

Glaucous-winged Gull

Larus glaucescens

Class: Aves

Order: Charadriiformes

Review Status: Peer-reviewed

Version Date: 26 June 2020

Conservation Status

Table 1 Conservation status according to state, national, and international organizations and agencies.

Organization	Rank
NatureServe	G5/S5
ADF&G	Species of Greatest Conservation Need
IUCN	Least Concern
Audubon AK	Watch

Final Rank

Conservation Category: **V. Orange**

Unknown status and either high biological vulnerability or high action need

Table 2 ASRS categorical scores. Higher numerical scores denote greater concern.

Category	Range	Score
Status	-20 to 20	0
Biological	-50 to 50	-29
Action	-40 to 40	4

Status

Variables measure the trend in a taxon's population status or distribution. Higher status scores denote taxa with known declining trends. Status scores range from -20 (increasing) to 20 (decreasing).

Population Trend in Alaska (-10 to 10)

Trends vary based on location. Data from 2009-2018 suggest that some colonies are declining, while others are stable or increasing (Dragoo et al. 2019). Given these conflicting trends, we rank this question as 0- Unknown.

Score: 0

Distribution Trend in Alaska (-10 to 10)

Unknown.

Score: 0

Status Total: 0

Biological

Variables measure aspects of a taxon's distribution, abundance and life history. Higher biological scores suggest greater vulnerability to extirpation. Biological scores range from -50 (least vulnerable) to 50 (most vulnerable).

Population Size in Alaska (-10 to 10)

Statewide population is unknown, but likely >25,000, based on counts from several colonies across its range (Denlinger 2006; Evans et al. 2018; Youngren et al. 2019).

Score: -10

Range Size in Alaska (-10 to 10)

Year-round range includes islands and coastal areas from southwestern Alaska to Southeast Alaska, and west to the Aleutian Islands. Breeding range is limited to southwestern Alaska and portions of southcentral Alaska (Denlinger 2006; Hayward and Verbeek 2020). Estimated breeding range is 86,000 sq. km., based on range map from ACCS (2017a).

Score: -2

Population Concentration in Alaska (-10 to 10)

Breeds in both colonies and scattered pairs (Hayward and Verbeek 2020). There are 825 colonies estimated in Alaska (Denlinger 2006).

Score: -10

Reproductive Potential in Alaska

Age of First Reproduction (-5 to 5)

Unknown in Alaska. Elsewhere, estimated between 4-7 years (Hayward and Verbeek 2020).

Score: 1

Number of Young (-5 to 5)

Ranges from 1 to 4 eggs; means of 2.1 to 2.9 have been reported for Alaska (Schaefer et al. 2019; Hayward and Verbeek 2020). Lays a single clutch per year; laying replacement eggs or clutches are possible, though rare (Schaefer et al. 2019). Because the means span 2 categories, we rank this question as $0.5 * B + 0.5 * C$.

Score: 2

Ecological Specialization in Alaska

Dietary (-5 to 5)

Omnivorous and generalist feeder. Dietary items include marine invertebrates, fish, birds and their eggs, garbage, and carrion (Irons et al. 1986; Baird 1990; Hayward and Verbeek 2020).

Score: -5

Habitat (-5 to 5)

Typically nests in coastal areas and on small islands in a variety of habitats including in grassy meadows, on rocky beaches, on the tundra, and on cliff ledges (Gibson and Byrd 2007; Hayward and Verbeek 2020). Forages nearshore in tidal lagoons and intertidal reefs. During the non-breeding season, can be found offshore and in coastal areas including beaches, garbage dumps, and canneries (Denlinger 2006; Hayward and Verbeek 2020).

Score: -5

Biological Total: -29

Action

Variables measure current state of knowledge or extent of conservation efforts directed toward a given taxon. Higher action scores denote greater information needs due to lack of knowledge or conservation action. Action scores range from -40 (lower needs) to 40 (greater needs).

Management Plans and Regulations in Alaska (-10 to 10)

Protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA 1918). Birds and their eggs are open to subsistence harvest and subject to closed seasons (AMBCC 2020).

Score: -10

Knowledge of Distribution and Habitat in Alaska (-10 to 10)

Habitat associations and range during the breeding season are fairly well-known from multi-species surveys (e.g., Evans et al. 2018; Dragoo et al. 2019) and from species-specific studies, including fine-scale studies on foraging behavior and movements (e.g., Irons et al. 1986; Ahlstrom et al. 2019). The northern extent of their breeding range is unclear and may extend as far north as the Seward Peninsula (see map in Hayward and Verbeek 2020; Winker et al. 2002). Comparatively little is known about their range during migration and winter (but see Hatch et al. 2011a; Schaefer et al. 2020).

Score: 2

Knowledge of Population Trends in Alaska (-10 to 10)

Count data are available for some colonies e.g., some Aleutian Islands, islands of the Kodiak Archipelago, Kenai Fjords National Park (Corcoran 2016; Curl 2018; Dragoo et al. 2019), however, surveys are not consistently conducted across years or locations, and no statewide data are available.

Score: 2

Knowledge of Factors Limiting Populations in Alaska (-10 to 10)

Little is known about the factors that limit this species' population or distribution in Alaska. Increased human activities in some areas may have contributed to increases in local populations on Middleton Island and Egg Island by artificially increasing food availability (Hatch et al. 2011a). Meanwhile, nest predation and intraspecific competition may limit population growth, though data for Alaska are scarce (Schaefer et al. 2019; Hayward and Verbeek 2020). Although gulls are not identified to species in bycatch reports, mortality rates from fishery lines seem minimal relative to population size (Krieger et al. 2019). Harvest rates may be substantial in some communities (Naves and Otis 2017; Krieger et al. 2019). Egg harvest may reduce clutch size since most females do not lay replacement eggs (Schaefer et al. 2019).

Score: 10

Action Total: 4

Supplemental Information

Variables do not receive numerical scores. Instead, they are used to sort taxa to answer specific biological or management questions.

Harvest: Substantial, regulations

Seasonal Occurrence: Year-round

Taxonomic Significance: Monotypic species

% Global Range in Alaska: >10%

% Global Population in Alaska: 25-74%

Peripheral: No

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