Report under the Article 12 of the Birds Directive Period 2008-2012

European Environment Agency European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity



Alca torda

Annex I No International action plan No

Razorbill, *Alca torda*, is a species of colonial seabird found in unvegetated or sparsely vegetated land, shelf and open ocean ecosystems. Iceland holds over two-thirds of the European total, followed in importance by the U.K. and Norway, these three countries together supporting over 90% of the European population. The species lives on rocky sea coasts, breeding on cliff ledges and under boulders. Northern populations migrate outside the breeding season, while southern ones are both migratory as far as the Mediterranean (mainly immatures) and dispersive (adults) (European Red List 2015).

Alca torda has a breeding population size of 279000-295000 individuals and a breeding range size of 68400 square kilometres in the EU27. The breeding population trend in the EU27 is Increasing in the short term and Increasing in the long term.

The EU population status of *Alca torda* was assessed as Secure, because the species does not meet any of the IUCN Red List criteria for threatened or Near Threatened, or the criteria for Depleted or Declining (the EU27 population or range has not declined by 20% or more since 1980).

Assessment of status at the European level

Breeding	Breeding population trend		Range _	Breeding range trend		Winter	Winter population trend		_ Population
population size	Short term	Long term	area	Short term	Long term	population size	Short term	Long term	status
279000 - 295000 i	+	+	68400						Secure

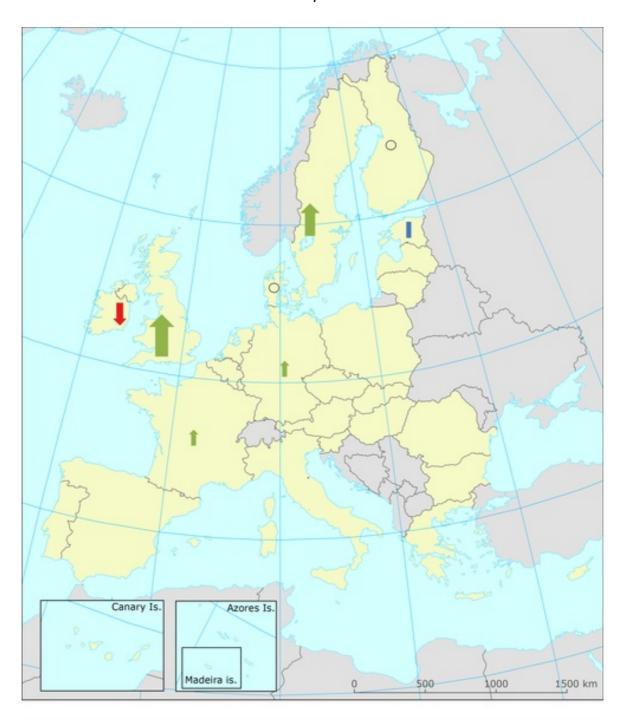
See the endnotes for more informationⁱ

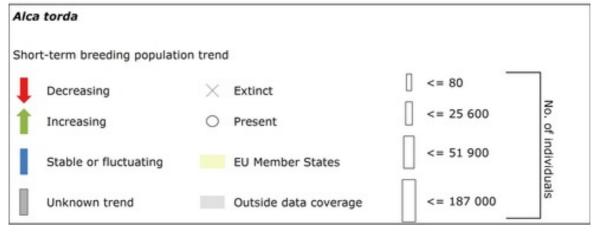


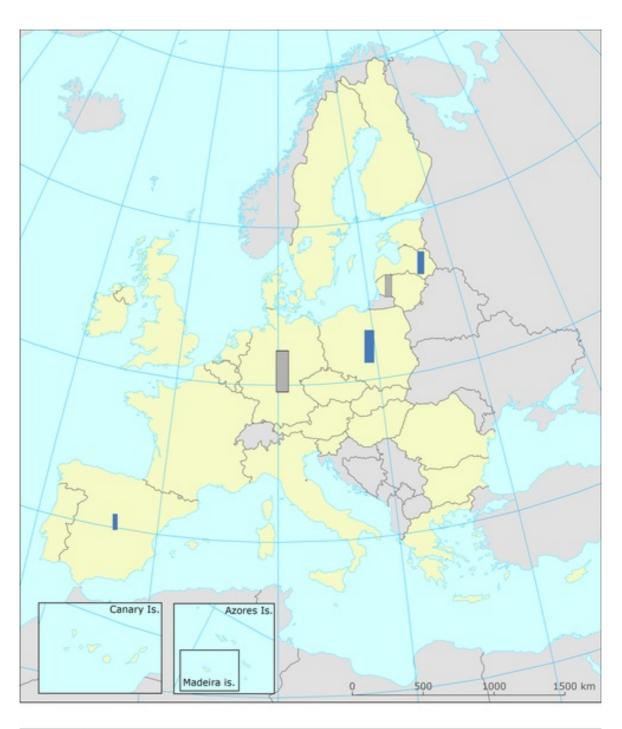
Trends at the Member State level

MS/Ter.	% in	Breeding	Breeding population trend		_ Range	Breeding range trend		Winter population	Winter population trend	
MS/Ter. EU27		population size	Short term	Long term	area	Short term	Long term	size	Short term	Long term
DE	0.2	32 - 32 i	+	+	2	0	0	11000 - 11000 i	X	0
DK	0.9	1300 - 1300 p	+	+	131	-	+			
EE	1.7	2 - 20 i	0	+	800	0	+			
ES								60 - 216 i	F	-
FI	22.8	7900 - 11700 p	F	+	26700	X	+			
FR	0.6	72 - 80 i	+	-	400	0	0			
IE	11.2	25525 - 25525 i	-	+	7200	+	0			
LT								1000 - 6500 i	X	X
LV								1500 - 2000 i	F	X
PL								1300 - 20000 i	F	X
SE	12.0	48000 - 56000 i	+	+	10700	0	X			
UK	50.5	187000 - 187000 i	+	+	22500	-	-			

See the endnotes for more informationⁱⁱ









Main pressures and threats reported by Member States

For the bird species triggering SPA classification Member States were asked to report the 20 most important pressures and threats using an agreed hierarchical list which can be found on the Article 12 Reference Portal (http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/activities/Reporting/Article_12/reference_portal). Pressures are activities which are currently having an impact on the species and threats are activities expected to have an impact in the near future. The table below only contains information from Member States, where a species triggers SPA classification. Pressures and threats were ranked in three classes 'high, medium and low importance', the table below only shows pressures and threats classed as 'high', for some species there were less than ten pressures and threats reported as highly important.

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' pressures and threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
F02	Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	38
H03	Pollution to marine waters	23
H01	Pollution to surface waters	15
I01	Invasive alien species	8
J03	Other changes to ecosystems	8
M02	Biotic changes (climate change)	8

Proportion of population covered by the Natura 2000 network

For the bird species triggering SPA classification Member States were asked to report the size of a species population occurring within the Natura 2000 network. The percentage of species population covered by the network was estimated by comparing the population size within the network and the total population size.

Percentage of coverage by Natura 2000 sites

MS/territory	season	SPA trigger	% coverage
DE	breeding	YES	53.12
DE	winter	YES	20
DK	breeding	NO	
EE	breeding	YES	27.39
ES	winter	YES	20.2
FI	breeding	YES	86.2
FR	breeding	NO	
ΙE	breeding	YES	95.69
LT	winter	YES	8.77
LV	winter	YES	86.6
PL	winter	YES	63.17
SE	breeding	YES	67.48
UK	breeding	YES	66.92

See the endnotes for more informationiii

Most frequently reported conservation measures

For the bird species triggering SPA classification Member States were asked to report up to 20 conservation measures being implemented for this species using an agreed list which can be found on the Article 12 Reference Portal. Member States were further requested to highlight up to five most important ('highly important') measures; the table below only shows measures classed as 'high', for many species there were less than ten measures reported as highly important.

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' conservation measures

Code	Measure	Frequency
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites	32
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species	32
7.4	Specific single species or species group management measures	11
5.0	Other marine-related measures	5
5.1	Restoring marine habitats	5
6.0	Other spatial measures	5
7.3	Regulation/ Management of fishery in marine and brackish systems	5
9.2	Regulating/Managing exploitation of natural resources on sea	5

This information is derived from the Member State national reports submitted to the European Commission under Article 12 of the Birds Directive in 2013 and covering the period 2008-2012. More detailed information, including the MS reports, is available at: http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article12/summary?period=1&subject=A200.

ⁱ Assessment of status at the European level: The EU assessments of birds population status was made by the European Red List of Birds Consortium (under contract with the European Commission)

The EU27 population trends were assessed using these categories: '+' Increasing, '0' Stable, 'F' Fluctuating, '-' Decreasing, 'xu' Uncertain and 'x' Unknown. The breeding population size is estimated in majority of the cases as 'p' number of pairs. Alternative population units used are: 'males' number of males, 'i' number of individuals, 'cmales' number of calling males and 'bfem' number of breeding females. The winter population size is estimated as number of individuals.

ⁱⁱSpecies trends at the Member State level: The percentage of the EU27 species population occurring in the Member States (% in EU27) is calculated based on the population size reported by the Member States.

iiiPercentage of coverage by Natura 2000 sites: In some cases the population size within the Natura 2000 network has been estimated using a different methodology to the estimate of overall population size and this can lead to percentage covers greater than 100%. In such case the value has been given as 100% and highlighted with an asterisk (*). The value 'x' indicates that the Member State has not reported the species population and/or the coverage by Natura 2000. No information is available for Greece and for non-Annex I species in the Czech Republic.