



# Species: Steller's Eider

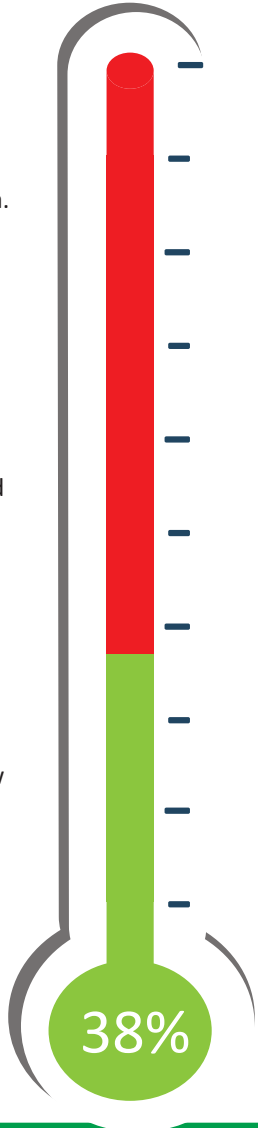
OSPAR Recommendation 2013/12:

Contracting Parties are required to report progress with implementation of recommendations every six years, with initial more frequent reporting until 2019.

Measures taken by Contracting Parties to protect Steller Eider have focused on improving monitoring

## Description

Steller's Eider (*Polysticta stelleri*) breeds along the Arctic coast of Alaska and the eastern half of Siberia. Most birds winter in the northern Pacific, but the main European areas used by non-breeders in summer and wintering birds are the coastal areas of northern Norway, Estonia and Lithuania. Studies along the Lithuanian coast in the Baltic (outside the OSPAR Maritime Area) indicated that the ducks congregated in a narrow stretch of coast, feeding on crustaceans, bivalves and gastropods. In spring they gathered at herring spawning grounds and fed mainly on fish eggs. There are both wintering and summering birds in the Varangerfjord in northern Norway. These are found in flocks of varying size, in sheltered and shallow bays on the outer coast. While most flocks are of 10 - 100 birds, dense flocks of up to 3000 individuals have been reported. In 1995 the size of the population wintering in northern Europe was believed to be between 30 000 and 50 000, compared to an estimated 400 000 – 500 000 in the 1960s.



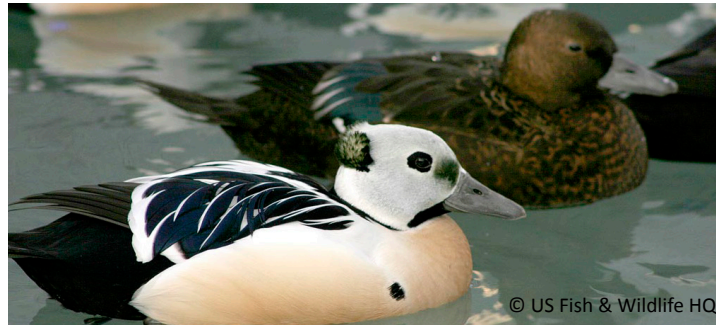
## Action Highlights

Each Recommendation requires Contracting Parties to report on the methods used to implement the measures. The methods are Legislation, Administrative action and Negotiated agreement, or any combination of these. Some recent examples include:

- 1. Annual monitoring of the wintering population takes place in Norway.

## Engagement

The engagement index (left) measures how well Contracting Parties have engaged with the national measures in the Recommendation. The higher the score the greater the number of actions that Contracting Parties, which have reported, have taken to implement the measures in the Recommendation. Click here for more information on the index.



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### References:

- Background Document for Steller's Eider (OSPAR Publication 411) OSPAR Recommendation 2013/12
- OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats (Agreement 2008-06)

## Condition

Based on counts on adult males both in the Baltic (1975 - 1995) and Norwegian (1996 - 2000) wintering populations, it has been found that the proportion of juveniles varies greatly between years. No long-term trend in proportion of juveniles can however be found. Annual fluctuations show a cyclic 3-year pattern which correlates with the cycle of abundance of lemming in the breeding areas. Predation on Steller's eider eggs may increase in years with depleted lemmings.



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