



Birds

Razorbill

Alca torda

Priority 2 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: Birds (*Aves*)

Order: Plovers, Sandpipers, And Allies (*Charadriiformes*)

Family: Auks, Dovekie, Guillemots, Murres, Puffins, And Razobills (*Alcidae*)

General comments:

The Razorbill is a chunky, black-and-white seabird with a thick bill in the family Alcidae that nests in burrows on offshore islands. There are only ~600 pairs on six islands in a few significant, large colonies. It is listed as state Threatened, as colonial nesting birds are susceptible to disease and climate-induced changes to food availability.

Species Conservation Range Maps:

Town Map: [Alca torda Towns.pdf](#)

Subwatershed Map: [Alca torda HUC12.pdf](#)

SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:

Risk of Extirpation:	Maine Status: Threatened	Federal Status: None	IUCN Red List Status: None
High Climate Change Vulnerability:	Vulnerability: 3, Confidence: High, Reviewers: 3		
High Regional Conservation Priority:	NatureServe: Global Rank: G5 State Rank: S2		

Habitat Associations:

Formation: Coastal Scrub-Herb

Macrogroup: North American Atlantic Coastal Dune, Grassland & Rocky Headland

★ Primary Habitat	Habitat System: Acadian-North Atlantic Rocky Coast
	Habitat System: Coastal Islands

Formation: Subtidal

Macrogroup: Subtidal Pelagic (Water Column)

★ Primary Habitat	Habitat System: Offshore
	Habitat System: Pelagic (Water Column) Macrogroup - Unknown Habitat System

Threats



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Threat 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: High Severity **Actionability:** Highly Actionable

Notes: Predation of eggs, chicks, and adults byu large gulls

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: Competiton for important prey items by commerical fisheries and fishing related disturbances

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: Sea level rise flooding low topographical islands

IUCN Level 1 Threat Pollution

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Industrial and Military Effluents

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Actionable with Difficulty

Notes: Oil spills around nesting islands or in the open ocean

Species Level Conservation Actions:

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



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Conservation Actions Associated with the Island Nesting Seabirds Guild:

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

Threat(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

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

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

Threat(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

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

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

Threat(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 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4.

Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4. 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, threats, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work