

Hydrobates leucorhous -- (Vieillot, 1818)

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- PROCELLARIIFORMES -- HYDROBATIDAE

Common names: Leach's Storm-petrel; Leach's Storm Petrel; Pétrel cul-blanc

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., Tarzia, M., Wheatley, H. & Wright, L.

Assessment Rationale

European regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)

EU27 regional assessment: Vulnerable (VU)

In Europe the range size has not been quantified, 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 size is very large, and hence does not 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 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.

In the EU27 the species is restricted to a small area when breeding and has an apparently decreasing population. There is not considered to be significant potential for rescue from outside the EU27, so the final category is unchanged.

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Denmark; Faroe Islands (to DK); Greenland (to DK); France; Iceland; Ireland, Rep. of; Netherlands; Norway; Portugal; Russian Federation; Spain; Canary Is. (to ES); United Kingdom

Vagrant:

Austria; Belgium; Estonia; Finland; Germany; Italy; Latvia; Luxembourg; Malta; Poland; Sweden; Switzerland; Gibraltar (to UK)

Population

The European population is estimated at 213,000-287,000 pairs, which equates to 426,000-574,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 36,300-65,300 pairs, which equates to 72,600-131,000 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Trend

In Europe the population size trend is unknown. In the EU27 the population size is estimated to be suffering a continuous decline. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Habitats and Ecology

This species is marine and pelagic, often occurring in areas of convergence or upwelling or over continental shelves, rarely coming near land except at colonies. Its diet comprises mainly of small fish, squid, planktonic crustaceans and offal which is catches on the wing by dipping, skimming or snatching from the surface. It sometimes follows marine mammals feeding on left overs or faeces. Its breeding season is variable depending on locality, forming colonies on offshore islands on high ground or slopes, usually among rocks but also in

soft soil between trees (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 Intertidal - Rocky Shoreline	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	Occasional altitudinal limits	

Threats

Species suffers severe predation, chiefly by native species including gulls (e.g. Herring (*Larus argentatus*), Great Black-backed (*L. marinus*) and Lesser Black-backed Gulls (*L. fuscus*)), Great Skuas (*Catharacta skua*), as well as from introduced mammalian predators; rats (*Rattus* spp.), cats (*Felis catus*), mice (*Mus musculus*), mink, otters and foxes; these are responsible for some local declines, and some colonies having moved to predator-free offshore stacks (Carboneras et al. 2014). It may be vulnerable to collisions with wind farms, although the current risk to the population is assessed as low (Bradbury et al. 2014).

Threats & Impacts					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
		Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
Energy production & mining	Renewable energy	Ongoing	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	American Mink (<i>Neovison vison</i>)	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Causing/Could cause fluctuations	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Unspecified gulls (LARIDAE)	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Causing/Could cause fluctuations	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Unspecified rats (<i>Rattus</i> spp.)	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Causing/Could cause fluctuations	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

It is listed in Appendix II of the Bern Convention, and Annex I of the EU Birds Directive. It is listed as occurring in nine marine Important Bird Areas, with sites in Iceland, Ireland and the United Kingdom. In the EU it is listed within 25 Special Protection Areas in France, Ireland, Spain and the United Kingdom. Various

countries, including the United Kingdom have introduced artificial nest boxes to breeding colonies to reduce the predation risk and to facilitate monitoring of breeding success (Newson et al. 2004).

Conservation Actions Proposed

Continued monitoring of breeding success at colonies, including the provision of artificial nest boxes.
Management of invasive predators.

Bibliography

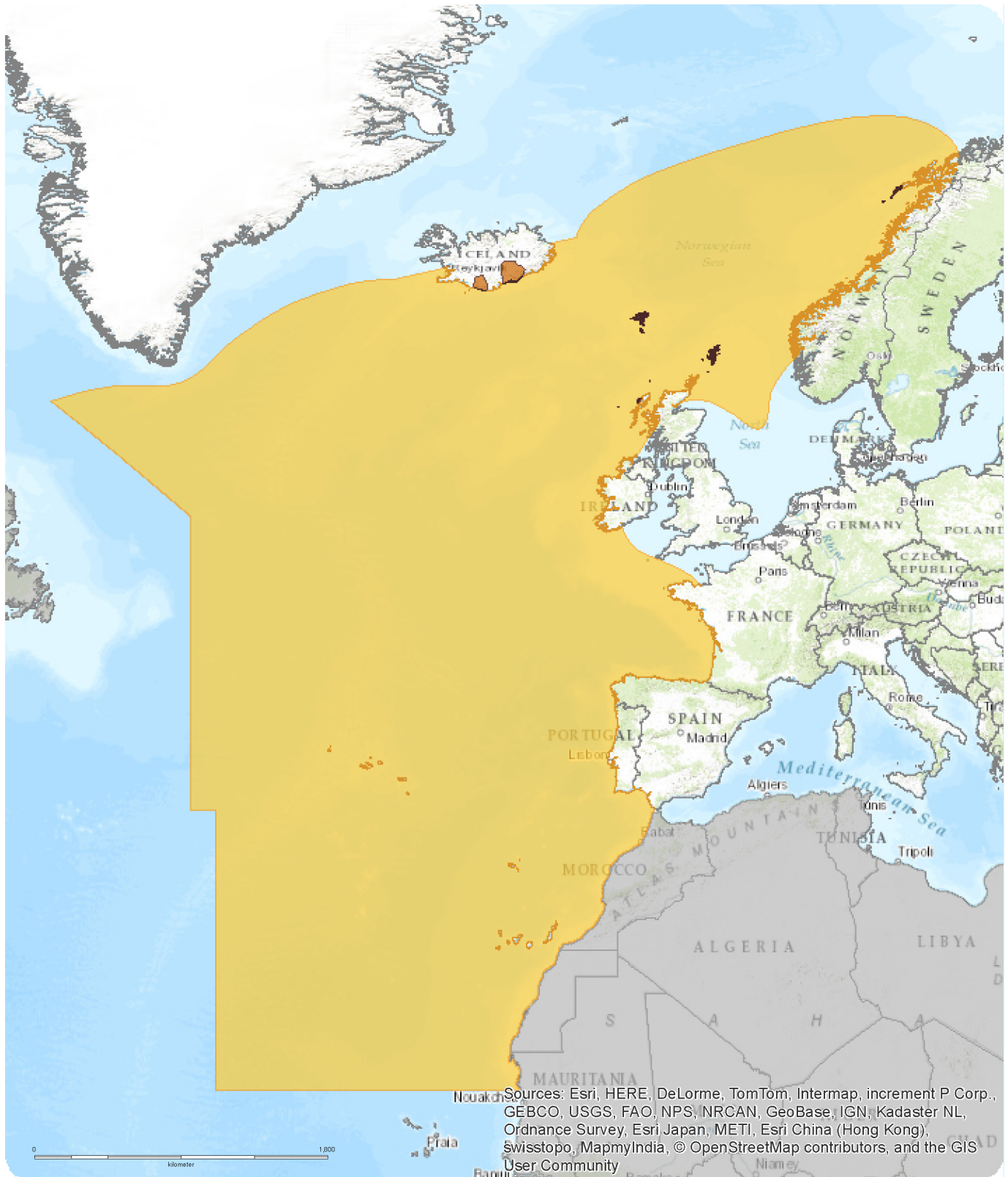
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Newson, S.E., Mitchell, P.I., Parsons, M., O'Brien, S.H., Austin, G.E., Benn, S., Black, J., Blackburn, J., Brodie, B., Humphreys, E., Leech, D., Prior, M., Webster, M., (2008). Population decline of Leach's Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* within the largest colony in Britain and Ireland. *Seabird* 21, 77–84.

Map (see overleaf)

European Regional Assessment



Hydrobates leucorhous

Range

- Extant (breeding)
- Extant (resident)

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



Map created 05/12/2015

