

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 canus canus and Larus canus heinei 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 canus</u> Linnaeus 1758 ssp. <u>canus</u> and <u>heinei</u>
1.5. Common names	
English:	Common Gull (Mew Gull)
Spanish:	Gaviota Cana
French:	Goeland cendre

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

Two subspecies occur. The nominate race breeds widely in northern Europe from Iceland east to the White Sea (40°E), and winters in Northwest Europe south commonly to western France and in smaller numbers to Iberia, Morocco and the West Mediterranean. L. c. heinei breeds from the Kanin Peninsula and Moscow region east to the Lena River (125°E) and winters mainly in the Black Sea and Caspian Sea, with a few birds reaching the Persian Gulf, East Mediterranean and Baltic.

2.2. Population

Two populations are recognized.

- West & Central Europe/West Mediterranean (canus): 1,500,000; increasing (Rose & Scott 1993).

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

Unpublished data suggest that the total breeding population in Western Europe (L. c. canus) is between 450,000-500,000 pairs. The species has increased and spread in Northwest Europe in the last hundred years, especially in Britain, Ireland and Germany, and now breeds in France (since 1976), Belgium (since 1970), the Netherlands (since 1908), Faeroes (since 1890) and Iceland (since about 1936). Populations in Scandinavia may, however, now be stable, while in Denmark the species decreased from a peak at 75,000-100,000 pairs in the 1930s and 1940s to about 40,000 pairs in 1974 (Evans 1984). No information is available on trends in the eastern population.

### 2.3. Habitat

Unlike most gulls, equally adapted to exposed marine coasts and to inland situations either near or away from water. Mainly occurs in lowlands, but in Norway nests on mountain lakes at nearly 1,400 m. On the sea coast, breeding sites include small inshore rocky stacks, islets and islands, grassy and rocky slopes and cliff-ledges, shingle banks, sand-dunes, and foreshores covered with tide-wrack. Inland, nests on shingle bars, stony islands and marshes in rivers and lakes, around small pools in bogs, on grassy or heather moorland, or even in fields with cereals. Outside the breeding season, occurs widely on grasslands and croplands, tidal estuaries and sandy coasts; also in the southern part of its range on exposed sea coasts and in harbours. Roosts on lakes, reservoirs and estuaries, sometimes in huge numbers (Cramp & Simmons 1983).

### 2.4. Migrations

Mainly migratory. The nominate subspecies winters on the western seaboard of Europe from the Baltic south to Brittany, with small numbers reaching Iberia and the Mediterranean, especially in cold winters. Typically the migration is through the maritime countries, with only small numbers penetrating far inland, although the numbers reaching Central Europe have been increasing in recent years. Norwegian birds winter mostly in the British Isles; Estonian, Finnish, Swedish and Danish birds winter mostly in the North Sea area to the British Isles; Dutch birds winter in the southern North Sea, eastern England and northern France; British and Irish birds seldom emigrate, but make extensive internal dispersals, mainly south and southwest. L. c. heinei winters mainly in the Baltic, Black Sea and Caspian Sea, with only a few birds reaching the eastern Mediterranean, Iraq and the Persian Gulf. Some ringing recoveries suggest that a few heinei reach Northwest Europe in winter (Cramp & Simmons 1983).

## 3. **Threat data**

### 3.1. Direct threats to the population

Some hunting takes place in Denmark and Germany, and possibly also in eastern Europe and West Asia, but the numbers taken are likely to be small.

### 3.2. Habitat destruction

None known.

### 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

There is a legal hunting season in Denmark and Germany, and some hunting may occur in eastern Europe and West Asia.

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

### 4.1. National protection status

Larus canus is fully protected under national legislation in all twelve member states of the EEC except Denmark and Germany where a hunting season is established. In Africa, it is fully protected under national legislation in Morocco and Tunisia.

### 4.2. International protection status

Larus canus is listed in Appendix III (protected fauna) of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Berne Convention), and is also listed in Annex II/2 of the EEC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC).

### 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.
- Evans, P.G.H. (1984). 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.
- 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 canus</i> (ssp <i>canus</i> & <i>heinei</i> )		
Population		
(a) N & W Europe (ssp <i>canus</i> )		
(b) W Siberia/E Europe/SW Asia (ssp <i>heinei</i> )		
State	Pop.	Status
Algeria	a	V
Azerbaijan	b	W
Belarus	a	S
Belgium	a	Wrs
Denmark	a	Wrs
Faroes	a	Swr
Egypt	b	W
Estonia	a	Swr
Finland	a	Swr
France	a	Wf
Georgia	b	?
Germany	a	Wsr
Greece	b	W
Iceland	a	Sw
Iran	b	W
Iraq	b	W
Ireland	a	Wsr
Israel	b	W
Kazakhstan	b	Sw
Kuwait	b	V
Latvia	a	Sw
Lebanon	b	V
Libya	b	V
Liechtenstein	a	W
Lithuania	a	Ws
Mauritania	a	V
Morocco	a	V
Netherlands	a	Wrs
Norway	a	Sw
Svalbard	a	Ws
Poland	a	W
Romania	b	W

Russian Federation	a	Sw
"	b	Sw
Sweden	a	Sw
Switzerland	a	Wr
Syria	b	V
Tunisia	a	V
Turkey	b	W
Turkmenistan	b	W
Ukraine	b	W
United Kingdom	a	Wsr

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	