



## Species and Habitat Action Plan Assessment Form

Please refer to the accompanying guidance for information about how to complete this form and an explanation of terms used

### Field 1: Action Plan details

<b>Species/Habitat Action Plan</b>	<b>Common Scoter</b>
<b>Lead Partner/Agency</b>	<b>Wildfowl &amp; Wetlands Trust/Royal Society for the Protection of Birds</b>
<b>Steering Group/Other organisations</b>	<i>Steering group in existence? Please state yes or no. Please list the organisations represented. <b>NO</b></i>
<b>Work programme in existence?</b>	<i>Please state yes or no. If in existence, please use the agreed work programme to update Field 3 and Table B. <b>NO</b></i>

### Field 2: Objectives and targets overview

Please list the targets for the action plan, indicating in which country/region the target is applicable, and additional comments including the rationale for new targets. For each new target please add new sequential paragraph numbers and target text. Please provide information about progress and country disaggregation in Table A for all targets.

Number and text	UK	E	NI	S	W	Comments
4.1. In Scotland, increase the breeding population to at least 100 pairs by 2008, and maintain at least the existing range.				✓		
4.2. Regain common scoter as a breeding species in Northern Ireland.			✓			
4.3. Safeguard the current range and distribution of moulting and wintering common scoters.	✓					

**Field 3: Proposed actions overview**

Please list the proposed actions for the action plan, indicating in which country/region the action is applicable. For each new action please add new sequential paragraph numbers and action text. If the action is regarded as significant (please see guidance) indicate this in the box and provide further details in Table B. For actions not regarded as significant simply state if the action is ongoing or complete. Remember any action which is being dropped from the workplan will be regarded as significant for the first round of reporting.

Number and text	UK	E	NI	S	W	Action significant?	Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)
<b>5.1 POLICY AND LEGISLATION</b>							
5.1.1 Seek the implementation of effective legislation to enable site protection of important common scoter marine wintering sites	✓						Not started
5.1.2 Consider the adoption of improved pollution prevention and control measures, including MEHRAs and shipping management measures	✓						Not started
5.1.3 Take forward enforcement of MARPOL limits on deliberate discharges, port waste management plans and oil spill contingency planning	✓						Not started
5.1.4 Ensure that licensing of offshore oil and gas blocks does not detrimentally affect important wintering or moulting sites of common scoters	✓						Not started
5.1.5 Seek the introduction of improved shellfish harvesting and monitoring practices which recognise important and/or designated common scoter areas	✓						Ongoing
5.1.6 Consider the potential impacts of afforestation proposals on mesotrophic lochs, flows and heather moorland in common scoter areas			✓	✓			Not started
<b>5.2 SITE SAFEGUARD AND MANAGEMENT</b>							
5.2.1 Encourage positive management of peatlands and moorland around common scoter nesting sites			✓	✓			Ongoing
5.2.2 Designate important breeding, moulting and wintering sites as SSSI/ASSI and SPA for common scoters, and encourage their appropriate management	✓						Ongoing
5.2.3 Liaise with Republic of Ireland over the impact of the Ballyshannon hydro-electric power station on common scoters and the potential for recolonisation			✓				Not started
5.2.4 Ensure that detrimental effects of development proposals on regular breeding sites and key wintering/moulting sites for common scoters are minimised	✓						Not started
5.2.5 Identify forestry sites adjacent to breeding common scoter sites where undesirable impacts could be remedied			✓	✓			Not started
5.2.6 Seek to enhance water quality in Lower Lough Erne to improve chances of			✓				Not started

Number and text	UK	E	NI	S	W	Action significant?	Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)
common scoter recolonisation							
5.2.6 Seek to enhance water quality in Lower Lough Erne to improve chances of common scoter recolonisation			✓				Not started
<b>5.3 SPECIES MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION</b>							
5.3.1 Monitor the impact of predators on breeding populations of common scoters, and consider control if necessary				✓			Not started
<b>5.4 ADVISORY</b>							
5.4.1 Provide advice to wetland owners and managers about the requirements of common scoters				✓			Ongoing
<b>5.5 RESEARCH AND MONITORING</b>							
5.5.1 Revise methods of survey and monitoring of wintering common scoters	✓						Started but not yet complete
5.5.2 Pass information gathered during survey and monitoring of this species to JNCC and the Rare Breeding Birds Panel	✓						Ongoing
5.5.3 Investigate the ecology, food sources and origin of wintering and moulting common scoters			✓	✓	✓		Started but not yet complete
5.5.4 Investigate the ecology of breeding common scoters, including food availability, water quality, predators, and habitat, and clarify impacts of afforestation				✓			Not started
5.5.5 Promote research into the wintering grounds of UK breeding birds and the origins of birds wintering in UK waters	✓						Not started
<b>5.6. COMMUNICATION AND PUBLICITY</b>							
5.6.1 Raise the profile of common scoter as a species that has recently become extinct as a breeder in Northern Ireland and is under threat from land-use changes in the Flow Country	✓						Not started
<b>5.7 LINKS WITH OTHER ACTION PLANS</b>							
5.7.1 Common scoter may benefit from actions arising out of the eutrophic and mesotrophic standing waters habitat action plans	✓						Not started

**Field 4: Assessment of status**

Please tick the appropriate category to indicate the assessment of status of the species or habitat, for each country/region where appropriate, and provide a statement supporting the category selected.

	Not appropriate	Recovered	Signs of recovery	No change	Declining	Lost	Insufficient information
<i>UK</i>							
<i>England</i>							
<i>Northern Ireland</i>							

<i>Scotland</i>							
<i>Wales</i>							
Brief text description justifying assessment of status: ( <i>~ no more than 100 words for each country/region</i> )							

**Field 5: Summary statement**

*Please provide an overview of plan implementation, including new factors affecting the species or habitat which will accelerate or constrain progress towards meeting of the targets. Where a factor results in new action(s) please cross-reference back to the relevant numbers under Field 3 and Table B.*

**The work plan for the Common Scoter BAP has not yet been produced, although BAP implementation has been discussed in detail by the Joint Lead Partners and the Contact Point. Plans have been made to hold the first meeting of the Steering Group early in 2000 at which a draft work plan will be agreed. Certain BAP actions have, however, been progressed.**

**In Wales, CCW and WWT have been monitoring Common Scoter numbers in Carmarthen Bay since the Sea Empress oil spill in February 1996. Since 1998, CCW, the University of Swansea and WWT have been conducting research into Common Scoter winter feeding ecology in Carmarthen Bay. Two PhD students are studying Common Scoter distribution and behaviour and the population dynamics of their benthic invertebrate food. CCW is currently collaborating with British Hamilton Petroleum, EN, RSPB and WWT in designing a monitoring programme for Common Scoter in North Wales and Liverpool Bay. CCW have also progressed the designation of Carmarthen Bay as an SPA for Common Scoter and are involved in ongoing discussions with the South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee in an attempt to minimise the impact of shell-fishing in Carmarthen Bay on Common Scoter.**

**In Scotland, SNH have progressed the designation of the Tay and Eden Estuary complex as an SPA for Common Scoter. In 1999, RSPB conducted a survey of breeding Common Scoter in the Flow Country and Highland Region. The number of birds located and their breeding success was very low highlighting the urgent need for annual monitoring. On the main breeding site in Scotland, 18 pairs of Common Scoter produced only two broods of ducklings, at least four clutches of eggs being stolen by egg collectors who were later apprehended by the police.**

**In 1999, JNCC, the Country Agencies and WWT began work on a UK Sea Duck monitoring strategy which will provide a framework for surveying wintering and moulting Common Scoter and thus for identifying nationally and internationally important sites.**

**Field 6: Signing off**

*Please 'sign off' the form below to confirm that steering group members or key contacts have been consulted and agreed the information provided.*

Contact details	Lead Partner	Contact Point
Name	Dr Baz Hughes/Colin Crooke	Dr Andy Douse
Organisation	Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust/Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Scottish Natural Heritage
Assessment date (dd/mm/yy)	24/9/1999	

*Completed forms should be submitted to JNCC*

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