

Fulmarus glacialis -- (Linnaeus, 1761)

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- PROCELLARIIFORMES -- PROCELLARIIDAE

Common names: Northern Fulmar; Fulmar

European Red List Assessment

European Red List Status

EN -- Endangered, (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: Endangered (EN)

EU27 regional assessment: Vulnerable (VU)

This seabird began undergoing rapid declines across parts of its European breeding range during the 1980s and 1990s. Extrapolated over a three generation period (92 years), allowing for considerable uncertainty given the long trend period (and even assuming current rates of decline do not continue), the species warrants classification as Endangered (A4abcde) in Europe and Vulnerable (A4abcde) in the EU27 (where declines have been less rapid).

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

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; Sweden; United Kingdom

Vagrant:

Belgium; Czech Republic; Finland; Poland; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain

Population

The European population is estimated at 3,380,000-3,500,000 pairs, which equates to 6,760,000-7,000,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 533,000 pairs, which equates to 1,070,000 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Trend

Since declines began in the mid-1980s (c. one generation) the population size in Europe is estimated to have declined by more than 40%. Although there is uncertainty in the projected magnitude of the decline owing to the long generation length of the species, the population size in Europe is estimated to be decreasing by 50-79% during 1985-2077 (three generations). In the EU27 the population size is estimated and projected to decrease by 30-49% in the same period. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Habitats and Ecology

The species spends large amounts of time in waters over continental shelf; ranging from the Arctic pack ice through to subarctic and temperate waters in the North East Atlantic. The species typically breeds on cliffs and rock faces, occasionally in sand dunes or on flatter ground (e.g., North Rona, Scotland), sometimes > 2 km inland (up to 10 km in Svalbard); in places it nests near habitation, sometimes even on occupied houses along seafronts of towns (Carboneras et al. 2014). Its diet is variable, but includes fish (e.g., capelin (*Mallotus villosus*), Norway pout (*Trisopterus esmarkii*), whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*)), squid and zooplankton, especially amphipods (*Thysanoessa*, *Hyperia*, *Gammarus*, *Themisto*) and jellyfish (e.g., *Aurelia aurita*, *Cyanea capillata*, *Rhizostoma octopus*); also fish offal and carrion. In the North Sea its diet includes mainly lesser sandeels (*Ammodytes marinus*) (Carboneras et al. 2014).

Habitats & Altitude		
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)	Importance	Occurrence
Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Sea Cliffs and Rocky Offshore Islands	major	breeding
Marine Neritic - Macroalgal/Kelp	suitable	breeding
Marine Neritic - Macroalgal/Kelp	suitable	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Pelagic	major	breeding
Marine Neritic - Pelagic	major	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
Marine Oceanic - Epipelagic (m)	major	breeding
Marine Oceanic - Epipelagic (m)	major	non-breeding
Altitude	max. 300 m	Occasional altitudinal limits

Threats

The species was subject to intensive exploitation for food in the past, and hunting remains in Greenland, Svalbard and the Faroe Islands (Thorup et al. 2014). In some breeding colonies the species is susceptible to predation from invasive mammals, such as foxes, rats, mice etc. It is vulnerable to oil spills, particularly in the North East Atlantic, but increasingly in its Northern range (Mendel et al. 2008). It is highly susceptible to ingesting marine litter and plastics (Van Franeker et al. 2011). Bycatch in fisheries is also a significant threat, with large numbers recorded as caught in longline fisheries in the North East Atlantic and in trawl fisheries (Dunn et al. 2001, Anderson et al. 2011) as well as in gillnet fisheries (Žydelis et al. 2013). It is susceptible to collision and displacement from offshore wind farms, although this is currently considered to be a very low risk (Bradbury et al. 2014). It may also be disturbed and displaced by shipping lanes. Large wrecks of this species in North Sea in Feb 2004 thought to be caused by multiple factors, namely low food abundance, persistent bad weather, higher levels of pollutants, and secondary diseases (Van Franeker 2004).

Threats & Impacts					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
		Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
Biological resource use	Fishing & harvesting aquatic resources (unintentional effects: (large scale) [harvest])	Ongoing	Unknown	Causing/Could cause fluctuations	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Biological resource use	Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals (intentional use - species is the target)	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Causing/Could cause fluctuations	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Energy production & mining	Renewable energy	Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Species mortality; Species disturbance			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	American Mink (Neovison vison)	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Causing/Could cause fluctuations	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			

Threats & Impacts					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Unspecified rats (Rattus spp.)	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Causing/Could cause fluctuations	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Pollution	Garbage & solid waste	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Whole (>90%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Pollution	Oil spills	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Past, Likely to Return	Majority (50-90%)	Rapid Declines	Past Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Transportation & service corridors	Shipping lanes	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Species disturbance			

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

The species is covered by the EU Birds Directive as a migratory species. It occurs within 29 marine Important Bird Areas, including in the Faroe Islands, France, Germany, Iceland, Svalbard (Norway) and the United Kingdom. Within the EU it is listed within 46 Special Protection Areas. Under the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive it will be monitored for plastic ingestion.

Conservation Actions Proposed

Identification and protection of important sites at sea, as well as for prey species. Continued monitoring of marine litter ingestion, and increased efforts for removal of plastic from oceans. Monitoring of seabird bycatch across all relevant fishing gears and implementation of bycatch mitigation measures.

Bibliography

- Anderson, O.R.J., Small, C.J., Croxall, J.P., Dunn, E.K., Sullivan, B.J., Yates, O. & Black, A. (2011) Global seabird bycatch in longline fisheries. *Endangered Species Research* 14: 91-106
- Bradbury, G., Trinder, M., Furness, B., Banks, A.N., Caldow, R.W.G., Hume, D., 2014. Mapping Seabird Sensitivity to Offshore Wind Farms. *PLoS ONE* 9, e106366.
- Carboneras, C., Jutglar, F., Bonan, A. & Kirwan, G.M. (2014). Northern Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*). 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 Edicions, Barcelona
- Dunn, E. (1997) Sustainable fisheries and seabirds. *RSPB Conservation Review* 11: 44-50.
- Dunn, E. K. & Steel, C. (2001) The impact of long-line fishing on seabirds in the North east Atlantic: recommendations for reducing mortality. RSPB/JNCC, Sandy, England.
- Mendel, B., N. Sonntag, J. Wahl, P. Schwemmer, H. Dries, N. Guse, S. Müller & S. Garthe (2008): Artensteckbriefe von See- und Wasservögeln der deutschen Nord- und Ostsee – Verbreitung, Ökologie und Empfindlichkeiten gegenüber Eingriffen in ihren marinen Lebensraum. *Naturschutz und Biologische Vielfalt* 59, Bundesamt für Naturschutz, Bonn.
- Thorup, S.H., Jens-Kjeld Jensen, Kjeld T. Petersen, Dorete Bloch Kasper, 2014. Færøsk Trækfugleatlas. The Faroese Bird Migration Atlas. Faroe University Press, Tórshavn.
- Van Franeker, J A (2004). Fulmar wreck in the southern North Sea: preliminary findings. *British Birds* 97: 247-250.
- Van Franeker, J.A., Blaize, C., Danielsen, J., Fairclough, K., Gollan, J., Guse, N., Hansen, P.-L., Heubeck, M., Jensen, J.-K., Le Guillou, G., Olsen, B., Olsen, K.-O., Pedersen, J., Stienen, E.W.M., Turner, D.M., (2011). Monitoring plastic ingestion by the northern fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* in the North Sea. *Environmental Pollution* 159, 2609–2615.

Žydelis, R., Bellebaum, J., Osterblom, H., Vetemaa, M., Schirmeister, B., Stipniece, A., Dagys, M., van Eerden, M. and Garthe, Stefan (2009) Bycatch in gillnet fisheries - An overlooked threat to waterbird populations., *Biological Conservation*, 142 (7). pp. 1269-1281.

Hagemeijer, W.J.M. & Blair, M.J. (1997) *The EBCC Atlas of European Breeding Birds: Their Distribution and Abundance*. T & A D Poyser, London.

Snow, D. W.; Perrins, C. M. 1998. *The Birds of the Western Palearctic vol. 1: Non-Passerines*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

European Regional Assessment



Fulmarus glacialis

Range

- Extant (breeding)
- Extant (resident)

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

NE
DD
LC
NT
VU

 < EN >
ENDANGERED
CR
EW
EX

Map created 05/13/2015



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