Cepphus grylle -- (Linnaeus, 1758)

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

Common names: Black Guillemot;

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., 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). Despite the fact that the population trend appears to be decreasing, the decline is not believed to be sufficiently rapid to 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.

In the EU27 the species is undergoing rapid declines, and it is therefore classified as Vulnerable (A2abcde +3bcde+4abcde). Since the wider European population is also decreasing, there is not considered to be significant potential for rescue from outside the EU27 and the final category is unchanged.

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Denmark; Faroe Islands (to DK); Greenland (to DK); Estonia; Finland; Germany; Iceland; Ireland, Rep. of; Latvia; Norway; Svalbard and Jan Mayen (to NO); Poland; Russian Federation; Sweden; United Kingdom

Vagrant:

Belgium; Croatia; Czech Republic; France; Netherlands; Slovenia; Spain

Population

The European population is estimated at 304,000-742,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 73,200-86,900 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see Supplementary PDF.

Trend

In Europe the population size is estimated to be decreasing by less than 25% in 32.7 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

The species breeds along cliffs and rocky shores. The species is exclusively marine and is a pursuit diver that propels itself through the water using its wings. The species is probably primarily a benthic forager, since much of the prey consists of benthic fish and invertebrates, including crustaceans (Bradstreet and Brown 1985, Cairns 1987a). Various studies find sandeels (*Ammodytes* spp.) (Harris and Riddiford 1989, Ewins 1990) and blennies (particularly butterfish *Pholis gunnellus*) (Harris and Riddiford 1989, Ewins 1990) to be the most important prey species of fish, although the relative contributions of each of these to the overall diet

differs. Flatfish (Harris and Riddiford 1989) and gadoids (Ewins 1990) are also sometimes important. Adults tend to consume a higher proportion of invertebrates than the chicks do (Ewins 1990). The few data on winter food suggest that invertebrates are of greater importance during the winter than during the summer (Ewins 1990).

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		major	breeding
Marine Neritic - Macroalgal/Kelp		major	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Pelagic		marginal	resident
Marine Neritic - Seagrass (Submerged)		major	breeding
Marine Neritic - Seagrass (Submerged)		major	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Loose Rock/pebble/gravel		major	breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Loose Rock/pebble/gravel		major	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Rock and Rocky Reefs		major	breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Rock and Rocky Reefs		major	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy		major	breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy		major	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy-Mud		major	breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy-Mud		major	non-breeding
Marine Oceanic - Epipelagic (m)		suitable	non-breeding
Marine Oceanic - Mesopelagic (m)		suitable	non-breeding
Altitude	max. 100 m	Occasional altitudinal limits	

Threats

This species is likely to be susceptible to the impacts of climate change, such as sea temperature rise and shifts in prey distribution and abundance. The species is vulnerable to oil spills and other marine pollution (HELCOM 2013, Nettleship et al 2014). At the breeding colonies the species is vulnerable to invasive predators, such as rats, cats, and American Mink (Neovison vison) (HELCOM 2013). The species is susceptible to being caught in gillnets (Fangel et al. 2011, Zydelis et al. 2013), although other fishing gears may also catch significant numbers. Increasing numbers of offshore wind farms may result in displacement from habitat, and a low risk of collision (Bradbury et al. 2014). It is hunted for consumption in parts of Scandinavia (Mendel et al. 2008).

Threats & Impacts

Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Biological resource use	Fishing & harvesting aquatic resources (unintentional effects: (large scale) [harvest])	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Unknown	Rapid Declines	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Biological resource use	Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals (intentional use - species is the target)	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Climate change & severe weather	Habitat shifting & alteration	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation; Indirect ecosystem effects			
Energy production & mining	Mining & quarrying	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Indirect ecosystem effects; Species disturbance			

Threats & Impacts

Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Energy production & mining	Renewable energy	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Causing/Could cause fluctuations	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Indirect ecosystem effects; Species mortality; Species disturbance			
Human intrusions & disturbance	Recreational activities	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Species disturbance			
Pollution	Industrial & military effluents (type unknown/ unrecorded)	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Pollution	Oil spills	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Past, Likely to Return	Unknown	Rapid Declines	Past Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation; Species mortality			
Transportation & service corridors	Shipping lanes	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	No decline	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Species disturbance			

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

The species is listed within the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement. There are 91 marine Important Bird Areas which include this species. Within the EU the species is listed within 29 Special Protection Areas. It is listed as Near Threatened by the HELCOM Convention.

Conservation Actions Proposed

Further identification of important sites for this species, particularly in offshore regions and designation as marine protected areas; Identify the risks of different activities on seabirds, and locations sensitive to seabirds. Continue eradication of invasive predators from breeding colonies. Management of fisheries to ensure long term sustainability of key stocks (e.g. sandeels). Establish observer schemes for bycatch and prepare National/ European Community plans of action on seabird bycatch. Develop codes-of-conduct for more organised activities (e.g. tourism). Ensure that appropriate protection (national laws and international agreements) applies to new areas and times in cases of changes in seabird migration routes and times.

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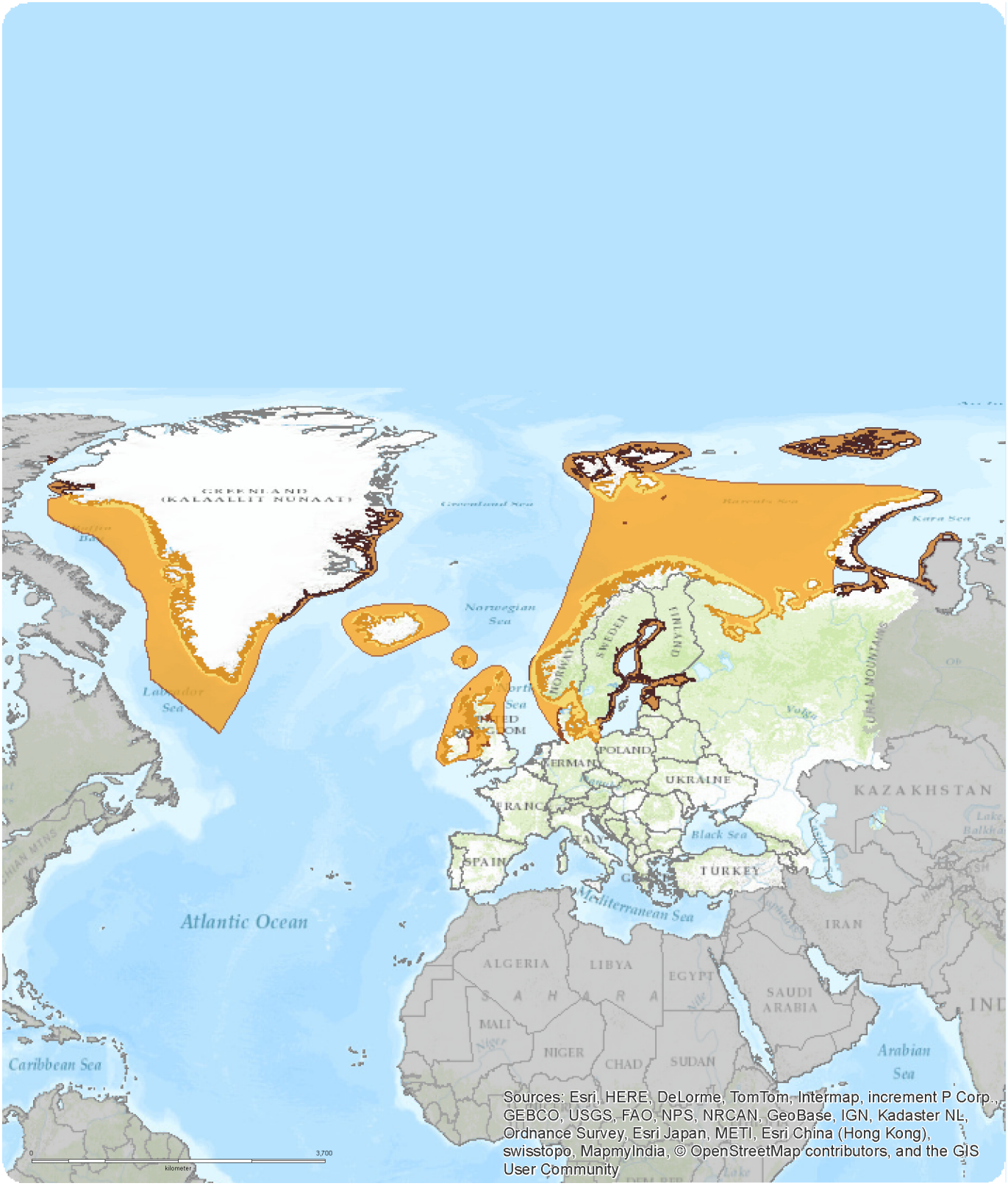
Map (see overleaf)



Cepphus grylle

NE | DD | LC LEAST CONCERN | NT | VU | EN | CR | EW | EX

Range

- Extant (breeding)
- Extant (non breeding)
- Extant (resident)

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BirdLife International (2015)
European Red List of Birds

Map created 05/12/2015