

Pagophila eburnea -- (Phipps, 1774)

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- CHARADRIIFORMES -- LARIDAE

Common names: Ivory Gull;

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. |
| 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: Not Applicable (NA)

This species has a very 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 fluctuating, 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.

The bird is considered vagrant in the EU27 and is assessed as Not Applicable (NA) for this region.

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Greenland (to DK); Svalbard and Jan Mayen (to NO); Russian Federation

Vagrant:

Belgium; Czech Republic; Denmark; Faroe Islands (to DK); Finland; France; Germany; Iceland; Ireland, Rep. of; Italy; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Sweden; Switzerland; United Kingdom

Population

The European population is estimated at 12,700-16,500 pairs, which equates to 25,400-33,000 mature individuals. The species does not occur in the EU27. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Trend

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

Habitats and Ecology

This species breeds in the high Arctic, north of the July 5°C isotherm (Snow and Perrins 1998) on broad upper ledges of steep, inaccessible coastal or inland cliffs (Burger et al. 2013, Snow and Perrins 1998) up to 300 m high (Snow and Perrins 1998), on broken ice-fields or on bare, level shorelines with low rocks (Snow and Perrins 1998, Burger et al. 2013). Outside of the breeding season it associates with the edges of pack-ice, showing a preference for areas with 70–90% ice cover. It breeds between late-June and August (although most pairs do not lay until early-July, and some pairs may not breed if food conditions are unfavourable) in colonies of 5–60 pairs. The nest is constructed of moss, straw and other debris, lined with dry grass and feathers, on a snow-free area of rock. Its diet consists predominantly of fish, shrimps, shellfish, algae and carrion (e.g. seal placenta) (Burger et al. 2013). It feeds mostly by hovering and contact dipping in open leads in ice-filled waters, or scavenging on marine mammal remains (Gilg et al. 2010). This species is migratory. It departs from its breeding grounds between August and October, (Olsen and Larsson 2003) and returns in late-March at Spitsbergen and in April at Franz Josef Land. Sometimes appears as a vagrant in

several countries in western and northern Europe (Burger et al. 2013).

| 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 | | suitable | breeding |
| Marine Neritic - Macroalgal/Kelp | | suitable | non-breeding |
| Marine Neritic - Pelagic | | suitable | breeding |
| Marine Neritic - Pelagic | | suitable | 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) | | marginal | resident |
| Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks) | | major | breeding |
| Altitude | 0-300 m | Occasional altitudinal limits | |

Threats

The species is thought to be declining due to changes in conditions on its staging or wintering grounds (e.g. more severe winters, changing sea-ice distribution and thickness) (Gilchrist and Mallory 2005). It is also hunted (Gilchrist and Mallory 2005). The species's reliance on seal and whale blubber makes it particularly vulnerable to heavy metal- contamination (Tucker and Heath 1994) as has been found outside of Europe (Braune et al. 2006) which may have had a long-term effect on breeding productivity (C. Miljeteig in litt. 2007). The levels of contaminants (e.g. organochlorines, brominated flame retardants, perfluorinated alkyl substances, and mercury) recorded in eggs of the species are among the highest among reported in Arctic seabird species (Miljeteig et al. 2009).

| Threats & Impacts | | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Threat (level 1) | Threat (level 2) | Impact and Stresses | | | |
| | | Timing | Scope | Severity | Impact |
| Biological resource use | Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals (intentional use - species is the target) | Ongoing | Majority (50-90%) | Slow, Significant Declines | Medium Impact |
| | | Stresses | | | |
| | | Species mortality; Reduced reproductive success | | | |
| Climate change & severe weather | Habitat shifting & alteration | Ongoing | Whole (>90%) | Slow, Significant Declines | Medium Impact |
| | | Stresses | | | |
| | | Ecosystem degradation; Indirect ecosystem effects | | | |
| Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases | Unspecified species | Ongoing | Majority (50-90%) | Slow, Significant Declines | Medium Impact |
| | | Stresses | | | |
| | | Species mortality; Reduced reproductive success | | | |
| Pollution | Herbicides and pesticides | Ongoing | Majority (50-90%) | Unknown | Unknown |
| | | Stresses | | | |
| | | Species mortality; Reduced reproductive success | | | |

| Threats & Impacts | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Threat (level 1) | Threat (level 2) | Impact and Stresses | | | |
| Pollution | Seepage from mining | Timing | Scope | Severity | Impact |
| | | Ongoing | Majority (50-90%) | Negligible declines | Low Impact |
| | | Stresses | | | |
| Species mortality; Reduced reproductive success | | | | | |

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

Bern Convention Annex II. In Russia, it was listed in the Red Data Book of the U.S.S.R. (1984) and is currently registered as a Category 3 (Rare) species in the Red Data Book of the Russian Federation. As a result, the species is listed in regional Red Data Books along its breeding range in Russia (Gilchrist et al. 2008). However there are currently no specific conservation measures in action for this species (Varty and Tanner 2009). A Norwegian-Russian project satellite tagged 31 individuals in 2007/2008 to assess movements at breeding grounds and their dispersal ability (Gilg et al. 2009).

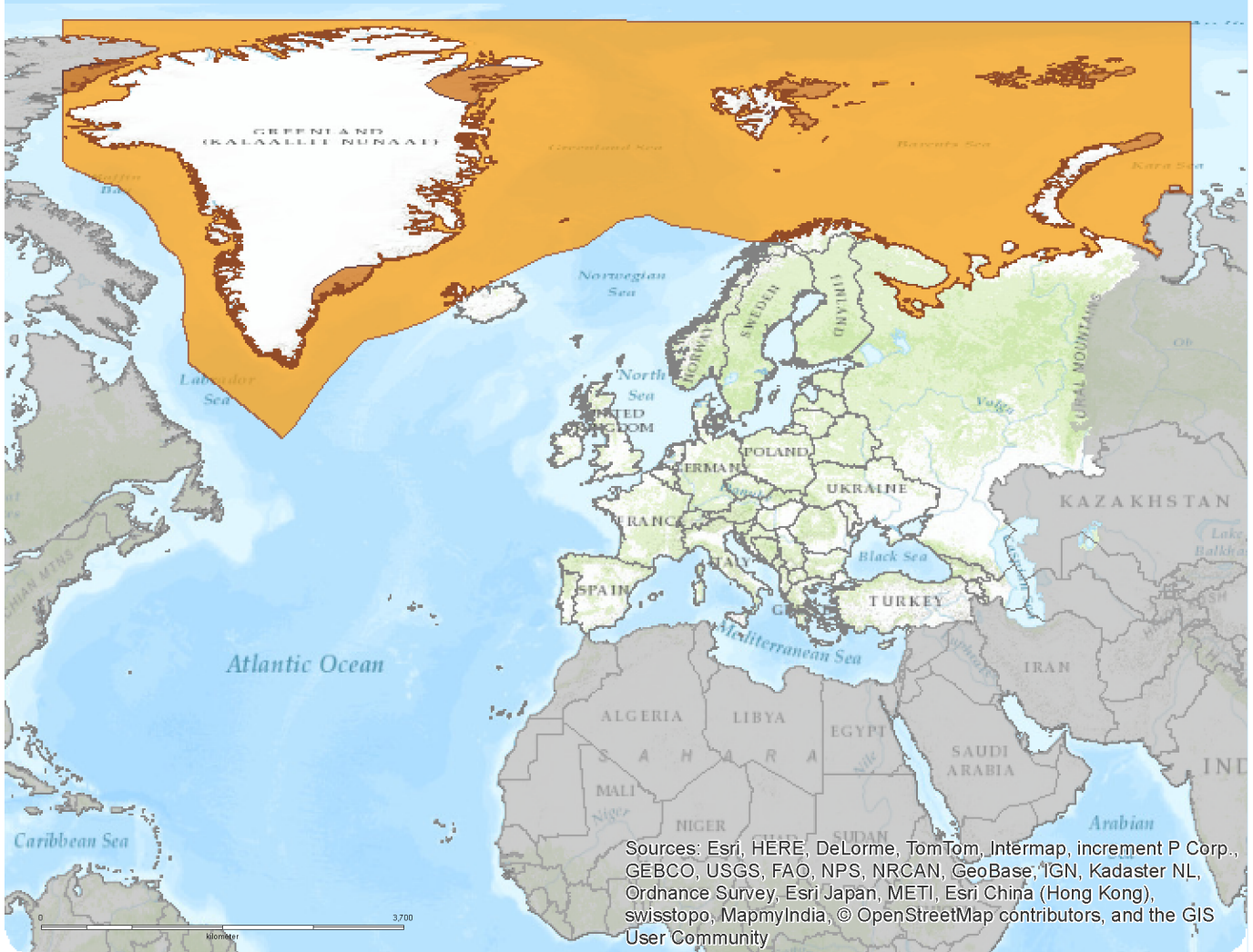
Conservation Actions Proposed

Monitor population trends throughout the range, with particular emphasis on determining rates of decline in main breeding areas. Research the magnitude of threats facing all populations. Protect colonies from mining action.

Bibliography

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Map (see overleaf)



Pagophila eburnea

NE DD **LC** > NT VU EN CR EW EX

LEAST CONCERN

Range

- Extant (breeding)
- Extant (non breeding)

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

Map created 05/12/2015



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