#### European Environment Agency European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity



#### Sterna albifrons albifrons

Europe north of Mediterranean (bre)

Annex I Yes-HTL International action plan No

Little Tern, *Sterna albifrons*, is a species of seabird found in unvegetated or sparsely vegetated land and river and lake ecosystems.

Sterna albifrons has a breeding population size of 14400-19700 pairs and a breeding range size of 169000 square kilometres in the EU27. The breeding population trend in the EU27 is Fluctuating in the short term and Decreasing in the long term.

The EU population status of *Sterna albifrons* 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).

This factsheet was produced for *Sterna albifrons albifrons* [Europe north of Mediterranean (bre)] population. Also other subspecies/populations of the same species occur within the EU27. The assessment of status at the European level and the introductory text were done at the species level in line with the criteria for assessment of the EU population status.

### Assessment of status at the European level

Breeding population size	Breeding population trend		_ Range _	Breeding range Range trend		Winter	Winter population trend		_ Population
	Short term	Long term	area	Short term	Long term	population size	Short term	Long term	status
14400 - 19700 p	F	-	169000						Secure

See the endnotes for more information<sup>i</sup>

The population status assessment at the EU level was carried out at the species level. The EU status assessment covers following subspecies/populations: *Sterna albifrons albifrons* [Europe north of Mediterranean (bre)], *Sterna albifrons albifrons* [Black Sea & East Mediterranean (bre)] (each of them presented in a separate factsheet).

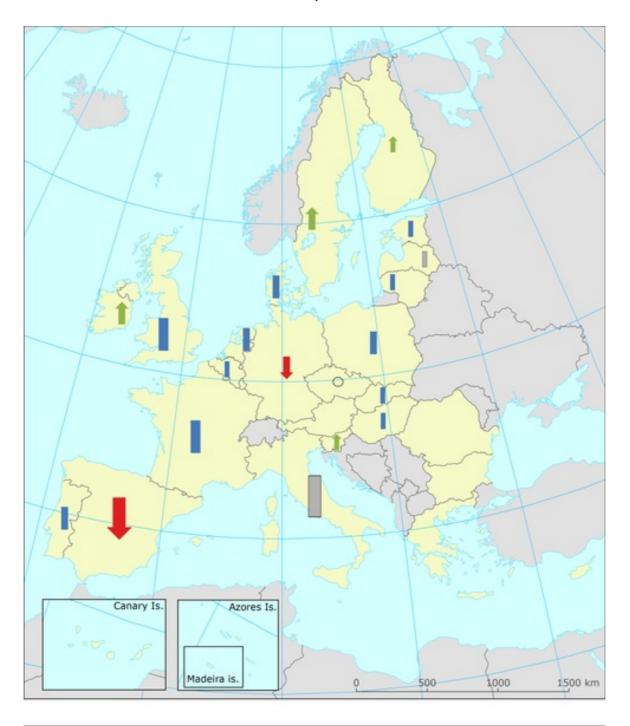
The EU trends were assessed at the species or subspecies level following BirdLife International's current taxonomy. The EU trends assessment covers more former subspecies or populations: *Sterna albifrons albifrons* [Europe north of Mediterranean (bre)], *Sterna albifrons albifrons* [Black Sea & East Mediterranean (bre)] (each of them presented in a separate factsheet).

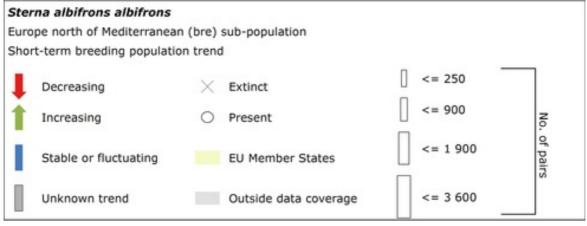


### Trends at the Member State level

MS/Ter. % in		Breeding	Breeding population trend		Range	Breeding range trend		Winter population	Winter population trend	
wis/Tel.	EU27	EU27 population size		Long term	area	Short term	Long term	size	Short term	Long term
BE	0.2	30 - 177 p	0	+	164	0	0			
CZ										
DE	5.8	600 - 650 p	-	0	2759	0	0			
DK	6.6	410 - 410 p	0	0	9620	0	-			
EE	7.6	150 - 300 p	0	0	13600	0	-			
ES	4.3	3575 - 3575 p	-	0	6503	_	0			
FI	3.3	69 - 72 p	+	+	5600	X	+			
FR	13.1	1130 - 2000 p	0	+	22900	X	+			
HU	0.4	2 - 19 p	F	F	237	F	-			
IE	2.2	438 - 438 p	+	+	2800	+	-			
IT	20.3	2000 - 3500 p	X	_	32700	+	+			
LT	4.9	200 - 300 p	0	_	15400	0	0			
LV	3.1	80 - 150 p	X	_	7805	X	0			
NL	3.5	560 - 850 p	F	+	7300	+	0			
PL		800 - 1000 p	F	F		X	X			
PT	3.4	350 - 750 p	0	X	8100	0	0			
SE	10.6	350 - 650 p	+	_	20000	0	X			
SI	0.2	35 - 72 p	+	+	107	0	-			
SK	0.1	0 - 5 p	F	F	100	F	F			
UK	10.4	1900 - 1900 p	0	_	10100		-			

See the endnotes for more information<sup>ii</sup>





Short-term winter population trend was not reported for this species.

### 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
G01	Outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities	23
K03	Interspecific faunal relations	18
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	10
J03	Other changes to ecosystems	10
C01	Mining and quarrying	8
I01	Invasive alien species	5
102	Problematic native species	5
A04	Grazing by livestock	3
D05	Improved access to site	3
E01	Urbanisation and human habitation	3

### 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
BE	breeding	YES	100
DE	breeding	YES	99.01
DK	breeding	YES	86.58
EE	breeding	YES	81.65
ES	breeding	YES	100

MS/territory	season	SPA trigger	% coverage
FI	breeding	YES	74.4
FR	breeding	YES	89.24
HU	breeding	YES	100
IE	breeding	YES	93.38
IT	breeding	YES	92.2
LT	breeding	YES	60.93
LV	breeding	YES	36.08
NL	breeding	YES	81.07
PL	breeding	YES	94.87
PT	breeding	YES	73.03
SE	breeding	YES	57.62
SI	breeding	NO	
SK	breeding	NO	
UK	breeding	YES	60.84

See the endnotes for more information iii

### 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	28
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species	19
4.2	Restoring/improving the hydrological regime	9
7.4	Specific single species or species group management measures	9
4.4	Restoring coastal areas	5
6.4	Manage landscape features	5
7.1	Regulation/ Management of hunting and taking	5
9.2	Regulating/Managing exploitation of natural resources on sea	5
4.0	Other wetland-related measures	2
4.1	Restoring/improving water quality	2

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=A631-A.

### **Sterna albifrons** [Europe north of Mediterranean (bre)]

Report under the Article 12 of the Birds Directive

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.

"Species 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.