

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

- A. **PROPOSAL:** Inclusion of Podiceps auritus (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	Podicipediformes
1.3. Familia	Podicipedidae
1.4. Genus/Species/Subspecies	<u>Podiceps auritus</u> (Linnaeus) 1758 Monotypic
1.5. Common names	
English:	Slavonian Grebe (Horned Grebe)
Spanish:	Zampullin Cuellirrojo
French:	Grebe esclavon

2. **Biological data**

2.1. Distribution

Monotypic, although two distinct forms, separable on bill-size, occur in West Eurasia. Large-billed birds breed in Iceland, the Faeroes, Scotland and north Norway, and winter in the British Isles and on the west coast of Norway. Small-billed birds breed from Sweden eastwards, and winter in the Baltic and on the Atlantic coast of Europe to Brittany (vagrant to NW Africa), with smaller numbers reaching the Black and Caspian Seas.

2.2. Population

Three populations are recognized.

- Iceland/British Isles/North Norway (large-billed): 5,000.
- Northwest Europe (small-billed): Probably in the range 25,000-100,000 (Rose & Scott 1993).
- Black Sea/Caspian Region: Under 25,000 (Rose & Scott 1993).

Thought to have been much more widespread in Northwest Europe in the past, and currently declining in some areas, although man-induced eutrophication of lakes has permitted a general expansion during the 20th century. The overall trends in the two Northwest European populations are uncertain, with numbers apparently increasing in some areas and decreasing in others. The total breeding population of the large-billed form has been estimated at 1,100-1,500 pairs (or about 5,000 birds), including 500-750 pairs in Iceland, 60-80 pairs in Scotland and at least 500 pairs in Norway. The species was first recorded breeding in Scotland in 1908; numbers increased to a maximum of 81 pairs in 1984, and then steadily declined to 61-62 pairs in 1987 (del Hoyo et al. 1992). Unpublished data suggest that the total breeding population of the small-billed form in Northern Europe,

excluding Russia, is currently between 4,500 and 8,500 pairs. In Finland, an estimated population of 3,000 pairs in 1958 has fallen to under 1,500. Very little information is available on numbers in the Black Sea/Caspian population, and the trends are unknown.

2.3. Habitat

Breeds on fresh water, occupying small pools and marshes with patches of open water, or secluded sectors of large lakes and rivers. Outside the breeding season, largely marine, occurring in sheltered bays and occasionally on the open sea, but also winters on fresh waters in the southern part of its breeding range, especially on large lakes and river systems (del Hoyo *et al.* 1992).

2.4. Migrations

Migratory. Winters along coasts on inshore waters, and to a lesser extent on large lakes. Some populations are dispersive, moving to nearby seas. Known to migrate overland by night in North America, and observed migrating along the coast by day in Europe.

3. Threat data

3.1. Direct threats to the population

Particularly vulnerable to oil spills in coastal waters; an estimated 8-16% of the wintering population in the Shetland Islands (Scotland) were killed in the oil spill of 1978/79. Mortality due to drowning in fishing nets has also reported to be a serious problem in some areas, e.g. in Finland (del Hoyo *et al.* 1992).

3.2. Habitat destruction

Many breeding lakes have become unsuitable because of acidification and increased humus content, and this has probably led to a contraction of the species' range in parts of northwest Europe. The marked decline in numbers in Finland has been attributed to acidification and increased humus content in the breeding lakes, and also accidents in fishing nets (del Hoyo *et al.* 1992).

3.3. Indirect threats

Afforestation is known to have been responsible for the loss of some breeding pairs in Scotland, because of the hydrological changes which this causes, leading to reduced quantities of invertebrates (del Hoyo *et al.* 1992). Birds wintering in coastal waters, especially in the North Sea, are at risk from oil pollution.

3.4. Threats connected especially with migrations

None known.

3.5. National and international utilization

Some hunting probably occurs, but the numbers taken are likely to be very small.

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

Podiceps auritus 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 Icelandic and Northwest European population of large-billed Podiceps auritus 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. The West Siberian/Black Sea/Caspian population is listed in the category 'Vulnerable' in the Draft Management Plan, because it is a biogeographical population which is thought to number less than 25,000 individuals and is dependent on a habitat type which is widely under threat. 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>Podiceps auritus</i>		
Population		
(a) Iceland/NW Europe (large billed)		
(b) NE & NW Europe (small billed)		
(c) W Siberia/Black Sea/Caspian (small billed)		
State	Pop.	Status
Albania	b	W
Austria	b	W
Azerbaijan	c	W
Belarus	b	S
Belgium	b	W
Bosnia & Herzegovina	b	W
Bulgaria	c	V
Croatia	b	W
Cyprus	c	V
Denmark	b	W
Faroes	a	Ws
Greenland	a	V
Estonia	b	S
Finland	b	S
France	b	W
Germany	b	W
Greece	b	V
Hungary	b	V
Iceland	a	Sw
Iran	c	W
Ireland	a	W
Israel	c	V
Italy	b	W
Kazakhstan	c	S
Latvia	b	S
Lithuania	b	S
Luxembourg	b	W
Netherlands	b	W
Norway	a	Ws
Romania	c	V
Russian Federation	b	S

Russian Federation	c	Sw
Slovenia	b	W
Spain	a	V
Sweden	b	Sw
Switzerland	b	V
Tunisia	b	V
Turkey	c	V
Turkmenistan	c	W
Ukraine	c	W
United Kingdom	a	W _s
Uzbekistan	c	W
Yugoslavia	b	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	