

# **Pinguinus impennis -- (Linnaeus, 1758)**

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- CHARADRIIFORMES -- ALCIDAE

**Common names:** Great Auk; Grand Pingouin

## **European Red List Assessment**

### **European Red List Status**

EX -- Extinct, (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: Extinct (EX)**

**EU27 regional assessment: Extinct (EX)**

This species was formerly distributed across the north Atlantic, but is now globally Extinct as a result of hunting pressure. The last live bird was seen in 1852.

## **Occurrence**

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

#### **Native:**

Faroe Islands (to DK); Greenland (to DK); Iceland; Ireland, Rep. of; United Kingdom

## **Population**

The European and EU27 population is estimated to be extinct.

## **Trend**

The species became globally extinct by the mid-1800s.

## **Habitats and Ecology**

Historically, birds bred only on remote, rocky islands, probably due to early extirpation in more accessible sites (Lyngs 1994). Birds were flightless (Livezey 1988). Immatures probably fed on plankton (Hobson and Montevecchi 1991) while adults dived for fish (Olson et al. 1979).

<b>Habitats &amp; Altitude</b>		
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)	Importance	Occurrence
Marine Intertidal - Rocky Shoreline	major	resident
Marine Neritic - Macroalgal/Kelp	major	resident
Marine Neritic - Pelagic	major	resident
Marine Neritic - Seagrass (Submerged)	major	resident
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Loose Rock/pebble/gravel	major	resident
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Rock and Rocky Reefs	major	resident
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy	major	resident
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy-Mud	major	resident
Marine Oceanic - Epipelagic (m)	major	resident
Altitude	Occasional altitudinal limits	

## **Threats**

Details of how it was driven to extinction by hunting for its feathers, meat, fat and oil are well known (Grieve 1885). As birds became scarcer, specimen collecting became the proximate cause of their extinction (Birkhead 1994).

<b>Threats &amp; Impacts</b>			
<b>Threat (level 1)</b>	<b>Threat (level 2)</b>	<b>Impact and Stresses</b>	
Biological resource use	Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals (intentional use - species is the target)	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Scope</b>
		Past, Unlikely to Return	Whole (>90%)
		<b>Severity</b>	<b>Impact</b>
		Unknown	Past Impact
		<b>Stresses</b>	
		Species mortality	

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### **Conservation**

#### **Conservation Actions Underway**

None

#### **Conservation Actions Proposed**

No conservation measures needed

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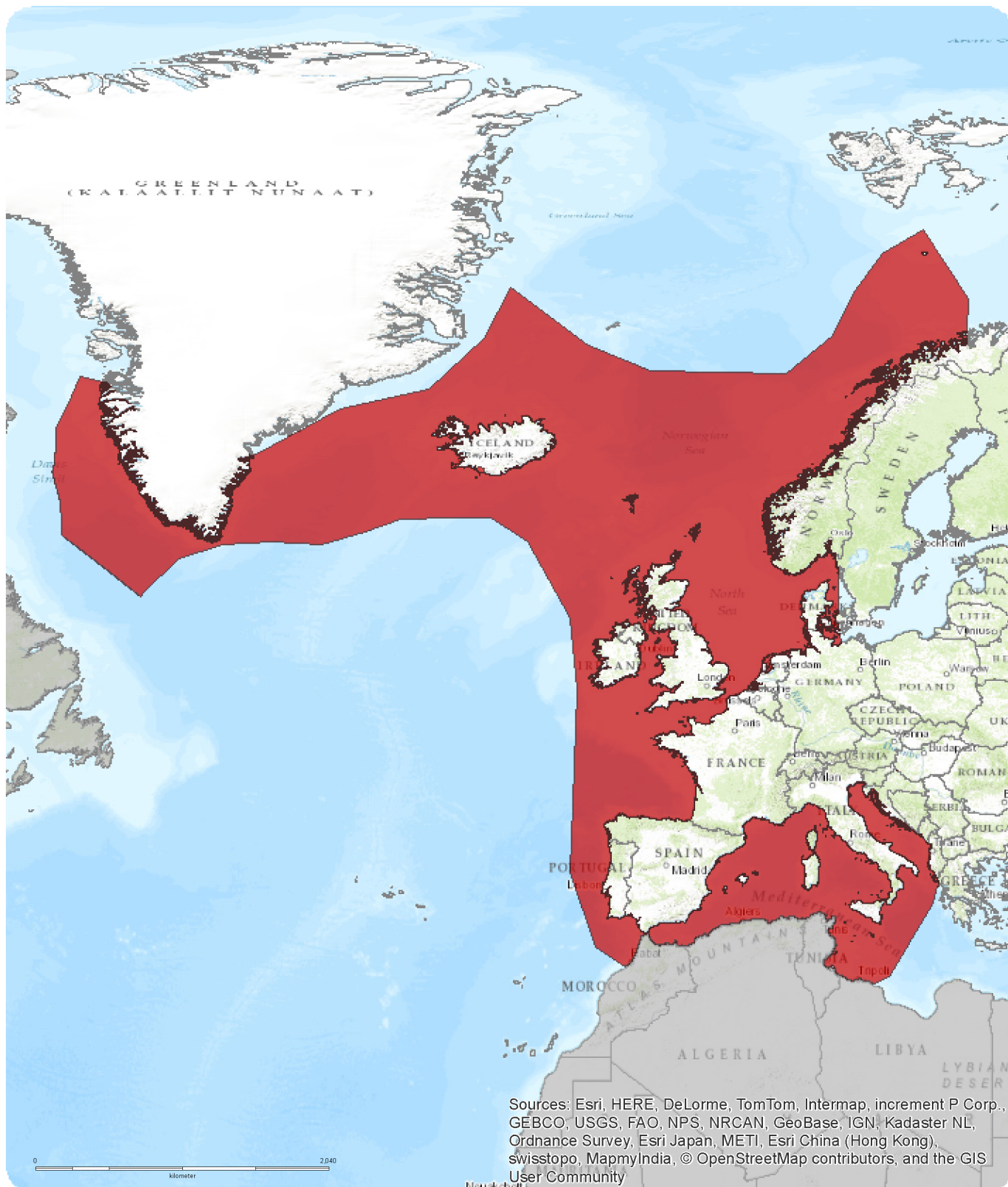
### **Bibliography**

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**Map (see overleaf)**

# European Regional Assessment



## *Pinguinus impennis*

### Range

■ Extinct

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

NE DD LC NT VU EN CR EW

**EX**  
EXTINCT

Map created 05/12/2015



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