

Hydrobates pelagicus -- (Linnaeus, 1758)

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

Common names: European Storm-petrel; British Storm Petrel; European Storm Petrel; Pétrel tempête; Storm Petrel

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: Least Concern (LC)

At both European and EU27 scales the range size has not been quantified, but it is not believed to approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the population size criterion (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% 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 within both Europe and the EU27.

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Denmark; Faroe Islands (to DK); France; Germany; Greece; Iceland; Ireland, Rep. of; Italy; Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Malta; Norway; Portugal; Spain; Canary Is. (to ES); United Kingdom; Gibraltar (to UK)

Vagrant:

Austria; Belgium; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Svalbard and Jan Mayen (to NO); Poland; Russian Federation; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; Ukraine

Population

The European population is estimated at 438,000-514,000 pairs, which equates to 876,000-1,030,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 137,000-154,000 pairs, which equates to 274,000-308,000 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Trend

In Europe and the EU27 the population size trend is unknown. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Habitats and Ecology

This is a marine species feeding mainly on small fish, squid and crustaceans, but it will also feed on medusae and offal. It feeds mainly on the wing by pattering and fishing, and will occasionally follow ships and attend trawlers. Breeding starts in May and June, resulting in the formation of colonies on rocky ground on offshore islands and stacks that are largely free of mammalian predators (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	major	breeding
Marine Neritic - Macroalgal/Kelp	major	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Pelagic	major	breeding
Marine Neritic - Pelagic	major	non-breeding
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)	major	breeding
Marine Oceanic - Epipelagic (m)	major	non-breeding
Altitude		Occasional altitudinal limits

Threats

The accidental introduction of predators, such as rats and cats to breeding colonies is a major threat to this species, particularly in southern Europe and the Mediterranean (Cadiou et al. 2012, Carboneras et al. 2014). In some areas, increases in numbers of skuas and large gulls appear to have increased the rate of predation. Reduction of prey, caused by unsustainable fisheries may also impact this species (Madroño et al. 2005). There may be some risk from eating contaminated food items or taking indigestible matter but, by feeding in flight, the species is less vulnerable to oil spills than some other seabirds (Tucker and Heath 1994, Newbury et al. 1998). Coastal development, particularly in the Mediterranean region has caused habitat destruction and disturbance (Carboneras et al. 2014). The species is also vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including shifts in prey availability, and storms and extreme weather events. Light pollution from ships and coastal developments may also create a problem at night for this species (Jiménez et al. 2009, Sultana et al. 2011). In Molène archipelago, France, population has declined over last two decades due to continuous nest-site destruction (Carboneras et al. 2014).

Threats & Impacts					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
		Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
Biological resource use	Fishing & harvesting aquatic resources (unintentional effects: (large scale) [harvest])	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Indirect ecosystem effects			
Climate change & severe weather	Habitat shifting & alteration	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Indirect ecosystem effects			
Climate change & severe weather	Storms & flooding	Ongoing	Unknown	Causing/Could cause fluctuations	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Indirect ecosystem effects; Species mortality			
Energy production & mining	Renewable energy	Ongoing	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			

Threats & Impacts					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Human intrusions & disturbance	Recreational activities	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Species disturbance			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	American Mink (Neovison vison)	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Domestic Cat (Felis catus)	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Great Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo)	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion; Indirect ecosystem effects			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Great Skua (Catharacta skua)	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion; Indirect ecosystem effects			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Unspecified gulls (LARIDAE)	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality; Reduced reproductive success			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Unspecified rats (Rattus spp.)	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Natural system modifications	Other ecosystem modifications	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Indirect ecosystem effects			
Pollution	Industrial & military effluents (type unknown/unrecorded)	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
Pollution	Light pollution	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Residential & commercial development	Commercial & industrial areas	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Species disturbance			

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

The species occurs within 88 existing marine Important Bird Areas (IBAs) across the region. Within the EU it is listed in 130 Special Protection Areas, in the Natura 2000 network. Conservation prospects for Mediterranean population recently improved through provision of nestboxes, which has led to increase in

numbers breeding through heightened nesting success, while selective culling of gulls on same Spanish islands led to marked reduction (c. 65%) in number of petrels predated, and to relative increase in their survival and breeding success probabilities of 16% and 23%, respectively (Carboneras et al. 2014). There is active rat eradication and management programme in Britain designed to improve the conservation status of both the present species, *H. leucorhous* and Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*).

Conservation Actions Proposed

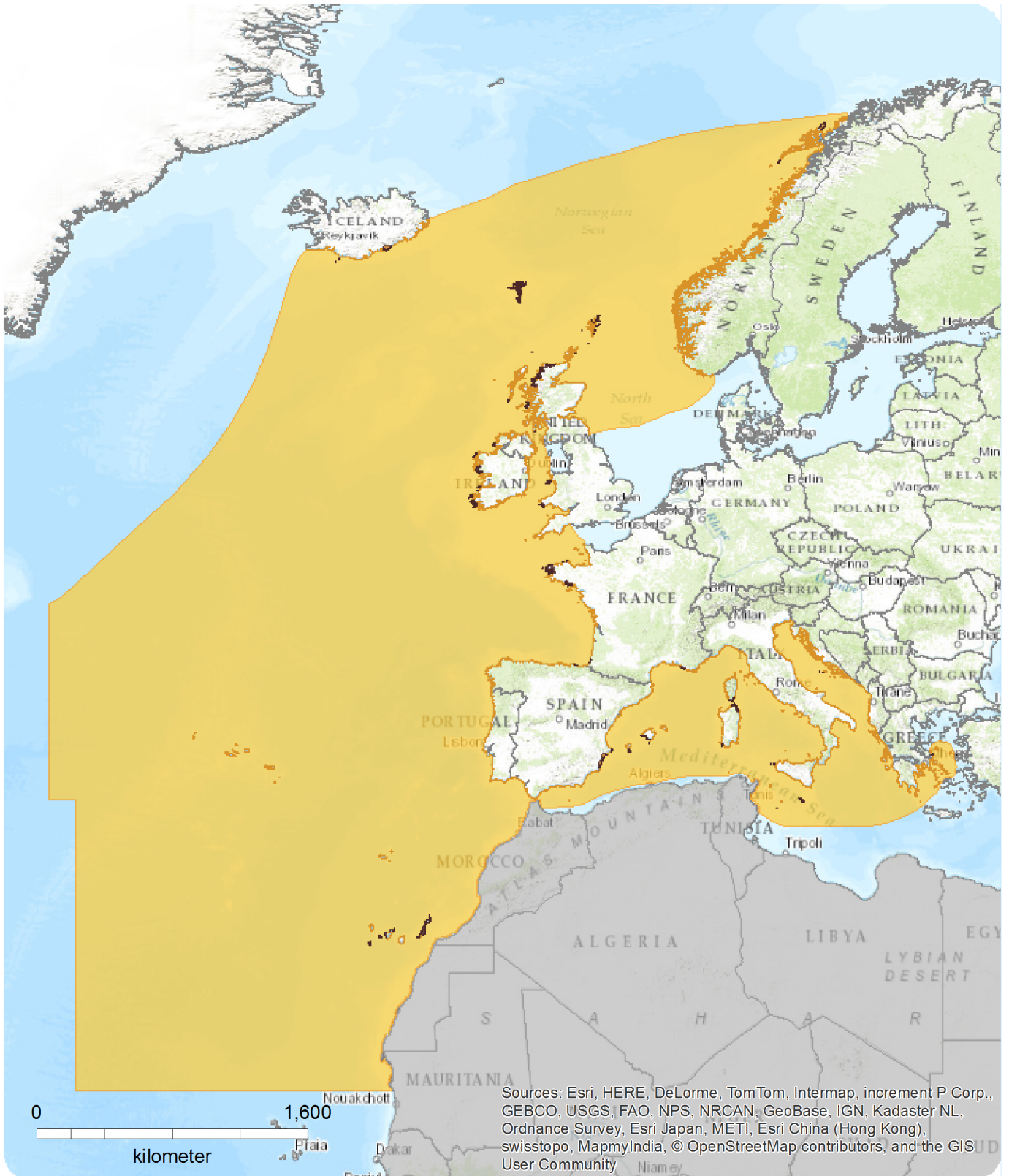
Rats, cats and other invasive mammals should be kept off breeding islands and these species should be removed from islands on which they are present (Tucker and Heath 1994).

Bibliography

- Cadiou B., Jacob Y., Le Nuz M., Quénot F., Yésou P. & Février Y. (2012) Bilan de la saison de reproduction des oiseaux marins en Bretagne en 2011., Brest, 35 p.
- Carboneras, C., Jutglar, F. & Kirwan, G.M. (2014). European Storm-petrel (*Hydrobates pelagicus*). In: del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A., Sargatal, J., Christie, D.A. & de Juana, E. (eds.) (2014). Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.
- Jiménez, J.; Sarzo, B.; Pérez, I.; Mínguez, E. & Martínez-Abraín, A. 2009. Conservación de aves marinas mediterráneas. Plan de Acción para la Comunitat Valenciana. Conselleria de Medio Ambiente, Agua, Urbanismo y Vivienda. Generalitat Valenciana.
- Libois, E., Gimenez, O., Oro, D., Mínguez, E., Pradel, R. & Sanz-Aguilar, A. (2012) Nest boxes: a successful management tool for the conservation of an endangered seabird. *Biol. Conserv.* 155: 39–43.
- Madroño, A., González, C. & Atienza, J.C. (Eds.). 2005. Libro Rojo de Las Aves de España. Dirección General para la Biodiversidad-SEO/BirdLife. Madrid.
- Newbery, P.; Ratcliffe, N.; Bainbridge, I.; Broad, R.; Brown, A.; Buisson, R.; Douse, A.; Dunn, E.; Ellis, P.; Meek, E.; Robins, M.; Williams, G.; Williams, I. 1998. Species action plan 0052 Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*.
- Sultana, J.; Borg, J.J.; Gauci, C. & Falzon, V. (2011): The Breeding Birds of Malta. Malta: BirdLife Malta & BDL Publishing.
- Tucker, G. M.; Heath, M. F. 1994. Birds in Europe: their conservation status. BirdLife International, Cambridge, U.K.

Map (see overleaf)

European Regional Assessment



Hydrobates pelagicus

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

Range

- Extant (breeding)
- Extant (resident)

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

Map created 05/13/2015

