

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 glaucoides (population wintering in Northwest Europe) 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 glaucoides</u> Meyer 1822 |
| | Monotypic |
| 1.5. Common names | |
| English: | Iceland Gull |
| Spanish: | Gaviota Polar |
| French: | Goeland a ailes blanches |

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

The species breeds in Greenland, and winters in southern Greenland, Iceland and to a much lesser extent the British Isles and Scandinavia.

2.2. Population

Only one population is recognized.

- East Greenland/Iceland/Northwest Europe: In the range 100,000-1,000,000; stable (Rose & Scott 1993).

A common breeding species in low-arctic Greenland. Evans (1984) gives the breeding population as being in the range 10,000-100,000 pairs. The closely related Larus kumlienii of northeastern Canada was formerly considered to be a subspecies of glaucoides.

2.3. Habitat

Breeds on low-arctic rocky coasts, mainly in fjords and sounds well in from the open ocean. Usually nests on high steep cliffs, but also occasionally on low skerries, detached stacks or low cliffs. Outside the breeding season, disperses along the coast. Birds which reach Northwest Europe frequently visit fishing ports and harbours, and often scavenge at refuse tips and sewage outfalls with other gulls (Cramp & Simmons 1983).

2.4. Migrations

Birds breeding on the west coast of Greenland are sedentary or dispersive within Greenland; those breeding on the east coast are migratory, wintering mainly in Iceland but also in small numbers to the

Faeroes, British Isles and occasionally Scandinavia (Cramp & Simmons 1983).

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 1984).

3.2. Habitat destruction

None known.

3.3. Indirect threats

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 glaucoides 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. (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 glaucoides</i>		
Population		
(a) E Greenland/Iceland/NW Europe		
State	Pop.	Status
Denmark	a	W
Faroes	a	W
Greenland	a	Sw
France	a	V
Iceland	a	W
Ireland	a	W
Norway	a	W
Spain	a	V
Sweden	a	W
United Kingdom	a	W
Gibraltar	a	V
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		