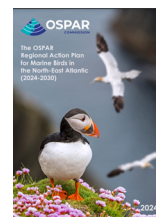


Marine birds in the North-East Atlantic are in trouble. The OSPAR Regional Action Plan for Marine Birds (RAP-Bird) identifies the most important protection and conservation actions to be implemented on a regional scale for the recovery of marine birds within the North-East Atlantic. This briefing note highlights OSPAR's work to deliver enhanced measures for marine birds and introduces us to the experts leading this important work.



What is the issue?

There are nine bird species on OSPAR's list of threatening and/or declining species, and each of these species has in place a Recommendation on furthering its conservation and protection. However, it is evident from the integrated status assessments of marine birds in OSPAR's Quality Status Report (QSR) 2023 that many bird species, other than those listed by OSPAR, are also threatened and declining. This suggests that existing national and regional measures are insufficient.

How will the successful completion of this action benefit marine birds?

This action will develop an overarching framework for the implementation of the RAP-Bird. It will identify the best approach for OSPAR to improve the implementation of measures of both listed and currently non-listed bird species, including OSPAR regional measures currently in place and those being developed under the RAP-Bird.



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Northern fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*) is currently not on the OSPAR list but is in decline across the OSPAR Area where it breeds. For OSPAR to be able to halt the decline of fulmars and other species currently not listed, a new framework for adopting measures will need to be developed.

For more information on OSPAR and marine birds, visit our website:

www.ospar.org/work-areas/bdc/species-habitats/marine-birds

Meet our experts

Ian Mitchell, International Advice Team Leader, Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), United Kingdom.



Marianne Olsen, Senior Adviser at Norwegian Environment Agency, and Convenor of OSPAR's group on the Protection of Species and Habitats.

