

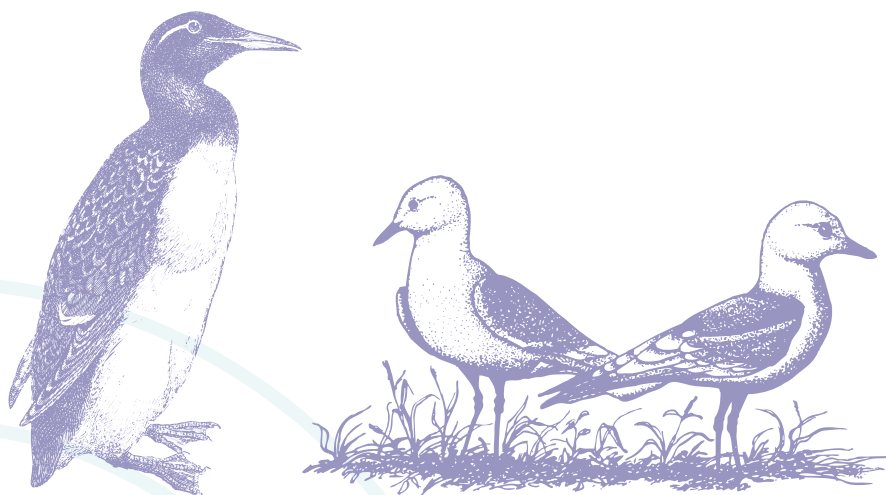
MARINE BIRDS

OSPAR's QUALITY STATUS REPORT 2023 BRIEFING NOTE SERIES

Marine birds in the North-East Atlantic are not in good status. Widespread declines in breeding productivity and population abundance have been observed in all OSPAR Regions assessed. Most marine birds were already not in good status in 2010 but additional deterioration has been observed for many species in the current assessment.

Climate change is considered a major cause of marine bird declines, mainly via changes to their food supply. Anthropogenic activities exert additional pressures such as direct mortality, habitat loss / degradation and disturbance. The decline of marine bird populations will adversely affect the ecosystem services they provide, primarily by leading to imbalances in the food web, and will cause negative impacts on various ecosystem and cultural services as

well. Good progress has been made since QSR 2010 to develop the ecological coherence of the OSPAR network of Marine Protected Areas (MPA)s, including, for example, the designation of the North Atlantic Current and Evlanov Sea basin (NACES) MPA. However, given the continuing poor status of the marine bird species assessed, it is unlikely that these measures on their own are sufficient to reduce the key pressures from human activities. Addressing the decline in marine birds has been identified as a priority for OSPAR in its North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2030. OSPAR has committed to taking appropriate actions to prevent or reduce pressures to enable the recovery of marine species and benthic and pelagic habitats in order to reach and maintain good environmental status, including action to halt the decline of marine birds. The latter will be addressed by OSPAR's forthcoming Regional Action Plan on Marine Birds, which will build upon the evidence provided by the Quality Status Report 2023 to recommend action to reduce and eliminate, where possible, the main pressures and activities impacting marine birds.



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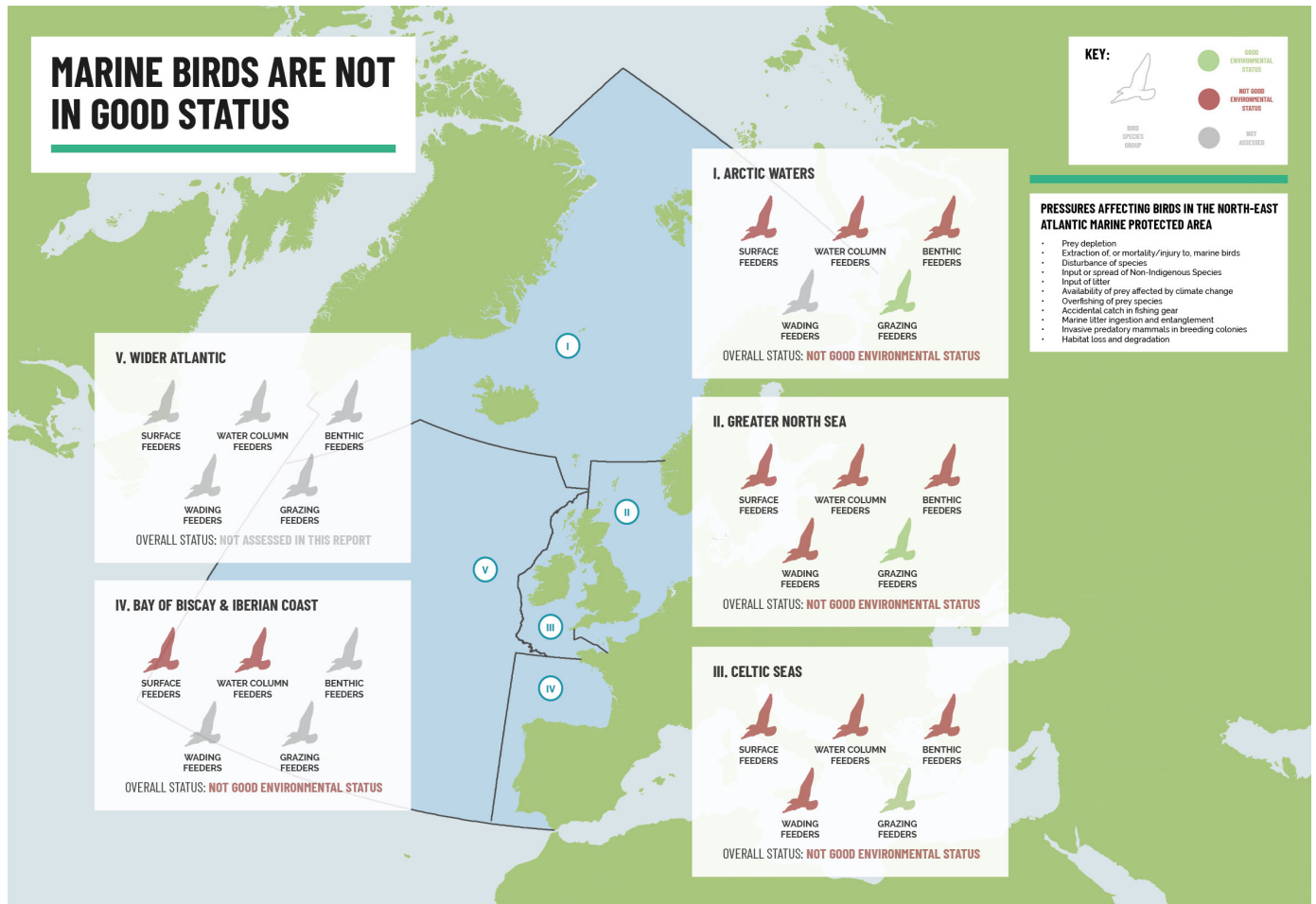
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OSPAR
QUALITY STATUS REPORT 2023

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