

Pelagodroma marina -- (Latham, 1790)

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- PROCELLARIIFORMES -- OCEANITIDAE

Common names: White-faced Storm-petrel; Océanite frégate; White-faced Storm Petrel

European Red List Assessment

European Red List Status

EN -- Endangered, (IUCN version 3.1)

Assessment Information

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Assessment Rationale

European regional assessment: Endangered (EN)

EU27 regional assessment: Endangered (EN)

This species is restricted to a very small area of Europe and the EU27 when breeding, and is apparently declining. It therefore qualifies as Endangered (B2ab(iii,v)) in both Europe and the EU27.

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Portugal; Spain; Canary Is. (to ES)

Vagrant:

Netherlands; United Kingdom

Population

The European population is estimated at 77,800-111,000 pairs, which equates to 156,000-221,000 mature individuals. The entire population is found in the EU27. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Trend

In Europe and the EU27 the population size is estimated to be decreasing by less than 25% in 46.2 years (three generations), owing to predation by invasive species and unsustainable levels of exploitation. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Habitats and Ecology

The species uses marine and pelagic habitats (Carboneras et al. 2014). It comes ashore only to breed (Jouanin and Roux 1965, Jensen 1981). On the Selvagens (Portugal) egg-laying is reported mid-March to early June, with the clutch a single egg (Carboneras et al. 2014). Birds excavate long burrows in sandy soil usually among thick vegetation which conceals the entrance hole (Snow and Perrins 1998). The breeding grounds on the Selvagens have a good covering of vegetation, mostly of ice-plants (*Mesembryanthemum cristallinum*), the roots of which stabilize the very sandy soil (Tucker and Heath 1994). It is present on breeding islands from March to September and may disperse to areas off the east coast of North America (Carboneras et al. 2014). It feeds mainly on planktonic crustaceans (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	suitable	breeding
Marine Intertidal - Sandy Shoreline and/or Beaches, Sand Bars, Spits, Etc	major	breeding
Marine Intertidal - Shingle and/or Pebble Shoreline and/or Beaches	suitable	breeding
Marine Neritic - Macroalgal/Kelp	suitable	breeding
Marine Neritic - Macroalgal/Kelp	suitable	non-breeding

Habitats & Altitude			
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		Importance	Occurrence
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

In general this species is highly sensitive to human disturbance and locally subject to exploitation by fishermen. It is also affected by predators such as mice (*Mus musculus*), rats (*Rattus* spp.), cats (*Felis catus*), owls, skuas (*Catharacta*), large gulls (*Larus* spp.) and snakes (Carboneras et al. 2014). Other threats include: habitat degradation and problems caused by rabbits, disturbance from other birds, attraction to light at night (Madroño et al. 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: (subsistence/small scale) [harvest])	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Human intrusions & disturbance	Work & other activities	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Species disturbance			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Domestic Cat (<i>Felis catus</i>)	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation; Species mortality			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	House mouse (<i>Mus musculus</i>)	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation; Species mortality			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	<i>Lampropeltis californiae</i>	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Madeira Lizard (<i>Teira dugesii</i>)	Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			

Threats & Impacts					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Rabbit (<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>)	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation; Species mortality			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Unspecified gull (<i>Larus</i>)	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Unspecified owls (STRIGIFORMES)	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Unspecified rats (<i>Rattus</i> spp.)	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation; Species mortality			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Unspecified skua (<i>Catharacta</i>)	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Pollution	Light pollution	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

EU Birds Directive Annex I. Bern Convention Appendix II. The species is listed as Vulnerable in the Spanish Red Data Book. The current breeding colonies in Spain are covered by the ENP (Espacios Naturales Protegidos) network. In 1992 the Department of the Environment launched a program to monitor the population and breeding success of the species. The European Union has granted the governing body of Lanzarote funding for a LIFE project in the Natural Park of the Chinijo Archipelago which provided some conservation actions that benefit the species. Chief among them was the eradication of rabbits from Clara Mountain Island, which has been a great success (Madrño et al. 2004).

Conservation Actions Proposed

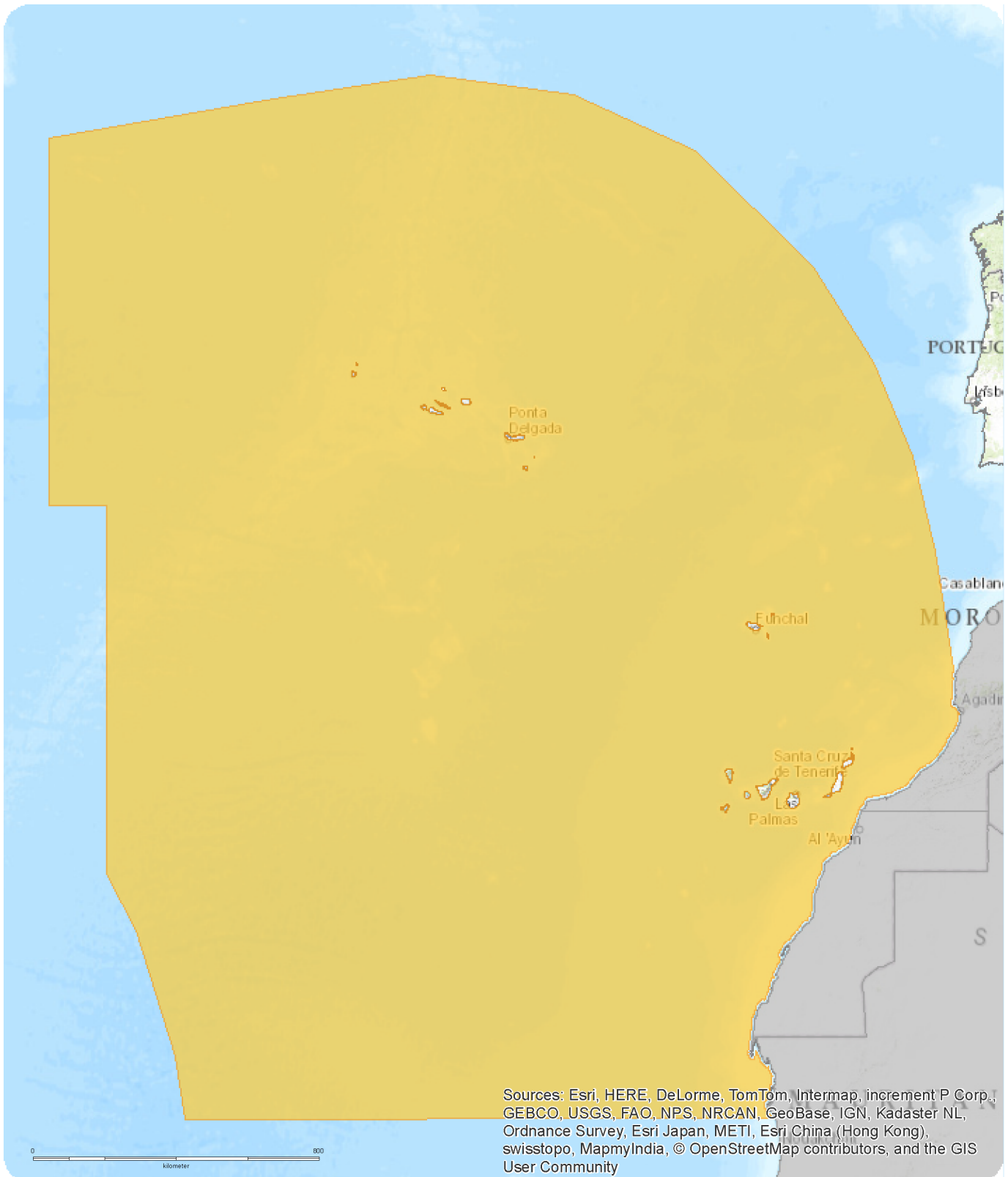
Human exploitation should be terminated and eradication of introduced predators on all breeding islands is also recommended (Carboneras et al. 2014). Develop and publish a Plan of Conservation for the species and ensure its guidelines are implemented. Planning tools of ENP should be developed and approved to restrict access to breeding sites. Light-reducing mechanisms should be developed in urban areas next to the breeding areas and injured birds recovered (Madrño et al. 2004). Programmes of eradication or control of cats and rabbits on islets with the species should be set up (Madrño et al. 2004, Carboneras et al. 2014) and mechanisms established to prevent the spread of potentially dangerous mammals, especially on Clara Mountain Island. Continue regular monitoring of the population and reproductive success, as well as conducting surveys in potential habitats in order to detect new colonies (Madrño et al. 2004).

Bibliography

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European Regional Assessment



Pelagodroma marina

Range

■ Extant (resident)

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



Map created 05/12/2015



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