

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 ichthyaetus (West Eurasian and African population) 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 ichthyaetus</u> Pallas 1773 Monotypic
1.5. Common names	
English:	Great Black-headed Gull
Spanish:	Gavion Cabecinegro
French:	Goeland ichthyaete

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

The species breeds from the Black Sea eastwards across West and Central Asia to the Tibetan Plateau, the westernmost populations wintering in the Caspian Sea, Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea, with small numbers reaching the Ethiopian lakes in Northeast Africa. Only a vagrant in Europe west of the Black Sea; has straggled south in winter to the Rift Valley Lakes of Kenya and Uganda and the Kenya coast.

2.2. Population

One population is recognized.

- Middle East/Northeast Africa: In the range 25,000-100,000; apparently stable (Rose & Scott 1993).

Unpublished data suggest that the total breeding population in Europe (including the North Caspian) is between 25,000 and 40,000 pairs. Over 12,600 were recorded in Southwest Asia during the Asian Waterfowl Census of January 1992, mainly in Oman (8,560) and Iran (3,780) (Perennou & Mundkur 1992). Fifty were recorded in Iraq in January 1979 (Carp and Scott, 1979), and up to 110 have been observed at lakes in Ethiopia (Urban et al. 1986). Numbers appear to be relatively stable.

2.3. Habitat

Breeds at freshwater, brackish and saline lakes, along rivers and in deltas within the steppe and desert zone from the Black Sea eastwards. Frequently nests on islands and islets, but will also nest in reed-beds or amongst dry grasses in sand-dunes. A colonial nester, often in company with other species of Laridae. Outside the breeding season, occurs mainly along sea-coasts, favouring sandy shores and river

mouths, but also occurs inland on large rivers and lakes. Often follows fishing boats, but seldom scavenges in harbours (Cramp & Simmons 1983; Urban *et al.* 1986).

#### 2.4. Migrations

Migratory. The main wintering areas are in the southern Caspian Sea, Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea, with much smaller numbers occurring on large inland lakes in Iraq, southern Iran and Ethiopia. The species is only occasional in winter in the Black Sea, and very scarce in the eastern Mediterranean, Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, although it was formerly reported to be regular in Egypt. The small number of birds wintering in Ethiopia presumably reach there via the Gulf of Suez and the Red Sea, but there are few recent records to support this (Cramp & Simmons 1983).

### 3. **Threat data**

#### 3.1. Direct threats to the population

A few birds are shot in the South Caspian region and perhaps elsewhere in its range.

#### 3.2. Habitat destruction

No information.

#### 3.3. Indirect threats

Permanently at risk from floating and beached oil, especially in the Persian Gulf.

#### 3.4. Threats connected especially with migrations

None known.

#### 3.5. National and international utilization

Some hunting occurs in Southwest Asia.

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

#### 4.1. National protection status

In Africa, fully protected under national legislation in Ethiopia and Somalia.

#### 4.2. International protection status

None known.

#### 4.3. Additional protection needs

The West Eurasian and African population of Larus ichthyaetus is listed in the category 'Localized' in the Draft Management Plan for the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds,

because it is a biogeographical population which, although numerically stable or increasing, is restricted to only a few key sites during a part or the whole of its annual cycle. 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). (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.
- Golovkin, A.N. (1984). Seabirds nesting in the USSR: the status and protection of populations. *In*: Croxall, J.P., Evans, P.G.H. & Schreiber, R.W. (eds), Status and Conservation of the World's Seabirds: 473-486. ICBP Tech. Publ. No.2. Cambridge, UK.
- Harrison, P. (1983). Seabirds: an identification guide. Croom Helm Ltd., Beckenham, U.K.
- Perennou, C. & Mundkur, T. (1992). Asian and Australasian Waterfowl Census 1992. IWRB, Slimbridge, 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.
- Scott, D.A. and Carp, E. (1982). A Midwinter Survey of Wetlands in Mesopotamia, Iraq: 1979. Sandgrouse 4: 60-76.
- Urban, E.K., Fry, C.H. & Keith, S. (1986). The Birds of Africa. Volume II. Academic Press, London & Orlando.

Taxon: <i>Larus ichthyaetus</i>		
Population		
(a) Middle East/NE Africa		
State	Pop.	Status
Azerbaijan	a	W
Bahrain	a	Wp
Belgium	a	V
Cyprus	a	V
Denmark	a	V
Egypt	a	W
Ethiopia	a	W
Greece	a	V
Iran	a	W
Iraq	a	W
Israel	a	W
Italy	a	V
Jordan	a	V
Kazakhstan	a	Swr
Kenya	a	V
Kuwait	a	W
Lebanon	a	V
Moldova	a	Swr
Netherlands	a	V
Oman	a	W
Poland	a	V
Qatar	a	P?
Romania	a	V
Russian Federation	a	Swr
Saudi Arabia	a	W
Seychelles	a	V
Sudan	a	V
Sweden	a	V
Syria	a	V
Turkmenistan	a	W
Uganda	a	V
United Arab Emirates	a	Pw
United Kingdom	a	V

Yemen		a	W
Key to Status			
<b>S/s</b> Breeding summer visitor	<b>R/r</b> Resident		
<b>W/w</b> Winter visitor	<b>V</b> Vagrant		
<b>P/p</b> Passage migrant	<b>?</b> Status uncertain		
Upper case = primary status Lower case = secondary status			