

APPENDIX III SEABIRD FACT SHEET: PINK-FOOTED SHEARWATER

PINK-FOOTED SHEARWATER *Ardenna creatopus* (formerly *Puffinus creatopus*)

Conservation Status

CHILE: Endangered

GLOBAL: Vulnerable

Breed	Eggs	Incubation	Fledge	Nest	Feeding Behavior	Diet
Oct-May	1	50-55 days	90 days	burrow	shallow surface dives	fish, squid, crustaceans

DESCRIPTION

Pink-footed Shearwaters are a fairly heavy-bodied, large broad-winged shearwater. Head and upperparts are dull gray-brown. The sides of the head and neck have brownish mottling along the sides of the breast, which continues down the flanks. The lower belly is more solidly brown, along with the under-tail coverts and thighs with slight pale mottling. The rest of the underparts are a dull white. The underwing has brown mottling on a paler background, with a pale patch on the primaries. The bill is pale pink with a dark tip. As befits its name, the webbed feet are pale pink. The extent of dark on the underwings and underparts varies between individuals.

DISTRIBUTION

The species is endemic to Chile and breeds on only three islands in the world: Robinson Crusoe and Santa Clara islands in the Juan Fernández Islands and Mocha Island. Pink-footed Shearwaters typically travel several hundred kilometers from the colonies on foraging trips during the breeding season. Their foraging distribution during the breeding season occurs primarily in the Humboldt Current system, along the outer continental shelf and shelf-break off the central Chilean coast.

Pink-footed Shearwaters migrate out of Chilean waters during the winter months, with a portion of the population wintering in Peruvian waters and the remainder of the population spending the winter in waters of the Pacific coast of North America, from Baja California to British Columbia. The species is generally found in waters of the outer continental shelf and along the shelf-break throughout its wintering range.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS AND ACTIONS

The species is globally listed as Vulnerable by the International Union for the Conservation of



Pink-footed Shearwater ©Peter Hødum

Nature. It is also listed as Endangered by Chile. There are threats to the species both on the breeding colonies and at sea.

- On the breeding colonies, principal threats include predation by introduced mammals (cats, dogs, coatimundis), breeding habitat loss and alteration, chick harvesting on Mocha Island, and competition with introduced European rabbits for burrows.
- At sea, the principal threats are bycatch in fisheries, plastic ingestion and contaminants/pollution.

CULTURAL USE

There is no evidence of traditional use of the species in the Juan Fernández Islands. However, on Mocha Island, local residents have harvested chicks during the late-nestling stage for consumption. Although this practice has been illegal for decades, only in the past few years has the Chilean government begun to enforce the prohibition on chick harvests.

COOL FACT

Pink-footed Shearwaters can cover more than 40,000 km during the non-breeding season, ranging from their breeding grounds in Chile all the way up to the waters of Washington and British Columbia before returning in time for the next breeding season.

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REFERENCES

BirdLife International species account page:

<http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/species/factsheet/22698195>

VIDEO COVERAGE

Arkive species account:

<http://www.arkive.org/pink-footed-shearwater/puffinus-creatopus/>

Oikonos videos:

<https://vimeo.com/tag:fardela+blanca>

WEBSITES

Oikonos species account:

<http://oikonos.org/pink-footed-shearwater/>

Cornell Lab of Ornithology Neotropical Birds species account:

http://neotropical.birds.cornell.edu/portal/species/overview?p_p_spp=101276

Arkive species account:

<http://www.arkive.org/pink-footed-shearwater/puffinus-creatopus/>

Government of Canada Species at Risk Species Profile:

http://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/species/speciesDetails_e.cfm?sid=819

Government of Canada Species at Risk COSEWIC assessment and status report:

http://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/document/default_e.cfm?documentID=490

Government of Canada Species at Risk Recovery Strategy:

http://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/virtual_sara/files/plans/rs_short_tailed_albatross_and_pink_footed_shearwater_final_0408_e.pdf

APPENDIX III

SEABIRD FACT SHEET: HORNED PUFFIN

HORNED PUFFIN *Fratercula corniculata*

Conservation Status

ALASKA: Moderate GLOBAL: Least Concern

Breed	Eggs	Incubation	Fledge	Nest	Feeding Behavior	Diet
June-July	1	40 days	34-43d	burrow	surface dives	fish, squid, other invertebrates

DESCRIPTION

The Horned Puffin is one of the most sought after seabirds in Alaska by tourists and photographers.

In summer they have a black back, and a white belly and face. They have small black leathery skin protrusions above the eyes (up to 12 mm) that create the horned appearance from which they are named after. The large bill is bright yellow with a red tip, and their legs and feet are a bright orange to reddish.

In winter their bill is smaller and duller (some of the outer sheath covers fall off), “horns” are lost, the face turns grey and feet become a pale fleshy color.

DISTRIBUTION

The species is widespread in the North Pacific Ocean. During the breeding season it nests in the Gulf of Alaska, Aleutian Islands, and islands in the Bering and Chukchi Seas, and the Sea of Okhotsk. Rare breeder in British Columbia. 87% of world population breeds in Alaska, and 13% breed in Russia.

Horned Puffins spend their winter at-sea, never visiting land. They can be found offshore throughout the North Pacific during winter months.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

- Hunting and harvest. Adults and eggs harvested for subsistence in some areas of Alaska, particularly in Bering Strait region, but this harvest is minimal and localized (largely because of their inaccessible nesting sites).
- Vulnerable to oil pollution because of marine habitats and flightless period during the winter months (during molt), but major oil mortality events have not been reported.
- Plastic particles are frequently found in gizzards.
- Fishing nets. Bycatch in gill nets is widespread in the North Pacific.
- Introduced mammals. Mammalian predators were once absent from most islands in the Northeast



Pacific, but arctic fox (*Alopex lagopus*), red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), Norway rats (*Rattus norvegicus*), and ground squirrels (*Spermophilus undulatus*) have been introduced onto many seabird colonies in Alaska. These predators have had large impacts on many seabird populations, although Horned Puffins were less affected than some species because they usually nest in less accessible crevices.

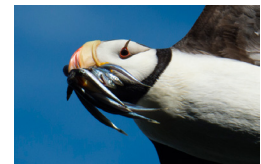
- Puffins may desert their nests if humans disturb them during the breeding season.

CULTURAL USE

Unangan (indigenous people of the Aleutian Islands of Alaska (USA) and Kamchatka Krai (Russia)) used the skin of Horned Puffins for clothing. It could take over 40 puffin skins to make one parka. Feathers were worn outside during rainy weather and inside during colder dry weather. The colorful puffin bills were used as ornaments on clothing, in children’s rattles, and on mittens worn in ceremonial dances.

COOL FACT

Spines on a puffin’s tongue and the roof of the mouth act as hooks holding on to fish while the beak is open catching more fish. The average catch is 10 fish but the record is 62 by an Atlantic Puffin in Britain!



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REFERENCES

Piatt, J. F., and A. S. Kitaysky. 2002. Horned Puffin (*Fratercula corniculata*). In *The Birds of North America*, No. 603 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA.

Cornell Lab of ornithology species account page:

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/horned_puffin/lifehistory

VIDEO COVERAGE

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MVOndUJqx0Q>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xd_XuX05m0k

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y7A3LEUu37o>

WEBSITES

http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/puffin_atlantic_iceland

http://www.ngkids.co.uk/did-you-know/puffin_facts

<http://easyscienceforkids.com/all-about-puffins/>

<http://projectpuffin.audubon.org/history-project-puffin>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/life/Atlantic_Puffin#intro