

Sterna paradisaea (Arctic Tern)

Priority 1 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: Aves (Birds)
Order: Charadriiformes (Plovers, Sandpipers, And Allies)
Family: Laridae (Gulls, Jaegers, Kittiwakes, Skimmers, Skuas, And Terns)

General comments:

94% of population at 3 sites; no significant population improvements despite intensive management

Species Conservation Range Maps for Arctic Tern:

Town Map: [Sterna paradisaea_Towns.pdf](#)
 Subwatershed Map: [Sterna paradisaea_HUC12.pdf](#)

SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:

Risk of Extirpation:

Maine Status: Threatened

State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern: NA

Recent Significant Declines: NA

Regional Endemic: NA

High Regional Conservation Priority:

North American Waterbird Conservation Plan:
 High Concern

United States Birds of Conservation Concern:

Bird of Conservation Concern in Bird Conservation Regions 14 and/or 30: Yes

High Climate Change Vulnerability: NA

Understudied rare taxa: NA

Historical: NA

Culturally Significant: NA

Habitats Assigned to Arctic Tern:

Formation Name **Cliff & Rock**

Macrogroup Name Rocky Coast

Habitat System Name: Acadian-North Atlantic Rocky Coast ****Primary Habitat****

Formation Name **Subtidal**

Macrogroup Name Subtidal Pelagic (Water Column)

Habitat System Name: Offshore

Habitat System Name: Pelagic (Water Column) Macrogroup - Unknown Habitat System

Stressors Assigned to Arctic Tern:

Stressor Priority Level based on Severity and Actionability		Moderate Severity	High Severity
	Highly Actionable	Medium-High	High
	Moderately Actionable	Medium	Medium-High
	Actionable with Difficulty	Low	Low

IUCN Level 1 Threat **Invasive and Other Problematic Species, Genes and Diseases**

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Problematic Native Species-Diseases

Severity: Severe

Actionability: Highly actionable

Notes: Predation by large gulls

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IUCN Level 1 Threat Invasive and Other Problematic Species, Genes and Diseases

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Invasive Non-native-Alien Species-Diseases

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Moderately actionable

Notes: Invasive plants impacting nesting habitat

IUCN Level 1 Threat Pollution

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Industrial and Military Effluents

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Moderately actionable

Notes: Oils spills near nesting islands has been shown to be an issue

IUCN Level 1 Threat Residential and Commercial Development

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Housing and Urban Areas

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Moderately actionable

Notes: Human disturbance

IUCN Level 1 Threat Biological Resource Use

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Fishing and Harvesting of Aquatic Resources

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty

Notes: Competition for prey items by commercial fishermen and disturbance

IUCN Level 1 Threat Climate Change and Severe Weather

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Habitat Shifting or Alteration

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty

Notes: Long term threat of climate change related sea level rise

Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to Arctic Tern:

None. *Only species specific conservation actions that address high (red) or medium-high (orange) priority stressors are summarized here.*

Conservation Actions Associated with the Island Nesting Seabirds Guild:

Conservation Action	Category: Survey and Monitoring	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
Continue seabird restoration activities at historic nesting sites using social attraction, vegetation management, and predator control			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Problematic Native Species-Diseases, Fishing and Harvesting of Aquatic Resources, Invasive Non-native-Alien Species-Diseases

Conservation Action	Category: Research	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
Determine which factors influence breeding success and productivity			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Problematic Native Species-Diseases, Invasive Non-native-Alien Species-Diseases

Conservation Action	Category: Research	Biological Priority: high	Type: new
Determine the association with commercial fisheries and climate-induced changes to food availability			

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Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Fishing and Harvesting of Aquatic Resources

Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

Additional relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.