outside the region, so the final category is unchanged.

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:
Albania; Austria; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Bulgaria; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Italy; Latvia; Lithuania; Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Malta; Moldova; Netherlands; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Russian Federation; Slovakia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; Ukraine

Vagrant:
Belgium; Croatia; Faroe Islands (to DK); Ireland, Rep. of; Luxembourg; Montenegro; Norway; Serbia; Slovenia; United Kingdom; Gibraltar (to UK)

Population

The European population is estimated at 11,800-14,800 pairs, which equates to 23,600-29,600 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 1,700-2,100 pairs, which equates to 3,300-4,100 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see Supplementary PDF.

Trend

In Europe and the EU27 the population size is estimated to be increasing. However, in the EU27 the population suffered past declines of at least 10% in 36.6 years (three generations) due to high adult mortality and breeding failures due to predation in the Baltic Sea breeding population. For details of national estimates, see Supplementary PDF.

Habits and Ecology

In Europe the species occurs mostly along the Baltic Sea coast, and in the Black Sea during the breeding season, and with some year round residents in Turkey. Its habitat includes coastal areas, as well as on large...
inland lakes and reservoirs, breeding on sand, shell or rocky islands. It feeds in freshwater lakes, inland seas, and coastal estuaries and is rarely pelagic. Its winter roosts are around large lakes and estuaries on sandbars, mudflats, shell banks. It feeds mainly on small to medium-sized fish; occasionally eggs and young of other birds, and carrion. In Scandinavia its main prey are roach (Rutilus rutilus) and herring (Clupea harengus) (Gochfeld and Burger 1996).

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<th>Habitat (level 1 - level 2)</th>
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<td>Artificial/Aquatic - Water Storage Areas (over ha)</td>
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<td>Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Coastal Brackish/Saline Lagoons/Marine Lakes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Coastal Brackish/Saline Lagoons/Marine Lakes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Coastal Freshwater Lakes</td>
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<td>suitable</td>
<td>non-breeding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marine Intertidal - Salt Marshes (Emergent Grasses)</td>
<td>suitable</td>
<td>breeding</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Marine Neritic - Estuaries</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Marine Neritic - Estuaries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marine Neritic - Macroalgal/Kelp</td>
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<td>breeding</td>
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<td>Marine Neritic - Macroalgal/Kelp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marine Neritic - Pelagic</td>
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<td>Marine Neritic - Pelagic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marine Neritic - Seagrass (Submerged)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marine Neritic - Subtidal Loose Rock/pebble/gravel</td>
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<td>breeding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marine Neritic - Subtidal Rock and Rocky Reefs</td>
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<td>breeding</td>
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<td>Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy-Mud</td>
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<td>Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy-Mud</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wetlands (inland) - Bogs, Marshes, Swamps, Fens, Peatlands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Freshwater Lakes (over ha)</td>
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Altitude

Occasional altitudinal limits

The species is currently threatened by the loss and deterioration of breeding habitat through accelerated vegetation succession (possibly through the introduction of exotic plant species) (Shuford and Craig 2002) and may be threatened in the future by habitat loss through inundation as a result of sea-level rise (Shuford and Craig 2002). The species is vulnerable to human disturbance at nesting colonies especially during the early-courtship and incubation periods (Shuford and Craig 2002), and exposure to bioaccumulated contaminants (e.g. organochlorines or methylmercury) in fish could be lowering the species's reproductive success (Gochfeld and Burger 1996). Newcastle disease (Shuford and Craig 2002, Kuiken et al. 2006) and avian botulism may also threaten concentrated local populations (Shuford and Craig 2002). It is vulnerable to oil spills and marine pollution. It is susceptible to being caught as bycatch in fishing gears.

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<td>Invasive and other problematic species, genes &amp; diseases</td>
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Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway
The species is listed on Appendix II of the Convention on Migratory Species. It is covered by the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement. It is listed on Appendix II of the Bern Convention. In the EU it is listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive. There are 66 Important Bird Areas identified for this species. Within the EU there are 320 Special Protection Areas which include this species.

Conservation Actions Proposed
Management of existing protected areas for site based threats. On board observer programmes to monitor bycatch events on fishing vessels and implement mitigation measures where appropriate.

Bibliography
Hydroprogne caspia

Range

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

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

Map created 05/12/2015

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply any official endorsement, acceptance or opinion by IUCN.