

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

A. PROPOSAL: Inclusion of Larus minutus (Western Palearctic populations) in Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT: Government of the Federal Republic of Germany

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxon

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1.1. Classis | Aves |
| 1.2. Ordo | Charadriiformes |
| 1.3. Familia | Laridae |
| 1.4. Genus/Species/Subspecies | <u>Larus minutus</u> Pallas 1776 |
| | Monotypic |
| 1.5. Common names | |
| English: | Little Gull |
| Spanish: | Gaviota Enana |
| French: | Mouette pygmee |

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

There appear to be two largely discrete populations in West Eurasia: one breeding in Central Europe from the Baltic east to about 55°E and wintering along the coasts of Southwest Europe and the West Mediterranean south to the Atlantic coast of Morocco; and the other breeding east of the Urals in the basin of the Ob and Irtysh and wintering mainly in the Black Sea and Caspian Sea. Both populations may mix to a limited extent in the East Mediterranean.

2.2. Population

Two populations are recognized.

- Central Europe/Southwest Europe/West Mediterranean: 60,000-90,000; apparently stable (Rose & Scott 1993).

- West Siberia/Black Sea/Caspian Sea: 50,000 (Rose & Scott 1993).

Unpublished data suggest that the total breeding population in Europe is between 23,000 and 32,000 pairs. The Central European population appears to be relatively stable, although there are marked fluctuations from year to year in most areas. A recent increase has been reported in Finland (Cramp & Simmons 1983). No information is available on trends in the West Asian population.

2.3. Habitat

Breeds in the steppe and temperate forest zones, through the boreal to subarctic fringe; exclusively in lowland freshwater wetlands, in river basins, near lakes, or along coasts, where the vegetation includes emergent or floating plants in shallow muddy water. Nests colonially, often in association with other species, on floating vegetation or on

tussocks of emergent vegetation in flooded marshes. Outside the breeding season, occurs on passage on inland lakes, but becomes mainly coastal in winter, with a preference for sandy or muddy beaches, especially where freshwater streams or sewage outfalls reach the sea (Cramp & Simmons 1983).

2.4. Migrations

Migratory, but details of movements and even of main wintering areas inadequately known. Apparently winters mostly offshore, though not truly pelagic. Many of the birds breeding in the Baltic region and European Russia migrate southwest overland to the Mediterranean, probably on a broad front, while others follow a coastal route through the Baltic, North Sea and English Channel to the Atlantic seaboard of France and Iberia. Apparently many of the latter return to their breeding areas via the overland route across Central Europe, as this route is used more in spring (especially by adults) than in autumn. The West Siberian population apparently migrates southwest through the Aral Sea and Kazakhstan lakes to winter on the Caspian Sea, Black Sea and East Mediterranean, where there is some mixing with birds from the Central European population.

3. **Threat data**

3.1. Direct threats to the population

No information.

3.2. Habitat destruction

No information.

3.3. Indirect threats

Permanently at risk from floating and beached oil, especially in the heavily polluted North Sea.

3.4. Threats connected especially with migrations

None known.

3.5. National and international utilization

No information.

4. **Protection status and needs**

4.1. National protection status

Protected under national legislation in all twelve member states of the EEC. In Africa, fully protected under national legislation in Morocco and Tunisia.

4.2. International protection status

Larus minutus is listed in Appendix II (strictly protected fauna) of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Berne Convention).

4.3. Additional protection needs

The populations in question are considered to have a favourable conservation status, and are not in need of any additional special protection measures at the present time.

5. **Range States**

See attached table.

6. **Comments from Range States**

7. **Additional remarks**

8. **References**

- Cramp, S. & Simmons, K.E.L. (eds). (1983). Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. Vol.3: Waders to Gulls. Oxford University Press. Oxford, London and New York.
- Harrison, P. (1983). Seabirds: an identification guide. Croom Helm Ltd., Beckenham, U.K.
- 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>Larus minutus</i>		
Population		
(a) Central & SW Europe/W Mediterranean		
(b) W Siberia/Black Sea/Caspian Sea		
State	Pop.	Status
Albania	a	W
Algeria	a	W
Azerbaijan	b	W
Belarus	a	S
Belgium	a	W
Bosnia & Herzegovina	a	W
Bulgaria	b	W
Croatia	a	W
Cyprus	b	W
Denmark	a	Ws
Faroese	a	V
Egypt	b	W
Estonia	a	Sw
Finland	a	Sw
France	a	W
Georgia	b	W
Germany	a	W
Greece	a	W
"	b	W
Iceland	a	V
Iran	b	W
Iraq	b	V
Ireland	a	W
Israel	b	W
Italy	a	W
Jordan	b	V
Kazakhstan	b	Sw
Kuwait	b	V
Latvia	a	Sw
Lebanon	b	W
Libya	a	W
Lithuania	a	Sw

Malta	a	W
Monaco	a	W
Morocco	a	W
Netherlands	a	Ws
Norway	a	V
Poland	a	Wsr
Portugal	a	W
Romania	b	W
Russian Federation	a	S
"	b	Sw
Slovenia	a	W
Spain	a	W
Sweden	a	Wrs
Syria	b	W
Tunisia	a	W
Turkey	b	W
Turkmenistan	b	W
Ukraine	a	S
"	b	W
United Kingdom	a	W
Gibraltar	a	P
Yugoslavia	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	