

PROPOSAL FOR INCLUSION OF SPECIES ON THE APPENDICES OF THE CONVENTION  
ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS

- A. PROPOSAL: Inclusion of Gavia immer immer (Northwest European population) in Appendix II.
- B. PROPONENT: Government of the Federal Republic of Germany
- C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxon

1.1. Classis	Aves
1.2. Ordo	Gaviiformes
1.3. Familia	Gaviidae
1.4. Genus/Species/Subspecies	<u>Gavia immer</u> (Brunnich) 1764 ssp. <u>immer</u>
1.5. Common names	
English:	Great Northern Diver
Spanish:	Colimbo Grande
French:	Plongeon imbrin

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

Mainly Nearctic, breeding mostly between 48°N and the Arctic Circle; in the North Atlantic, also breeds in Greenland, Iceland, Bear Island and very occasionally Scotland. Only the nominate race occurs in the Western Palearctic, where it is a winter visitor to the Atlantic coast of Northwest Europe (north Norway to NW France) from breeding grounds in Iceland, Greenland and possibly also NE Canada.

2.2. Population

Only one population is recognized.

- Northwest European wintering population: 5,000; declining (Rose & Scott 1993).

The breeding population in Iceland is estimated at only 100-300 pairs. The population wintering along the northwest coast of Europe has been estimated at a minimum of 5,000, with some 3,500-4,500 in British waters. Numbers appear to be declining (Rose & Scott 1993). The population in North America is still large (in the order of a few hundred thousands of birds), but the species has decreased steadily in the southern parts of its range throughout much of the present century.

2.3. Habitat

Breeds mostly on rather large, deep freshwater lakes in areas of coniferous forest or on open tundra. Almost exclusively marine outside the breeding season, wintering along coasts and frequenting both exposed, rocky headlands and sheltered bays; occurs rarely on inland waters (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

## 2.4. Migrations

Migratory, generally moving southwards and towards the sea after breeding and shunning ice-covered waters. Concentrations of up to about 300 birds are recorded in North America, but concentrations in Europe tend to be much smaller. The wintering population in Northwest Europe is much larger than the small Icelandic and Bear Island breeding populations, and presumably therefore includes birds from Greenland and perhaps also NE Canada.

## 3. **Threat data**

### 3.1. Direct threats to the population

Particularly sensitive to human disturbance, and many breeding lakes deserted after increase in human presence and activities. Sporadic mass mortality from type E botulism has been reported in the region of the Great Lakes in North America. Outside the breeding season, highly vulnerable to oil spills at sea, especially near rich fishing grounds where large concentrations of birds may form in winter, e.g. 146 killed after the 'Esso Bernicia' spill in Shetland (Scotland) in January 1979. Some mortality also occurs at sea and on larger lakes due to drowning in fishing nets set close inshore (del Hoyo *et al.* 1992).

### 3.2. Habitat destruction

Most breeding sites are in relatively remote northern areas where loss of wetland habitat does not as yet pose a serious threat (del Hoyo *et al.* 1992).

### 3.3. Indirect threats

Loss of suitable nesting habitat due to increased human disturbance.

### 3.4. Threats connected especially with migrations

None known.

### 3.5. National and international utilization

Some hunting probably occurs, but as the species occurs almost exclusively at sea in Northwest Europe, the level of persecution is probably very low.

## 4. **Protection status and needs**

### 4.1. National protection status

Protected under national legislation in all twelve member states of the EEC.

### 4.2. International protection status

Gavia immer is listed in Appendix II (strictly protected fauna) of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Berne Convention), and is also listed in Annex I of the EEC

Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC).

4.3. Additional protection needs

The Western Palearctic population of Gavia immer is listed in the category 'Threatened' in the Draft Management Plan for the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, because it is a biogeographical population which is thought to number less than 10,000 individuals. See attached note on additional protection needs for species and populations with an unfavourable conservation status.

5. **Range States**

See attached table.

6. **Comments from Range States**

7. **Additional remarks**

8. **References**

- Cramp, S. & Simmons, K.E.L. (eds). (1977). Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. Vol.1: Ostrich to Ducks. Oxford University Press. Oxford, London and New York.
- del Hoyo, J., Elliott A. & Sargatal, J. (eds). (1992). Handbook of the Birds of the World. Volume 1: Ostrich to Ducks. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.
- Rose, P.M. & Scott, D.A. (1993). Waterfowl Population Estimates. Draft report presented at the Fifth Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention, 9-16 June 1993, Kushiro, Japan. IWRB, Slimbridge.

Taxon: <i>Gavia immer immer</i>		
Population		
(a) Greenland/Iceland/NW Europe		
State	Pop.	Status
Algeria	a	V
Austria	a	V
Bulgaria	a	V
Canada	a?	S?
Denmark	a	W
France	a	W
Germany	a	W
Greece	a	V
Hungary	a	V
Iceland	a	Sw
Ireland	a	W
Italy	a	V
Luxembourg	a	V
Netherlands	a	V
Norway	a	W
Poland	a	V
Portugal	a	W
Romania	a	V
Russian Federation	a	V
Spain	a	W
Sweden	a	V
Switzerland	a	V
Turkey	a	V
United Kingdom	a	W

  

Key to Status	
S/s Breeding summer visitor	R/r Resident
W/w Winter visitor	V Vagrant
P/p Passage migrant	? Status uncertain
Upper case = primary status Lower case = secondary status	