

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 hyperboreus hyperboreus (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 hyperboreus</u> Gunnerus 1767 ssp. <u>hyperboreus</u>
1.5. Common names	
English:	Glaucous Gull
Spanish:	Gaviota hiperborea
French:	Goeland bourgmestre

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

Only the nominate subspecies occurs. This breeds in the Canadian Arctic, Greenland, Iceland, Svalbard and northern Siberia east to the Taymyr Peninsula, and occurs in winter along the coasts of North and West Europe south to the British Isles and northern France. There is considerable overlap between breeding populations on their winter quarters, and no discrete populations can be identified.

2.2. Population

Only one population is recognized.
- East Greenland/Iceland/North Europe/West Siberia: 200,000; stable (Rose & Scott 1993).

The breeding population in Iceland (3,500 pairs) is thought to be stable after a marked decline earlier this century, while the populations on Svalbard, Jan Mayen and Bear Island may have increased in recent years (Evans 1984a). Unpublished data suggest that the total breeding population in Europe (excluding Greenland) is between 17,000 and 27,000 pairs. No information is available on trends in the large breeding population in Greenland, where there are between 10,000 and 100,000 pairs (Evans 1984b).

2.3. Habitat

Breeds on arctic and subarctic coasts, frequently on sea-cliffs or steeply sloping grassy inclines above cliffs, but also on coastal islets and cliffs facing the sea up to 4 km inland; less commonly on islands in rivers and freshwater lakes near the coast, or on edges of coastal lagoons. Outside the breeding season, occurs on sea coasts,

bays and harbours, and less often in offshore waters. Frequently scavenges around fishing ports, refuse tips and sewage outfalls (Cramp & Simmons 1983).

2.4. Migrations

Migratory, partially migratory or dispersive. The West Greenland and Icelandic populations appear to be sedentary, but the East Greenland population is believed to winter mainly in Iceland. Birds breeding in Svalbard and Siberia winter in North and West Europe south to the British Isles and northern France, and also in Iceland and Greenland.

3. **Threat data**

3.1. Direct threats to the population

There is some hunting of this species in Greenland, mainly between August and November, and primarily of first year birds (Evans 1984b).

3.2. Habitat destruction

None known.

3.3. Indirect threats

Permanently at risk from floating and beached oil.

3.4. Threats connected especially with migrations

None known.

3.5. National and international utilization

Subsistence hunting in Greenland.

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

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

4.3. Additional protection needs

The population in question is considered to have a favourable conservation status, and is 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.
- Evans, P.G.H. (1984a). Status and Conservation of Seabirds in Northwest Europe (excluding Norway and the USSR). In: Croxall, J.P., Evans, P.G.H. & Schreiber, R.W. (eds), Status and Conservation of the World's Seabirds: 293-321. ICBP Tech. Publ. No.2. Cambridge, UK.
- Evans, P.G.H. (1984b). The Seabirds of Greenland: Their Status and Conservation. In: Croxall, J.P., Evans, P.G.H. & Schreiber, R.W. (eds), Status and Conservation of the World's Seabirds: 49-84. ICBP Tech. Publ. No.2. Cambridge, UK.
- 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 hyperboreus hyperboreus</i>		
Population		
(a) E Greenland/N Europe/W Siberia		
State	Pop.	Status
Austria	a	V
Belgium	a	W
Denmark	a	W
Faroese	a	W
Greenland	a	Sw
Egypt	a	V
France	a	W
Germany	a	W
Hungary	a	V
Iceland	a	Rw
Ireland	a	W
Italy	a	V
Netherlands	a	W
Norway	a	W
Svalbard	a	Sr
Poland	a	V
Portugal	a	V
Romania	a	V
Russian Federation	a	Sr
Sweden	a	W
Switzerland	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	