

Alle alle -- (Linnaeus, 1758)

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- CHARADRIIFORMES -- ALCIDAE

Common names: Little Auk; Dovekie

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.
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Assessment Rationale

European regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)

EU27 regional assessment: Not Evaluated (NE)

The range size has not been quantified, but it is not believed to approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the population size criterion (10% in ten years or three generations, or with a specified population structure). The population size is extremely large, and hence does not approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the population size criterion (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 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); France; Germany; Iceland; Ireland, Rep. of; Netherlands; Norway; Svalbard and Jan Mayen (to NO); Portugal; Russian Federation; Spain; Sweden; United Kingdom

Vagrant:

Austria; Czech Republic; Finland; Italy; Latvia; Malta; Poland; Ukraine; Gibraltar (to UK)

Population

The European population is estimated at 9,200,000-82,000,000 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 migratory, expanding its range in winter to include the North Atlantic Ocean as far south as the U.K. This species feeds mainly on small invertebrates such as amphipods and euphausiids and on fish larvae. The precise timing of its spring arrival at breeding colonies is variable from late February to early May. Immense colonies are formed on sea coasts in the high Arctic, usually nesting in crevices in rock scree of maritime slopes and on coastal cliffs. Colonies are abandoned in August with individuals seeking waters in the low Arctic and boreal zones, rarely further south, often associated with the edge of packice (Nettleship et al. 2015).

Habitats & Altitude			
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		Importance	Occurrence
Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Sea Cliffs and Rocky Offshore Islands		major	breeding
Marine Intertidal - Rocky Shoreline		major	breeding
Marine Intertidal - Tidepools		major	breeding
Marine Neritic - Macroalgal/Kelp		major	breeding
Marine Neritic - Macroalgal/Kelp		major	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Pelagic		major	breeding
Marine Neritic - Pelagic		major	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Seagrass (Submerged)		major	breeding
Marine Neritic - Seagrass (Submerged)		major	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Loose Rock/pebble/gravel		major	breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Loose Rock/pebble/gravel		major	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Rock and Rocky Reefs		major	breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Rock and Rocky Reefs		major	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy		major	breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy		major	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy-Mud		major	breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy-Mud		major	non-breeding
Marine Oceanic - Epipelagic (m)		suitable	breeding
Marine Oceanic - Epipelagic (m)		suitable	non-breeding
Altitude		Occasional altitudinal limits	

Threats

This species is threatened by the current and future impacts of climate change, including temperature extremes, sea temperature rises and shifts and reductions in prey availability (Stempniewicz et al. 2007, Hovin et al. 2014). As a pursuit diver the species is at risk from being caught in gillnets and driftnets (Zydelski et al. 2013), with the lumpsucker fisheries in Greenland estimated to catch significant numbers (Merkel et al. 2011). As the species spends much of its life at sea, including at and below the sea surface, it is vulnerable to both chronic oil pollution and oil spill events. Recent tracking research has indicated that important foraging grounds for the species overlap with expanding oil and gas extraction activities and shipping, which could lead to habitat degradation and displacement (Fort et al. 2013). On land during its breeding season this species is exposed to predation from invasive alien predators, which could increase in severity as climate change allows the northward movement of predators.

Threats & Impacts					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Biological resource use	Fishing & harvesting aquatic resources (unintentional effects: (large scale) [harvest])	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Unknown	Rapid Declines	Unknown
		Stresses			
Climate change & severe weather	Habitat shifting & alteration	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
Climate change & severe weather	Other impacts	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
Climate change & severe weather	Temperature extremes	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
Energy production & mining	Oil & gas drilling	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
Ecosystem degradation; Indirect ecosystem effects					

Threats & Impacts					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Unspecified species	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Unknown	Causing/Could cause fluctuations	Unknown
		Stresses			
Species mortality					
Pollution	Oil spills	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Past, Likely to Return	Unknown	Rapid Declines	Past Impact
		Stresses			
Ecosystem degradation; Species mortality					

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

The species is listed under the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement. It is one of the species considered within the Action Plan for Seabirds in Western-Nordic Areas (Nordiska Ministerrådet 2010). There are 18 marine Important Bird Areas across the European region for this species. Within the EU there are three Special Protection Areas which include this species.

Conservation Actions Proposed

Further identification of important sites for this species, particularly in offshore regions and designation as marine protected areas; Identify the risks of different activities on seabirds, and locations sensitive to seabirds. Management of fisheries to ensure long term sustainability of key stocks. Establish observer schemes for bycatch & prepare National plans of action on seabird bycatch. Develop codes-of-conduct for more organised activities (e.g. tourism). Ensure that appropriate protection (national laws and international agreements) applies to new areas and times in case of changes in seabird migration routes and times.

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Map (see overleaf)

European Regional Assessment



Alle alle

Range

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

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

Map created 05/12/2015

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