

# **Podiceps grisegena -- (Boddaert, 1783)**

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- PODICIPEDIFORMES -- PODICIPEDIDAE

**Common names:** Red-necked Grebe;

## **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.
Compiler(s):	Ashpole, J., Burfield, I., Ieronymidou, C., Pople, R., Wheatley, H. & Wright, L.

### **Assessment Rationale**

**European regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)**

**EU27 regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)**

In Europe this species has an extremely 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 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.

Within the EU27 this species has an extremely 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 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 the EU27.

## **Occurrence**

### **Countries/Territories of Occurrence**

#### **Native:**

Albania; Armenia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Belgium; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Croatia; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; Georgia; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Ireland, Rep. of; Italy; Latvia; Lithuania; Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Moldova; Montenegro; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Romania; Russian Federation; Serbia; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; Ukraine; United Kingdom

#### **Vagrant:**

Cyprus; Faroe Islands (to DK); Greenland (to DK); Iceland; Luxembourg; Svalbard and Jan Mayen (to NO); Portugal

## **Population**

The European population is estimated at 27,700-47,900 pairs, which equates to 55,400-95,800 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 12,400-18,400 pairs, which equates to 24,800-36,800 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

## **Trend**

In Europe and the EU27 the population size is estimated to be increasing. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

## **Habitats and Ecology**

The species breeds on small, shallow inland waters with abundant emergent vegetation and stretches of open water, showing a preference for waters in forested areas or in shrub tundra further to the north. Suitable habitats include small pools and lakes, backwaters of large rivers, pools cut off from the sea in estuaries (Llimona et al. 2014) and coastal lagoons. In coastal locations the species often makes foraging flights to

inland lakes or offshore areas, and if foraging at sea it shows a preference for sub-tidal locations down to a depth of 15 m with sand or gravel substrates, scattered rocks and patches of seaweed (Fjeldsa 2004). When moulting, on passage or during the winter the species frequents large inland lakes or shallow coastal areas (Fjeldsa 2004) with abundant fish stocks (Llimona et al. 2014), often considerable distances from the shore, amongst islands in archipelagos or over drop-off zones (Fjeldsa 2004).

The bird breeds from April or May to June or August. The nest is a floating platform of plant matter anchored to submerged or emergent vegetation. Clutches are normally three or four eggs (Llimona et al. 2014). Its diet consists predominantly of invertebrates (Snow and Perrins 1998) such as adult and larval aquatic insects, crayfish and molluscs (Konter 2001), although fish are also important locally or seasonally. This species is fully migratory (Llimona et al. 2014).

<b>Habitats &amp; Altitude</b>			
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		Importance	Occurrence
Marine Neritic - Estuaries		major	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Macroalgal/Kelp		suitable	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Seagrass (Submerged)		suitable	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Loose Rock/pebble/gravel		suitable	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Rock and Rocky Reefs		suitable	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy		suitable	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy-Mud		suitable	non-breeding
Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Freshwater Marshes/Pools (under ha)		major	breeding
Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Rivers/Streams/Creeks (includes waterfalls)		suitable	breeding
Altitude	max. 1000 m	Occasional altitudinal limits	

## Threats

The species is threatened by the modification and degradation of lakes and by human disturbance from water-based recreational activities. It may also be threatened by future oil spills at sea during the winter (although during this season the species is widely scattered along coasts, so the effects of oil spills are likely to be small) (Llimona et al. 2014). The species is also at risk from gillnet fisheries, wind turbines and the reduction of bottom habitats by dredging and coastal development (HELCOM 2012).

<b>Threats &amp; Impacts</b>					
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	Majority (50-90%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Energy production & mining	Renewable energy	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Human intrusions & disturbance	Recreational activities	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Species disturbance			
Natural system modifications	Abstraction of surface water (unknown use)	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation			
Natural system modifications	Other ecosystem modifications	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation			

Threats & Impacts					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Pollution	Oil spills	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Future	Minority (<50%)	Causing/Could cause fluctuations	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation			

## Conservation

### Conservation Actions Underway

CMS Appendix II. Bern Convention Appendix II. The species was included in the Grebes Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan published in 1997 (O'Donnel and Fjeldsa 1997).

### Conservation Actions Proposed

Key breeding and wintering sites should be identified and protected. In addition, boats near nesting areas should be restricted to minimise disturbance of incubating or brooding adults and prevent damage to nests. Research should be undertaken on the wintering and non-breeding activities of the species (Stout and Neuchterlein 1999). The enforcement of strict legislation on oil transportation would help reduce the risk of spills in the future and measures to reduce the impact of bycatch should be enforced. Impact assessments should be undertaken for wind energy development.

## Bibliography

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- Llimona, F., del Hoyo, J., Christie, D.A., Jutglar, F., Garcia, E.F.J. and Kirwan, G.M. 2014. Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*). In: del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A., Sargatal, J., Christie, D.A. and de Juana, E. (eds.) 2014. *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. (retrieved from <http://www.hbw.com/node/52488> on 4 March 2015).
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- Stout, B.E. and Nuechterlein, G.L. 1999. Red-necked grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*). In: Poole, A. (Ed.) *The Birds of North America Online*. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca.

## Map (see overleaf)

# European Regional Assessment



## *Podiceps grisegena*

### Range

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

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



Map created 05/13/2015



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