

Melanitta nigra (Common Scoter)

Full report outputted on the 31/07/2003 11:01:06

1. Status of the habitat / species

Please give your most accurate assessment of the status of your species or habitat for the UK and for each country. Leave the row blank where the species or habitat does not occur in that country.

| | Amount: | Units: | Year: | Accuracy: | Reference for data: |
|----|---------|----------------------|-------|----------------|---|
| UK | 95 | Breeding pairs/units | 1995 | Full survey | Underhill, M.C., Gittings, T., Callaghan, D.A., Hughes, B., Kirby, J.S & Delany, S. 1998. Pre-breeding status and distribution of the Common Scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i> in Britain and Ireland in 1995. <i>Bird Study</i> 45: 146-156; Tierney, T.D., Dunne, J. & Callanan, T. 2000. The Common Scoter <i>Melanitta nigra nigra</i> breeding in Ireland range expansion or site relocation? <i>Irish Birds</i> 6: 447-452. |
| E | 0 | Breeding pairs/units | 2002 | Informed guess | Doesn't breed in England, but is included in plan due to presence of moulting/w intering birds. UK Rare Breeding Birds Panel has no breeding records for this species in England. |

| | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----------------------|------|--------------------------|---|
| NI | 0 | Breeding pairs/units | 1995 | Partial or sample survey | Tierney, T.D., Dunne, J. & Callanan, T. 2000. The Common Scoter <i>Melanitta nigra nigra</i> breeding in Ireland, range expansion or site relocation? Irish Birds 6: 447-452; RSPB pers. comm. 2002 |
| S | 95 | Breeding pairs/units | 1995 | Full survey | Underhill, M.C., Gittings, T., Callaghan, D.A., Hughes, B., Kirby, J.S & Delany, S. 1998. Pre-breeding status and distribution of the Common Scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i> in Britain and Ireland in 1995. Bird Study 45: 146-156 |
| W | 0 | Breeding pairs/units | 2002 | Informed guess | Doesn't breed in Wales, but is included in plan due to presence of moulting/w intering birds. UK Rare Breeding Birds Panel has no breeding records for this species in Wales. |

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2. Trend in Biological Status

Please give your best estimate of the current trend for your species or habitat for the UK, and each appropriate country, using the following categories. Please give an estimate unless there is absolutely no information on which to assess status.

| | Trend: | Accuracy: | Reference for data: |
|-----------|---|---------------|--|
| UK | Declining (continuing/accelerating) ▼ | Full survey ▼ | <p>Underhill, M.C., Gittings, T., Callaghan, D.A., Hughes, B., Kirby, J.S & Delany, S. 1998. Pre breeding status and distribution of the Common Scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i> in Britain and Ireland in 1995. <i>Bird Study</i> 45: 146-156; Gregory, R.D., Noble, D.G., Robinson, J.A., Stroud, D.A., Campbell, L.H., Rehfisch, M.M., Cranswick, P.A., Wilkinson, N.I., Crick, H.Q.P. & Green, R.E. 2002. The state of the UK's birds 2001. The RSPB, BTO, WWT and JNCC, Sandy.</p> |
| E | Not applicable (does not occur in this country) ▼ | ▼ | |
| NI | Lost (pre BAP publication) ▼ | Full survey ▼ | <p>Gittings, T. 1995. The Status of the Common Scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i> in Ireland. Unpubl. report, Irish Wildbird Conservancy, Dublin; Tierney, T.D., Dunne, J. & Callanan, T. 2000. The Common Scoter <i>Melanitta nigra nigra</i> breeding in Ireland, range expansion or site relocation? <i>Irish Birds</i> 6: 447-452; RSPB survey of L. Lough Erne 2002</p> |

| | | | |
|----------|---|---------------|--|
| S | Declining (continuing/accelerating) ▼ | Full survey ▼ | Underhill, M.C., Gittings, T., Callaghan, D.A., Hughes, B., Kirby, J.S & Delany, S. 1998. Pre breeding status and distribution of the Common Scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i> in Britain and Ireland in 1995. <i>Bird Study</i> 45: 146-156 |
| | | | |
| W | Not applicable (does not occur in this country) ▼ | ▼ | |

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3. Status of knowledge

To what extent is our scientific knowledge of the habitat / species (e.g research information, autecological knowledge, knowledge for effective re-introduction or habitat restoration/re-creation) sufficient to deliver the plan targets?

Please give an assessment for the UK overall but if there is significant difference in knowledge between different countries this should be noted.

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Status of knowledge: | Know ledge insufficient and no suitable research programme in place. ▼ |
|-----------------------------|--|

Notes:

Limited breeding surveys are conducted by RSPB. Research proposals for studies to collect key information on what limits breeding populations have been produced but no funding secured.
More information is available on wintering populations, mainly through detailed surveys and research into feeding ecology in Wales.

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4. Progress on targets

Each of the revised targets from the 2001 Targets Review is listed below.

For each one please give a qualitative assessment of progress for the UK and each country. You can also enter quantitative information on progress by entering data in each of the target boxes and entering the current amount in the amount box. For more information see Help.

T1: In Scotland, increase the breeding population to at least 100 pairs by 2008.

Target start date:

1998

Target end date:

2008

Target units:

Breeding pairs/units

| | Progress | Target | Current | Accuracy | Monitoring |
|----|-------------|--------|---------|------------|--------------------------|
| UK | No progress | 100 | 80 | Best guess | Under active development |
| E | | | | | |
| NI | | | | | |
| S | No progress | 100 | 80 | Best guess | Under active development |
| W | | | | | |

T2: In Scotland, maintain at least the existing breeding range.

Target start date: 1998

Target end date: Ongoing

Target units: Sites/ Populations

| | Progress | Target | Current | Accuracy | Monitoring |
|----|---------------------------------|--------|---------|----------|--------------------------|
| UK | Some progress (behind schedule) | 61 | | Unknown | Under active development |

| | | | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| E | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| NI | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| S | Some progress (behind schedule) | 61 | | Unknown | Under active development |
| W | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

T3: Regain common scoter as a breeding species in Northern Ireland.

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Target start date: | 1998 |
| Target end date: | Ongoing |
| Target units: | Breeding pairs/units |

| | Progress | Target | Current | Accuracy | Monitoring |
|-----------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| UK | No progress | | 0 | Partial or sample survey | Under active development |
| E | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| NI | No progress | | 0 | Partial or sample survey | Under active development |

| | | | | | |
|----------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| S | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| W | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

T4: Maintain the current range and distribution of moulting common scoters.

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Target start date: | <input type="text" value="1998"/> |
| Target end date: | <input type="text" value="Ongoing"/> |
| Target units: | <input type="text" value="Sites/ Populations"/> |

| | Progress | Target | Current | Accuracy | Monitoring |
|-----------|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---|
| UK | <input type="text" value="Target achieved"/> | <input type="text" value="14"/> | <input type="text" value="14"/> | <input type="text" value="Partial or sample survey"/> | <input type="text" value="Under active development"/> |
| E | <input type="text" value="Target achieved"/> | <input type="text" value="4"/> | <input type="text" value="4"/> | <input type="text" value="Partial or sample survey"/> | <input type="text" value="Under active development"/> |
| NI | <input type="text" value="Target achieved"/> | <input type="text" value="1"/> | <input type="text" value="1"/> | <input type="text" value="Partial or sample survey"/> | <input type="text" value="Under active development"/> |
| S | <input type="text" value="Target achieved"/> | <input type="text" value="6"/> | <input type="text" value="6"/> | <input type="text" value="Partial or sample survey"/> | <input type="text" value="Under active development"/> |
| W | <input type="text" value="Target achieved"/> | <input type="text" value="3"/> | <input type="text" value="3"/> | <input type="text" value="Full survey"/> | <input type="text" value="Under active development"/> |

T5: Maintain the current range and distribution of wintering common scoters.

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Target start date: | 1998 |
| Target end date: | Ongoing |
| Target units: | Sites/ Populations |

| | Progress | Target | Current | Accuracy | Monitoring |
|-----------|-----------------|--------|---------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| UK | Target achieved | 14 | 14 | Partial or sample survey | Under active development |
| E | Target achieved | 4 | 4 | Partial or sample survey | Under active development |
| NI | Target achieved | 1 | 1 | Partial or sample survey | Under active development |
| S | Target achieved | 6 | 6 | Partial or sample survey | Under active development |
| W | Target achieved | 3 | 3 | Full survey | Under active development |

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5. Current factors affecting the habitat

When your plan was published the factors (threats) that were thought to be causing loss or decline were listed (in section 2). Re-assessing the current situation may help prioritise actions for your species or habitat. In addition, this enables identification of the main threats to biodiversity across all plans. It is useful to assess whether the importance of different factors is changing and whether there are new issues emerging.

The threat section from the original plan is duplicated below, and a first attempt at categorising the threats has been made. Please confirm that you agree with the categorisation of the original threats identified in the plan (by deleting any wrongly categorised threats and adding the correct category). Please also add to the list any significant threats that have emerged recently, being mindful of environmental issues that have increased in profile or been recognised since plan publication (e.g. climate change). Once you are happy that the list contains all the threats identified in the published plan together with any new ones, please rank them in order of severity (1= highest threat). If the situation has changed and one of the published threats is no longer significant, please leave this in the list but give this rank = 0.

Current factors affecting the habitat from the original publication:

- 2.1 Wintering concentrations of common scoters are extremely vulnerable to large-scale oil spills.
- 2.2 Eutrophication may detrimentally affect food availability. Water clarity and level, and weed growth are also potentially important factors.
- 2.3 Fish stocking may have led to increased competition for invertebrate food in some breeding lakes.
- 2.4 Predation by mink may have been responsible for a steady change in sex-ratio in favour of males in Lower Lough Erne. Foxes are also a problem in some areas.
- 2.5 Afforestation, and its secondary effects such as sedimentation and increased access, are a possible threat to the Scottish population.
- 2.6 Modern commercial harvesting of sand-dwelling shellfish may threaten common scoters' food resources.

Keyworded factors:

To add factors click the add button, to delete factors check the delete box and then click the delete button.

| Delete: | Rank: | Keyword: |
|--------------------------|-------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 | Accidental mortality Fisheries bycatch - netting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 | Changes in native species dynamics Competition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | Changes in native species dynamics Predation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 | Habitat loss / degradation - extraction/drainage Offshore exploration and development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 0 | Habitat loss / degradation - fisheries Damage from bottom-trawling fishing gear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | Habitat loss / degradation - fisheries Dredging for molluscs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 | Habitat loss / degradation - infrastructure development Hydroelectric power |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | Habitat loss / degradation - woodlands/forestry Tree / wood planting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 | Invasive/non-native species (directly affecting species) Competition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 | Invasive/non-native species (directly affecting species) Predation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 | Pollution - atmospheric Global warming / sea-level rise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | Pollution - freshwater Agricultural (nutrient enrichment) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 | Pollution - marine Oil slicks |

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6. Constraints (optional)

Select the three most significant constraints to achieving the targets of the plan, and indicate the order of priority (1-3 with 1 being the most significant constraint). Only include constraints that are acting as a real blockage to delivering the plan targets or leading to a substantial delay in their delivery. For each constraint, please indicate whether you feel that it is within the ability of the lead partner or steering group to resolve the constraint.

| | |
|---|--|
| Constraint 1: | |
| Constraint keyword: | Country: |
| Research, survey and information Autecology - poor know ledge | <input type="checkbox"/> UK <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> NI <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> W |
| Solution: | Solution type: |
| Establish a breeding season monitoring programme | Survey / monitoring |
| Able to resolve: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Constraint 2: | |
| Constraint keyword: | Country: |

| | |
|---|--|
| Research, survey and information Impacts/ threats - little understanding | <input type="checkbox"/> UK <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> NI <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> W |
| Solution: | Solution type: |
| Conduct researchg to determine factors determining breeding population size and distribution | Research |
| Able to resolve: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Constraint 3: | |
| Constraint keyword: | Country: |
| Funding and incentives Staff resources - insufficient | <input type="checkbox"/> UK <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> NI <input type="checkbox"/> S |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> W |
| Solution: | Solution type: |
| Implementing Common Scoter BAP needs to be given greater priority, especially by Lead Partners, Contact Point and Lead Agencies | Funding and incentive schemes |
| Able to resolve: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

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7. Steering Group

Please list all organisations that are represented on the steering group for your species/habitat (include all organisations that have contributed either directly or by correspondence within the last 3 years). Where a steering group does not exist please leave this form blank.

To add organisations click the add button, to delete organisations check the delete box and then click the delete button.

| Delete: | Organisation: |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Argyll and Bute Council |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | BirdWatch Ireland |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | British Ports Association |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | British Wind Energy Association |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Carmarthenshire County Council |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Casella Stanger Environmental Consultants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ceredigion County Council |

- City and Council of Swansea
- Conwy County Borough Council
- Countryside Council for Wales
- Crown Estate
- Cumbria Wildlife Trust
- Denbighshire County Council
- Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions
- Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland
- Department of Trade and Industry
- Dochfour Estate Office
- Dúchas: The Heritage Service
- Dumfries and Galloway Council

- East Lothian Council
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council
- Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee
- English Nature
- Environment Agency
- Environment and Heritage Service
- Environmentally Sustainable Systems
- Fife Council
- Flintshire County Council
- Forestry Commission
- Fountains
- Game Conservancy Trust
- Gwynedd Council

- Highland Regional Council
- Isle of Anglesey County Council
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee
- Maritime and Coastguard Agency
- National Assembly for Wales
- National Environment Research Institute, Denmark
- National Trust for Scotland
- Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership
- Norfolk Wildlife Trust
- North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership
- North of Scotland Water Authority
- North Wales Wildlife Trust
- North Western & North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee

- Northumberland County Council
- Pembrokeshire County Council
- Plantlife
- Rare Breeding Birds Panel
- Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- Scottish Agricultural College
- Scottish and Southern Energy
- Scottish Angling National Association
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency
- Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Division
- Scottish Landowners Federation
- Scottish Natural Heritage

- Scottish Power UK plc
- Scottish Wildlife Trust
- Shetland Islands Council
- South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee
- Stirling Council
- Tayside Biodiversity Partnership
- Teignbridge District Council
- The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales
- Torfaen County Borough Council
- Ulster Wildlife Trust
- Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust
- Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside

Information originally entered by Baz Hughes on Wednesday, September 25, 2002
Information last changed by Norrie Russell on 27 December 2002

8. Other Groups/Organisations

Please list any additional groups/organisations that are actively involved in implementing your action plan. (This is to try to assess which groups are involved where there is no steering group and any additional contributors). If you do not have any other organisations involved, click [here](#).

To add organisations click the add button, to delete organisations check the delete box and then click the delete button.

9. Linkages to LBAPs

a) Which of the following most accurately describes your interaction with LBAPs, up to now?

Good contact with LBAPs, information exchanged. 

b) If you have been in contact with LBAPs how was it initiated?

By Both 

c) Irrespective of current contact, how important do you consider LBAP co-ordinated action will be in achieving the targets of the plan? Select from category:

Important 

d) If you consider LBAP action to be anything other than unimportant, which of the following forms of engagement do you think would be appropriate? (Note, you may tick more than one category.)

- Indirect contact (e.g. posting information on UKBAP website, sharing work programmes, meeting schedules, articles in Biodiversity News, newsletter)
- Provision of generic information on habitat and/or species (e.g. advice and guidance on habitat/species ecology and management)
- Direct provision of advice (e.g. proactive approach to LBAP, response to consultations from LBAPs, advice on LBAP target setting)
- Reciprocal attendance at meetings
- Development of collaborative projects

Other (please specify):

Hopefully LBAP partners can become involved with site-based conservation initiatives (eg. keeping a watching brief on threats to important sites) and in public awareness raising.

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10. Successes (optional)

Have there been key successes in the implementation of your plan that should be drawn to the attention of government, the wider BAP partnership, or the public? Please give a brief description (i.e. 2-3 sentences) of up to three successes and allocate a topic area to each of them:

Success 1:

Description:

Carmarthen Bay, the UK's most important Common Scoter wintering site, is being designated as an SPA.

Country:

UK E NI S W

Keyword:

Policy, legislation and designation | Beneficial changes in EU legislation

Success 2:

Description:

A UK sea duck monitoring protocol has been produced. Implementation has begun with winter aerial surveys.

Country:

UK E NI S W

Keyword:

Research, survey and information | Baseline survey - achieved or started

Success 3:

| | |
|---|---|
| Description: | Country: |
| <p>Numbers and breeding success are being monitored on 46 sites in Scotland and a LIFE Nature project is removing conifers from around key breeding sites on RSPB Reserves in the Flow Country.</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> UK <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> NI <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> W |
| Keyword: | |
| <p>Research, survey and information Monitoring surveys underway</p> | |

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Information last changed by Norrie Russell on 27 December 2002

Thankyou for answering the questions. You have not yet completed all of the questions. You can go back and answer the additional ones or edit the ones you have already answered whenever you want.

Sign-off:

When you have completed all of the questions that you are able to, you must sign off your reporting.

I agree that the steering group (if present) have agreed the information in this report and that the following contact point has also signed it off:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| Contact point: | Andy Douse | email: | ANDY.DOUSE |
| Your name: | Baz Hughes | | |
| Date: | 19/12/2002 | | |

