

Podiceps auritus -- (Linnaeus, 1758)

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

Common names: Horned Grebe; Slavonian Grebe

European Red List Assessment

European Red List Status

NT -- Near Threatened, (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., Wheatley, H. & Wright, L.

Assessment Rationale

European regional assessment: Near Threatened (NT)

EU27 regional assessment: Vulnerable (VU)

In Europe this grebe is undergoing moderately rapid population declines, and it is therefore classified as Near Threatened. Within the EU27 declines are more rapid and the total population is small, meaning that the regional classification here is Vulnerable.

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Albania; Austria; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Belgium; Bulgaria; Croatia; Czech Republic; Denmark; Faroe Islands (to DK); Greenland (to DK); Estonia; Finland; France; Georgia; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Iceland; Ireland, Rep. of; Italy; Latvia; Lithuania; Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Moldova; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Romania; Russian Federation; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; Ukraine; United Kingdom

Vagrant:

Armenia; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Cyprus; Luxembourg; Montenegro; Svalbard and Jan Mayen (to NO); Portugal; Serbia; Gibraltar (to UK)

Population

The European population is estimated at 6,400-9,200 pairs, which equates to 12,900-18,500 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 3,500-6,200 pairs, which equates to 7,000-12,300 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Trend

In Europe the population size is estimated to be decreasing at a rate approaching 30% in 21.3 years (three generations). In the EU27 the population size is estimated to be decreasing by 30-49% over the same period. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Habitats and Ecology

This species breeds on small, shallow fresh (Llimona et al. 2014), brackish or slightly alkaline (Fjeldsa 2004) waters between 0.5 and 2 m deep and between 1 and 20 ha in area (Snow and Perrins 1998) with rich floating (Konter 2001), submergent and emergent vegetation (Fjeldsa 2004). Habitats include small pools, marshes with patches of open water and secluded sections of larger lakes and rivers (Llimona et al. 2014). In its wintering range the species frequents coastal inshore waters (Llimona et al. 2014) up to 10-20 m in depth (Fjeldsa 2004) including sheltered bays (Llimona et al. 2014), lagoons and estuaries (Ogilvie and Rose 2003). It may also occur on large lake and river systems south of its breeding range (Llimona et al. 2014, Fjeldsa 2004). The species breeds from April to August, generally in solitary isolated pairs. The nest is a platform of aquatic vegetation either floating and anchored to emergent vegetation, built from the lake bottom (where water is shallow) or built on rocks at water level. Clutch size can be between one to eight eggs but normally four to five in Europe. Its diet consists predominantly of fish and invertebrates such as adult and larval

insects, crustaceans (Llimona et al. 2014), crayfish (Fjeldsa 2004) and crabs (Konter 2001), molluscs and worms. Fish and crustaceans are more important components of the diet during the winter when the species is at sea (Llimona et al. 2014). This species is fully migratory (Llimona et al. 2014) and travels over land in stages on a broad front, some populations only moving short distances to the nearest ice-free coast (Fjeldsa 2004).

Habitats & Altitude			
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		Importance	Occurrence
Marine Neritic - Estuaries		suitable	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) - Bogs, Marshes, Swamps, Fens, Peatlands		major	breeding
Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Freshwater Lakes (over ha)		major	breeding
Altitude	max. 1000 m	Occasional altitudinal limits	

Threats

The main threats to the species are human disturbance, forestry operations around breeding lakes (e.g. afforestation leading to hydrological changes and resulting in reduced numbers of invertebrate prey), fluctuating water levels, and the stocking of lakes with rainbow trout (*Salmo gairdneri*) (which competes with the species for aquatic insects) (Llimona et al. 2014). Historical range contractions have also occurred due to acidification and increased humus content of lakes, and the species is vulnerable to hypertrophication (Fjeldsa 2004). It is commonly caught and accidentally drowned in fishing nets (Llimona et al. 2014) and is particularly vulnerable to oil spills in the marine environment during the winter (Llimona et al. 2014, Ogilvie and Rose 2003, Fjeldsa 2004).

Threats & Impacts					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Agriculture & aquaculture	Agro-industry farming	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation			
Agriculture & aquaculture	Agro-industry plantations	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion			
Biological resource use	Fishing & harvesting aquatic resources (unintentional effects: (subsistence/small scale) [harvest])	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Human intrusions & disturbance	Work & other activities	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Species disturbance; Reduced reproductive success			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Rainbow Trout (<i>Salmo gairdneri</i>)	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Competition			

Threats & Impacts					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Natural system modifications	Abstraction of surface water (unknown use)	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation			
Pollution	Agricultural & forestry effluents (nutrient loads)	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Past, Unlikely to Return	Majority (50-90%)	Unknown	Past Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation; Indirect ecosystem effects			
Pollution	Oil spills	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Causing/Could cause fluctuations	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation; Species mortality			

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

CMS Appendix II (western Palearctic populations). EU Birds Directive Annex I. Bern Convention Appendix II. There are no known current conservation measures for this species.

Conservation Actions Proposed

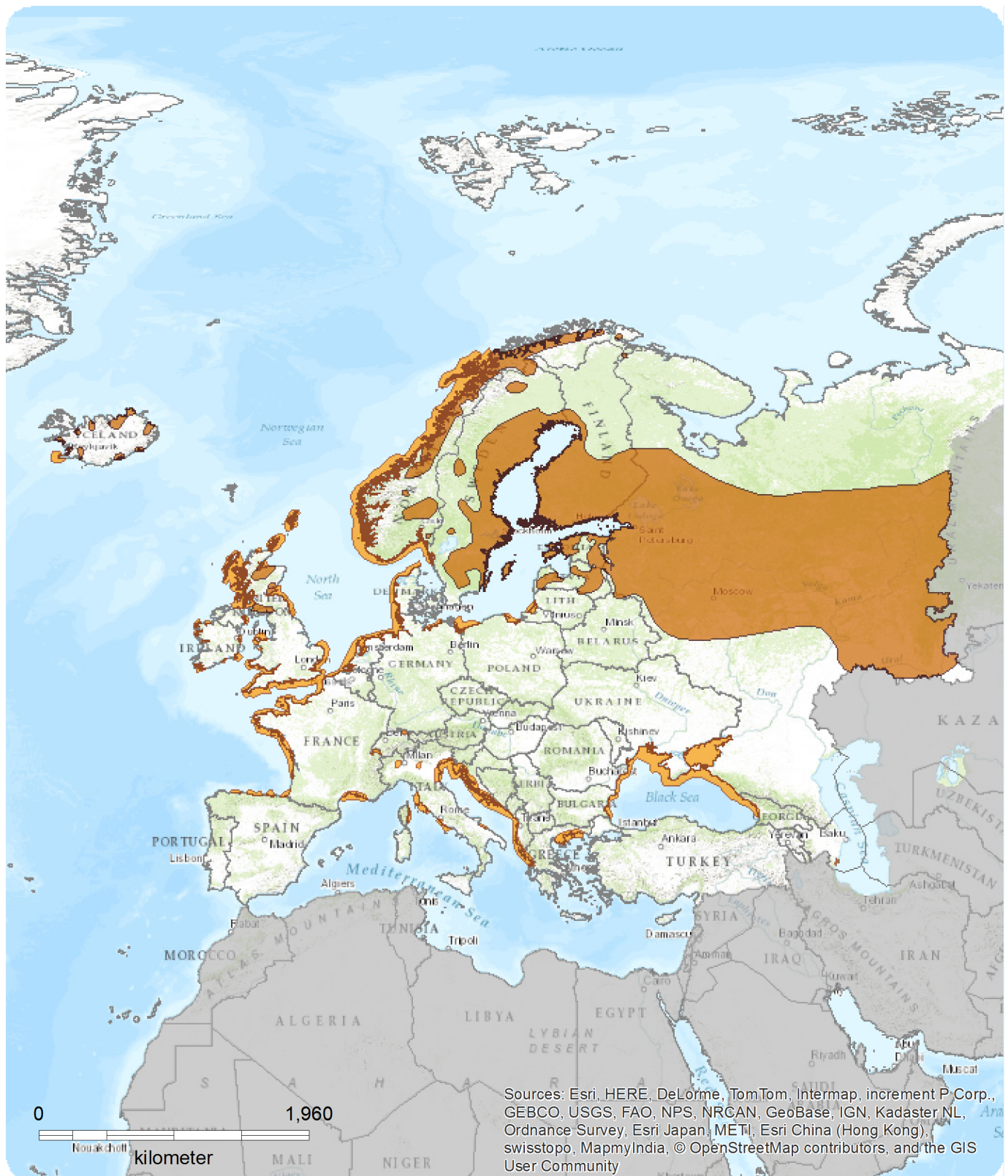
Identify sites of international importance for the species and implement site protection. Populations should be closely monitored to determine whether numbers are stable or whether local declines are symptomatic of more widespread problems. Conduct survey work to accurately ascertain the current population sizes of both subspecies of horned grebe. Marginal populations in north-western Europe which have shown strong historical fluctuations should also be monitored (O'Donnel and Fjeldsa 1997). Stricter legislation on oil drilling and transport should be enforced and mitigation measures against bycatch in fisheries implemented.

Bibliography

- Fjeldsa, J. 2004. *The grebes*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, U.K.
- Konter, A. 2001. *Grebes of our world*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.
- Llimona, F., del Hoyo, J., Christie, D.A., Jutglar, F., Garcia, E.F.J. and Kirwan, G.M. 2014. Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*). 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/52490> on 9 February 2015).
- O'Donnel, C. and Fjeldsa, J. (compilers). 1997. *Grebes - Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan*. IUCN/SSC Grebe Specialist Group. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK. vii + 59 pp.
- Ogilvie, M. and Rose, C. 2003. *Grebes of the World*. Bruce Coleman, Uxbridge.
- Snow, D.W. and Perrins, C.M. 1998. *The Birds of the Western Palearctic vol. 1: Non-Passerines*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Map (see overleaf)

European Regional Assessment

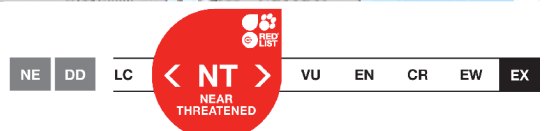


Podiceps auritus

Range

- Extant (breeding)
- Extant (non breeding)

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



Map created 05/13/2015

