

Technical update of inshore seabird
distribution and abundance
in SEA areas 6, 7 & 8



Eider at sea
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Non-technical Summary

Following a review of the distribution and abundance of inshore seabird species in SEA areas 6, 7 and 8 in 2005 (Barton & Pollock 2005), Cork Ecology were requested to produce a technical update using the most recent available data. This update should be used in conjunction with the 2005 inshore seabird review for SEA 6, 7 and 8.

Additional site counts from recently published WeBS counts, JNCC aerial surveys and relevant bird reports were added to existing species tables. The five year mean for each site listed was revised to give a five year mean from 1999/00 onwards. The revised tables include all sites listed in the original report, except sites where no count data was available for the period 1999/00 to 2003/04. Changes to tables are detailed in the accompanying text.

Summary tables showing important sites for inshore seabirds in the SEA 6, 7 and 8 areas were also revised and are included at the end of this report. Also included is a revised overall summary table for the SEA 6, 7 and 8 areas. The accompanying text details the number of internationally and nationally important sites for each species in the SEA 6, 7 and 8 areas.

Additional counts were available for 29 species.

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1. Introduction

Following a review of the distribution and abundance of inshore seabird species in SEA areas 6, 7 and 8 in 2005 (Barton & Pollock 2005), Cork Ecology were requested to produce a technical update using the most recent available data. This update should be used in conjunction with the 2005 inshore seabird review for SEA 6, 7 and 8.

2. Methods

2.1 Data sources

Since publication of the review of inshore seabird species in the SEA 6, 7 and 8 areas in 2005, reports from the following surveys have been produced:

JNCC aerial surveys

Aerial surveys of wintering seaducks, divers and grebes in UK inshore waters by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) were continued in 2003/2004 (Dean *et al* 2004) and in 2004/2005 (Wilson *et al* 2006).

Relevant information from these surveys has been included in this update.

WeBS

The Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) is a joint scheme of the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and JNCC.

The WeBS scheme monitors non-breeding waterbirds in the UK, using monthly land-based counts undertaken by volunteers to annually identify population sizes, determine trends in numbers and to identify important sites for waterbirds.

Reports covering 2001-2003 (Cranswick *et al* 2005) and 2003/2004 (Collier *et al* 2005) were published in 2005. Relevant information from these reports has been included in this update.

Bird Reports

Relevant data from the 2003 editions of the following county bird reports was also included in this update:

SEA 6:

- Birds & Wildlife in Cumbria 2003 (Robinson & Hartley 2004)
- Lancashire Bird Report 2003 (White *et al* 2004)
- Cambrian Bird Report 2003 (Pritchard *et al* 2004)

SEA 8:

- Eastern Glamorgan Bird Report 2003 (Thomas & Wilson 2004)
- Hampshire Bird Report 2003 (Cox 2004)
- Birds in Cornwall 2003 (Wilson 2004)

National and County Environmental Records Centres

Relevant data was also included from the Centre for Environmental Data and Recording (CEDaR) in Northern Ireland.

2.2 Format of species accounts

Additional site counts from the above sources were added to existing species tables. The five year mean for each site listed was revised to give a five year mean from 1999/00 onwards. This differs slightly from the original report where means were calculated from any available data.

The revised tables include all sites listed in the original report, except sites where no count data was available for the period 1999/00 to 2003/04. Changes to tables are detailed in the accompanying text.

Summary tables showing important sites for inshore seabirds in the SEA 6, 7 and 8 areas were also revised and are included at the end of this report. Also included is a revised overall summary table for the SEA 6, 7 and 8 areas. The accompanying text details the number of internationally and nationally important sites for each species in the SEA 6, 7 and 8 areas.

3. Updates to species accounts

3.1 Red-throated diver

3.1.1 Distribution within SEA 6 Area

Additional land-based counts were available for red-throated divers at several coastal sites (Table 3.1 and 3.2). Within Liverpool Bay (Table 3.1), the most recent five year mean for Traeth Lafan increased, following a large count of 202 birds in April 2003. Five year means for all sites except the Alt Estuary remained above the nationally important threshold for red-throated divers in Britain (>49 birds – Kershaw & Cranswick 2003).

Table 3.1 Recent peak counts at sites around Liverpool Bay for red-throated divers in SEA 6 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Traeth Lafan	90	72	74	202 ^a	30 ^a	94
South Walney	-	-	50	125	-	88
Morecambe Bay	52	-	81	103	-	79
Blackpool	-	77	-	70	-	74
Red Wharf Bay, Anglesey	-	-	73	-	-	73
Formby Point	-	52	101	72	48 ^b	68
Conwy Bay	-	71	63	-	-	67
Alt Estuary	21	33	101	59	26 ^b	48

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
^a Collier *et al* 2005 ^b Lancashire Bird Report

Away from Liverpool Bay (Table 3.2), the most recent five year mean for Cardigan Bay increased, although counts were not available for the most recent two years. Sub-sites within Cardigan Bay are shown in italics. The most recent five year mean for the Clyde Estuary also dropped, and overall numbers recorded during WeBS counts around Britain during the 2003/04 winter were the lowest for some years (Collier *et al* 2005). No recent counts were available for the Solway Firth, and the most recent five year mean of 28 was no longer nationally important.

In Northern Ireland, the most recent five year mean for Belfast Lough decreased slightly, while most recent five year mean for Strangford Lough was above the all-Ireland threshold of importance (>20 birds – Crowe 2005).

Table 3.2 Recent peak counts at sites away from Liverpool Bay for red-throated divers in SEA 6 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Cardigan Bay	229	460	732 ^a	-	-	474
Silloth Bank	-	-	-	240	-	240
<i>Aberdyfi</i>	-	-	-	150	-	150
Clyde Estuary	123	145	142	151 ^a	54 ^a	123
Irvine-Ballantrae	-	-	94	-	-	94
<i>Morfa Dinlle</i>	-	90	-	-	-	90
Ballantrae-Balkenna	82	-	-	-	-	82
Skinburness	-	-	50	55	114 ^b	73
Maidens-Girvan	-	-	73	-	-	73
Loch Ryan	44	35 ^a	50	111 ^a	89 ^a	66
<i>Aber Dysynni</i>	60	-	-	50	-	55
Solway Firth	28	-	-	-	-	28
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland SEA 6 area ²						
Belfast Lough	44	85	60	31 ^a	13 ^a	47
St John's Point	58	40	26	26	-	40
Portmuck Bay	-	-	29	-	-	29
Strangford Lough	6 ^a	-	57 ^a	1 ^a	-	21
Dundrum Bay	16	19	-	-	-	18
Outer Ards	10	18	-	-	-	14

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Sites in italics are within Cardigan Bay

² All-Ireland threshold applies.

Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)

^a Collier *et al* 2005 ^b White *et al* 2004

3.1.2 Distribution within SEA 7 and 8 Areas

No additional counts were available for red-throated diver sites within the SEA 7 and 8 areas.

3.2 Black-throated diver

3.2.1 Distribution within SEA 6 Area

There were no counts available between 1999/00 and 2003/04 for Arran, which previously held nationally important numbers. This site no longer features in Table 3.3.

In Northern Ireland, additional counts for Belfast Lough for the most recent three seasons were available although the five year mean was unchanged (Table 3.3). An all-Ireland importance threshold has not been set for this species (Crowe 2005).

3.2.2 Distribution within SEA 7 Area

No additional counts were available for black-throated diver sites within the SEA 7 area.

Table 3.3 Recent peak counts at main sites for black-throated divers in SEA 6 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Maidens-Ballantrae	67	65	83	23	-	56
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland SEA 6 area ²						
Strangford Lough	5	5	4	5	-	5
St John's Point	3	5	-	2	-	4
Outer Ards	2	3	-	-	-	3
Red Bay	3	2	-	-	-	3
Belfast Lough	3	2	2 ^a	1 ^a	4 ^a	2

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)

² No all-Ireland threshold has been set for black-throated divers a Collier *et al* 2005

3.2.3 Distribution within SEA 8 Area

Within the SEA 8 area, the most recent five year mean for Gerrans Bay increased slightly following a count of 37 birds in February 2004 (Table 3.4), while the most recent five year mean for St Austell Bay also increased following a count of 45 birds in December 2003. Counts from other sites in the SEA 8 area were not available.

Table 3.4 Recent peak counts at main sites for black-throated divers in SEA 8 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Veryan Bay	100	55	38	60	-	63
Gerrans Bay	125	43	33	53	37 ^c	58
Mevagissey Bay	-	-	35	-	-	35
St Austell Bay	20	-	14	-	45 ^c	26
Falmouth Bay	-	10	30	-	-	20
Porthgwarra	-	17	8	-	-	13
Mount's Bay	8	12	10	10	-	10
Torbay	-	-	9	-	-	9
Poole Harbour	-	7	-	-	-	7

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)

a Collier *et al* 2005 c Wilson 2004

3.3 Great northern diver

3.3.1 Distribution within SEA 6 Area

No additional counts were available for coastal sites within the SEA 6 area.

3.3.2 Distribution within SEA 7 Area

Within the SEA 7 area, additional counts were available for the Sound of Gigha and Loch Indaal, Islay (Table 3.5). The most recent five year means for both sites increased slightly. Counts from other important sites within the SEA 7 area were not available.

There were no counts available between 1999/00 and 2003/04 for Orosay-Ludag, South Uist, which previously held nationally important numbers. This site no longer features in Table 3.5.

Table 3.5 Recent peak counts at main sites for great northern divers in SEA 7 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
West Kintyre Peninsula	-	-	417	-	-	417
Howmore, S Uist	-	121	-	-	-	121
Sound of Gigha	104 ^a	-	-	-	-	104
Glendale, S Uist	-	-	91	-	-	91
Sound of Barra	-	127	46	-	-	87
Howmore, N Uist	86	-	-	-	-	86
Kildonan, S Uist	-	-	82	-	-	82
Loch Indaal, Islay	125	96	74 ^a	68 ^a	18 ^a	76
Tiree coast	68	-	-	-	-	68
Mull coast	65	-	-	-	-	65
West Loch Tarbert	62	-	-	-	-	62
Balivanich, Benbecula	65	58	-	-	-	62
Sound of Harris	-	60	-	-	-	60
Coll	54	-	-	-	-	54
Loch Caolisport	50	-	-	-	-	50
Tiree	-	44	-	-	-	44
Sound of Taransay	43	-	-	-	-	43
Gruinard Bay	-	31	-	20	-	26

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005) a Collier *et al* 2005

JNCC aerial surveys

JNCC continued aerial surveys in the SEA 7 area in February 2004 and March 2005 (Table 3.6). Numbers of great northern divers recorded along the west coast of the Outer Hebrides, around Coll and Tiree and in the Sound of Gigha were internationally and nationally significant (International: >50 birds – Delaney & Scott 2002; National: > 30 birds – Kershaw & Cranswick 2003).

Table 3.6 Recent raw sample counts of great northern divers on JNCC aerial surveys in SEA 7 area ¹

Site	March 2003	Feb 2004	March 2005
West Coast Outer Hebrides	102	266	57
Coll & Tiree	-	175	131
West coast of Mull	-	(16)	27
Sound of Gigha	-	-	104

¹ Wilson *et al* 2006 () incomplete count

3.3.3 Distribution within SEA 8 Area

Within the SEA 8 area, a total of 55 great northern divers were recorded in St Austell Bay in December 2003 (Table 3.7). The most recent five year mean for this site exceeded the internationally important threshold (>50 birds – Delaney & Scott 2002). Counts from other important sites within the SEA 8 area were not available.

Table 3.7 Recent peak counts at main sites for great northern divers in SEA 8 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
St Austell Bay	40	48	80	44	55 ^c	53
Whitsand Bay	-	-	38	-	-	38
Hope's Nose	37	-	-	-	-	37
Dawlish Warren	-	46	-	22	-	34
Mount's Bay	-	-	32	-	-	32
Seaton/ Downderry	30	-	-	-	-	30
Torbay	44	11	-	-	-	26
St Ives Bay	24	24	40	-	-	20

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
^c Wilson 2004

3.4 Little grebe

3.4.1 Distribution within SEA 6 Area

The five year mean for Strangford Lough increased slightly following additional peak January counts in 02/03 and 03/04 (Table 3.8).

Table 3.8 Recent peak counts at main sites for little grebes in SEA 6 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Strangford Lough	87	87	103	113 ^a	83 ^a	95

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
^a Collier *et al* 2005

3.4.2 Distribution within SEA 7 Area

No additional counts were available for coastal sites within the SEA 7 area.

3.4.3 Distribution within SEA 8 Area

Within the SEA 8 area, the recent five year means increased at the two coastal sites which regularly hold nationally important numbers of little grebes (>78 birds – Kershaw & Cranswick 2003) (Table 3.9).

Table 3.9 Recent peak counts at main sites for little grebes in SEA 8 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Chichester Harbour	58 ^a	78	150 ^a	111 ^a	125 ^a	104
Langstone Harbour	81	62	65	60	62 ^d	95

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
^a Collier *et al* 2005 ^d Cox 2004

3.5 Great crested grebe

3.5.1 Distribution within SEA 6 Area

Numbers of great crested grebes recorded on WeBS counts in the Solway Firth showed a decline in recent years, resulting in a decrease in the most recent five year mean (Table 3.10). However, counts of 217 birds at Bowness on Solway in October 2003 and 280 birds at nearby Skinburness in December 2003 (Robinson & Hartley 2004) indicate that high numbers still occurred in the area in recent winters. A continuing decrease was also recorded at Traeth Lafan and Morecambe Bay, while numbers at Loch Ryan increased.

In Northern Ireland, the most recent five year mean for Belfast Lough decreased slightly, but this site still held highest numbers of this species within the SEA 6 area. Numbers at Larne Lough decreased slightly, while the most recent five year mean for Outer Ards equalled the nationally important threshold for all-Ireland (>70 birds – Crowe 2005).

Table 3.10 Recent peak counts at main sites for great crested grebes in SEA 6 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Nith Estuary	-	-	378	-	-	378
Skinburness	-	-	-	-	280 ^f	280
Traeth Lafan	165	388	284	308	114 ^a	252
Loch Ryan	258	147	212	300 ^a	210 ^a	225
Morecambe Bay	239	245	222 ^a	187 ^a	218 ^a	222
Bowness on Solway	-	-	-	-	217 ^f	217
Swansea Bay	204	201	-	-	-	203
Solway Firth	251 ^a	336	164 ^a	119 ^a	88 ^a	192
Mersehead	-	124	194	-	-	159
Cardigan Bay	-	147	-	-	-	147
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland SEA 6 area ²						
Belfast Lough	1,570	1,338	1,995 ^a	1,214 ^a	1,832 ^a	1,590
Carlingford Lough	249	326	284 ^a	336	184 ^a	276
Strangford Lough	111	141	231	135	-	155
Larne Lough	140	204	80 ^a	105 ^a	115 ^a	129
Outer Ards	1 ^a	199 ^a	-	9 ^a	(7) ^a	70

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)

² All-Ireland threshold applies a Collier *et al* 2005 f Robinson & Hartley 2004 () incomplete count

3.5.2 Distribution within SEA 7 Area

No additional counts were available for coastal sites within the SEA 7 area.

3.5.3 Distribution within SEA 8 Area

Within the SEA 8 area, no additional counts were available for the top two coastal sites (Table 3.11). The most recent five year means for Langstone Harbour and Poole Harbour decreased slightly.

Table 3.11 Recent peak counts at main sites for great crested grebes in SEA 8 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Pett Levels shore	262	165	500	454	-	345
Goring Beach	-	-	214	-	-	214
Langstone Harbour	144	178	182	112	134 ^d	150
Poole Harbour	76 ^a	151 ^a	171 ^a	127 ^a	202 ^a	145

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
^a Collier *et al* 2005 ^d Cox 2004

3.6 Red-necked grebe

3.6.1 Distribution within SEA 6 Area

Additional counts were available for Loch Ryan, although the five year mean for the site did not change (Table 3.12). There were no counts available between 1999/00 and 2003/04 for Ardmore Point, which previously held nationally important numbers. This site no longer features in Table 3.12.

Table 3.12 Recent peak counts at main sites for red-necked grebes in SEA 6 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Loch Ryan	4	-	(1) ^a	-	3 ^a	4
Llanfairfechan	2	-	1	1	-	1

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
^a Collier *et al* 2005 () incomplete count

3.6.2 Distribution within SEA 7 Area

No additional counts were available for coastal sites within the SEA 7 area.

3.6.3 Distribution within SEA 8 Area

Additional counts were available for Gerrans Bay and St Ives Bay in Cornwall, and Hayling and Stokes Bay in Hampshire (Table 3.13). No counts were available for other sites in the SEA 8 area.

Table 3.13 Recent peak counts at main sites for red-necked grebes in SEA 8 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Veryan Bay	12	2	2	3	-	5
Brighton Marina	5	-	-	-	-	5
Dawlish Warren	-	-	4	3	-	4
Torbay	5	3	2	-	-	3
Start Bay	4	2	-	-	-	3
Langstone Harbour	3	-	3	-	-	3
Church Norton	-	-	3	-	-	3
Poole Harbour	-	-	2	3	-	3
Portland Harbour	4	2	2	5	-	3
Gerrans Bay	3	2	-	2	2 ^c	2
St Austell Bay	2	-	-	2	-	2
Carrick Roads	-	-	-	2	-	2
Dibden Bay	-	-	2	-	-	2
Farlington	-	-	-	2	-	2
Brand's Bay	-	1	-	2	-	2
Needs Ore	-	-	2	-	-	2
St Ives Bay	-	-	-	2	2 ^c	2
Hayling Bay	-	-	-	-	2 ^d	2
Stokes Bay	-	-	-	-	2 ^d	2

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
^c Wilson 2004 ^d Cox 2004

3.7 Slavonian grebe

3.7.1 Distribution within SEA 6 Area

The most recent five year means for Loch Ryan and the Clyde Estuary increased considerably following recent additional counts. Five year means for Tremadog Bay and Beddenmarch Bay decreased (Table 3.14), with the latter site falling below the nationally important threshold for Britain (>7 birds – Kershaw & Cranswick 2003).

In Northern Ireland, there were no counts available between 1999/00 and 2003/04 for Larne Lough, which previously held nationally important numbers. This site no longer features in Table 3.14.

Table 3.14 Recent peak counts at main sites for slavonian grebes in SEA 6 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Loch Ryan	10	42	36	31 ^a	32 ^a	30
Ardmore Point	31	34	20	-	-	28
Clyde Estuary	34	20	10 ^a	45 ^a	(20) ^a	27
Tremadog Bay	11	18	14	-	5 ^e	12
Traeth Lafan	4	9	14	13	-	10
Beddenmarch Bay	3	6	9	8	6 ^e	6
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland SEA 6 area ²						
Strangford Lough	11	17	22	32	-	21

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
² No All-Ireland threshold has been set a Collier *et al* 2005 e Pritchard *et al* 2004 () incomplete count

3.7.2 Distribution within SEA 7 Area

The Outer Hebrides remains a stronghold for this species with the most recent five year mean for Traigh Luskenytre being internationally important for slavonian grebes (> 35 birds – Delany & Scott 2002) (Table 3.15). The most recent five year means for the Sound of Gigha and the Sound of Taransay also exceeded the internationally important threshold, but no additional counts were available for these sites.

The most recent five year mean for Loch Indaal, Islay increased slightly. Four other sites qualified as nationally important, including Broadford Bay, Skye. There were no counts available between 1999/00 and 2003/04 for Loch na Keal, Mull, which previously held nationally important numbers. This site no longer features in Table 3.15.

Table 3.15 Recent peak counts at main sites for slavonian grebes in SEA 7 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Sound of Gigha	41	44	-	-	-	43
Sound of Taransay	38	41	-	-	-	40
Traigh Luskenytre	38	48	19 ^a	-	-	35
Loch Indaal, Islay	37	23	30	31 ^a	30 ^a	30
Sound of Harris	23	-	-	-	-	23
Balgarva, S Uist	16	12	12	-	-	13
Loch Ewe	-	-	-	13	-	13
Broadford Bay, Skye	-	-	8 ^a	10 ^a	6 ^a	8

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
^a Collier *et al* 2005

3.7.3 Distribution within SEA 8 Area

Additional counts were available for three sites in the SEA 8 area. The most recent five year mean for Pagharn Harbour fell below the internationally important site for slavonian grebe (>35 birds – Delany & Scott 2002) (Table 3.16). The most recent five year means for Gerrans Bay and NW Solent also decreased slightly. Poole Harbour no longer qualified as nationally important, based on the most recent five year mean.

Table 3.16 Recent peak counts at main sites for slavonian grebes in SEA 8 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Pagham Harbour	44	31	54	11	28 ^a	34
Selsey Bill	60	6	-	-	-	33
St Austell Bay	51	14	9	15	-	22
Dawlish Warren	15	18	12	-	-	15
Seaton/Downderry	14	-	-	-	-	14
Gerrans Bay	14	21	11	8	9 ^c	13
Whitsand Bay		14	13	10	-	12
Langstone Harbour	-	9	10	-	-	10
Lymington/Hurst	8	13	10	9	-	10
Hayling Bay	-	10	-	-	-	10
Black Point	9	-	8	-	-	9
Start Bay	9	7	-	-	-	9
NW Solent	8	8	10 ^a	(4) ^a	5 ^a	8
Portland Harbour	11	9	3	8	-	8
Chichester Harbour	2	11	-	-	-	7
Camel Estuary	7	8	-	-	-	7
Exe Estuary	12	3	-	-	-	7
Poole Harbour	3	7	-	-	-	5

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
^a Collier *et al* 2005 ^c Wilson 2004 () incomplete count

3.8 Black-necked grebe

3.8.1 Distribution within SEA 6 and 7 Areas

No additional counts were available for coastal sites within the SEA 6 and 7 areas.

3.8.2 Distribution within SEA 8 Area

Additional counts were available for five sites in the SEA 8 area (Table 3.17). The most recent five year mean for the Fal Complex decreased slightly due to a count of 11 in November 2003, however this site still held the highest numbers of black-necked grebes in the UK. Additional counts for Langstone Harbour did not alter the most recent five year mean. All sites listed exceeded the nationally important threshold for black-necked grebes (>1 bird – Kershaw & Cranswick 2003).

Table 3.17 Recent peak counts at main sites for black-necked grebes in SEA 8 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Fal Complex	-	31	46	35	11 ^c	31
Torbay	32	38	26	5	-	25
Newhaven	-	-	18	-	-	18
Langstone Harbour	16	16	22 ^a	18	12 ^d	17
Studland Bay	9	15	24	21	-	17
Fleet/Way	12	15	14	12	-	13
Looe Beach	20	-	2	11	-	11
Gerrans Bay	7	2	16	5	5 ^c	7
Black Point	-	-	6	-	-	6
Poole Harbour	4	10	1	7	-	6
Tamar Complex	6	9	3 ^a	6 ^a	2 ^a	5
Knoll Beach	2	7	-	7	-	5
Brand's Bay	-	6	-	3	-	5
Ferrybridge	-	2	-	7	-	5
Shell Bay	2	4	3	5	-	4
Needs Ore	-	-	-	-	4 ^d	4

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
^a Collier *et al* 2005 ^c Wilson 2004 ^d Cox 2004

3.9 Manx shearwater

3.9.1 Distribution in the SEA 6 Area

Additional counts were only available for Bardsey (Table 3.18). The most recent five year mean increased slightly following a count of 16,500 birds in September 2003.

Table 3.18 Recent peak counts at main sites for Manx shearwaters in SEA 6 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Bardsey	-	10,000	24,274	12,000	16,500 ^c	15,694
Turnberry Point	-	-	11,000	-	-	11,000
Sites in Northern Ireland SEA 6 area						
St John's Point	6,000	5,000	10,000	5,000	-	7,200
Copeland Islands	-	-	6,000	20,000	-	6,000

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
^c Pritchard *et al* 2004

3.9.2 Distribution in the SEA 7 Area

No additional counts were available for coastal sites within the SEA 7 area.

3.9.3 Distribution within SEA 8 Area

Additional counts were available for Cape Cornwall and Trevoise Head (Table 3.19).

Table 3.19 Recent peak counts at main sites for Manx shearwaters in SEA 8 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Bosigran	-	-	42,000	-	-	42,000
Pendeen Watch	-	-	35,000	-	-	35,000
Porthgwarra	-	-	20,000	-	-	20,000
Cape Cornwall	-	-	18,000	-	18,000 ^c	18,000
St Austell Bay	-	-	-	17,000	-	17,000
Trevoise Head	-	-	14,097	10,946	13,077 ^c	12,707
St Ives Bay	-	-	-	11,000	-	11,000

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
^c Wilson 2004

3.10 Cormorant

3.10.1 Distribution within SEA 6 Area

Additional counts were available for ten coastal sites within the SEA 6 area (Table 3.20). Morecambe Bay remained the most important coastal site, although the most recent five year mean decreased. Counts at this site in 02/03 and 03/04 were incomplete however. Elsewhere, the most recent five year mean increased at Seaforth Nature Reserve, Dee Estuary, Alt Estuary, Ribble Estuary, Tremadog Bay, Formby Point and the Furness Coast. Decreases in the most recent five year means were recorded in the Solway Firth and the Clyde Estuary.

There were no counts available between 1999/00 and 2003/04 for Irvine - Saltcoats, which previously held nationally important numbers. This site no longer features in Table 3.20.

Within Northern Ireland, additional counts were available for four sites. There was a slight decrease in the most recent five year mean for Belfast Lough, while numbers increased at Outer Ards and Strangford Lough in recent years. Although incomplete, the most recent count from Dundrum Bay exceeded the threshold for all-Ireland importance (>150 birds, Crowe 2005).

Table 3.20 Recent peak counts at main sites for cormorants in SEA 6 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Morecambe Bay	1,030	1,223	398 ^a	(657) ^s	(539) ^a	884
Seaforth NR	552	702	888	700	750 ^b	718
Dee Estuary	541	864 ^a	(692) ^a	668	718 ^a	698
Alt Estuary	574	574	960 ^a	569 ^a	(456) ^a	669
Solway Firth	(628) ^a	(678) ^a	378 ^a	500 ^a	(591) ^a	555
Clyde Estuary	466	606	528	553 ^a	425 ^a	516
Hilbre	-	500	405	201	-	369
Ribble Estuary	(163) ^a	219 ^a	358	398	(456) ^a	358
Tremadog Bay	-	-	-	276	377 ^c	327
Formby Point	146	355	288	417	299 ^b	301
Hoylake	-	-	283	-	-	283
Furness Coast	-	213	179	400	316 ^f	277
Burbo Bank	-	-	232	-	-	232
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland SEA 6 area ²						
Belfast Lough	321	499	528 ^a	388 ^a	348 ^a	417
Outer Ards	303	121	-	652 ^a	563 ^a	410
Big Copeland	400	-	-	-	-	400
Strangford Lough	285	275	245	358 ^a	400 ^a	313
Carlingford Lough	209	166	-	-	-	188
Dundrum Bay	(90) ^a	(120) ^a	(104) ^a	(124) ^a	(162) ^a	(162)

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
² All-Ireland threshold applies a Collier *et al* 2005 b White *et al* 2004 c Pritchard *et al* 2004 f Robinson & Hartley 2004
 () Incomplete count

3.10.2 Distribution within SEA 7 Area

No additional counts were available for coastal sites within the SEA 7 area.

3.10.3 Distribution within SEA 8 Area

Additional counts were available for three coastal sites within the SEA 8 area (Table 3.21). The most recent five year mean for Poole Harbour increased, along with Pagham Harbour, while numbers decreased slightly at Rye Harbour.

Table 3.21 Recent peak counts at main sites for cormorants in SEA 8 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Poole Harbour	298	338	585 ^a	558 ^a	(412) ^a	445
Shoreham	-	-	300	-	-	300
Rye Harbour	211 ^a	324	218 ^a	340	382 ^a	295
Pagham Harbour	234	244	247	240 ^a	303 ^a	254
Church Norton	-	-	250	-	-	250

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
^a Collier *et al* 2005

3.11 Shag

3.11.1 Distribution within SEA 6 Area

Counts of shags were officially added to the list of WeBS species in winter 2000/01 (Cranswick *et al* 2005), although no thresholds for national importance have been set (Kershaw & Cranswick 2003, Crowe 2005). Additional counts were available for six coastal sites within the SEA 6 area (Table 3.22). The most recent five year mean for Loch Ryan decreased following a count of 79 birds in December 2003, although recent counts have been incomplete (Collier *et al* 2005). Recent counts for the Clyde Estuary have also been incomplete, although the most recent five year mean increased slightly. Counts exceeding 100 birds were also available for four new sites.

Table 3.22 Recent peak counts at main sites for shags in SEA 6 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Bute Coast	357	-	-	-	-	357
Lendalfoot	237	-	-	-	-	237
Loch Ryan	184	242	(90) ^a	(110) ^a	79 ^a	168
Irvine Harbour	-	160	-	-	-	160
Clyde Estuary	87	159	139 ^a	(213) ^a	(159) ^a	151
Lady Island	-	150	-	-	-	150
Ayr to North Troon	-	-	63 ^a	184 ^a	(26) ^a	124
Little Orme	-	-	-	-	119 ^c	119
Arran	-	-	86 ^a	100 ^a	125 ^a	104
Girvan to Turnberry	-	-	111 ^a	80 ^a	117 ^a	103
Sites in Northern Ireland SEA 6 area ²						
Outer Ards	169	355	-	227 ^a	187 ^a	235
Strangford Lough	92	101	166	193 ^a	226 ^a	156
Carlingford Lough	-	-	294 ^a	48 ^a	37 ^a	126
Belfast Lough	-	39 ^a	30 ^a	215 ^a	194 ^a	120

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
² No all-Ireland threshold has been set ^a Collier *et al* 2005 ^c Pritchard *et al* 2004 ⁽⁾ Incomplete count

3.11.2 Distribution within SEA 7 Area

Additional counts were only available for one coastal site in SEA 7, Broadford Bay on Skye (Table 3.23). There were no counts available in the last five years for Kilmory Bay, Rum, Loch na Keal, Mull or Talm, Eigg. These sites do not feature in Table 3.23.

Table 3.23 Recent peak counts at main sites for shags in SEA 7 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Sound of Gunna	-	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
Sound of Harris	400	750	-	-	-	575
Sound of Barra	-	-	350	-	-	350
Stornoway, Lewis	-	-	330	-	-	330
Broadford Bay, Skye	-	-	-	150 ^a	(100) ^a	150

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
^a Collier *et al* 2005 ⁽⁾ Incomplete count

3.11.3 Distribution within SEA 8 Area

No additional counts were available for coastal sites within the SEA 8 area.

3.12 Scaup

3.12.1 Distribution within SEA 6 Area

Table 3.24 Recent peak counts at main sites for scaup in SEA 6 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Solway Firth	3,001	1,818	2367 ^a	(1,077) ^a	3,800 ^f	2,747
Carsethorn-Corbally	-	2,300	-	-	-	2,300
Nith Estuary	4,034	1,560	1,000	-	-	2,284
Loch Ryan	(637) ^a	631	766 ^a	907 ^a	986 ^a	823
Rough Firth	308	204	340	0 ^a	107 ^a	192
Ayr-Prestwick	120	179	268	-	-	189
Powfoot	230	200	120	-	-	183
Hilbre	75	-	188	-	-	132
Alt Estuary	-	-	73	84	-	79
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland SEA 6 area ²						
Belfast Lough	244	493	600	1,058	669 ^a	613
Carlingford Lough	700	800	618 ^a	168 ^a	(158) ^a	572

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
² All-Ireland threshold applies ^a Collier *et al* 2005 ^f Robinson & Hartley 2004 ⁽⁾ Incomplete count

Additional counts of scaup were available for three coastal sites within the SEA 6 area (Table 3.24). The most recent five year mean for the Solway Firth increased slightly following a count of 3,800 birds in October 2003, making it the main coastal site for wintering scaup in the UK. More complete WeBS counts in recent years for Loch Ryan and Rough Firth increased the most recent five year mean for these sites. There were no counts available in the last five years for the Clyde Estuary. This site does not feature in Table 3.24.

Within Northern Ireland, the most recent five year mean for Belfast Lough increased, while the mean for Carlingford Lough decreased.

3.12.2 Distribution within SEA 7 Area

The most recent five year mean for Loch Indaal, Islay decreased slightly based on additional counts (Table 3.25).

Table 3.25 Recent peak counts at main sites for scaup in SEA 7 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Loch Indaal, Islay	900	1,450	1,070	755 ^a	1,003 ^a	1,036

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
^a Collier *et al* 2005

3.12.3 Distribution within SEA 8 Area

No additional counts were available for coastal sites within the SEA 8 area.

3.13 Eider

3.13.1 Distribution within SEA 6 Area

Additional counts were available for 14 sites within the SEA 6 area (Table 3.26). It should be noted that the internationally important threshold used in this update and by WeBS in the 2003/04 season was 15,500 birds. This threshold was set by the UK Special Protection Area Scientific Working Group and differs from the internationally important threshold of >750 birds set by Delaney & Scott (2002) used in Barton & Pollock (2005). For more on these differences see Collier *et al* 2005.

The most recent five year mean for the Firth of Clyde increased slightly and exceeded the internationally important threshold. Additional figures were also available for sites within the Firth of Clyde (*italics* in Table 3.26). Elsewhere, most recent five year means decreased slightly at Foulney Island and Morecambe Bay, although recent counts at the latter site were incomplete. Numbers on the Leven Estuary, Cumbria increased. All sites listed except the Isle of Cumbrae held nationally important numbers of eider (>730 birds, Britain – Kershaw & Cranswick 2003; >20 birds, all-Ireland – Crowe 2005).

Within Northern Ireland, additional counts were available for four sites (Table 3.26). The most recent five year mean for Belfast Lough, Strangford Lough and Larne Lough all increased while the five year mean for Outer Ards decreased.

Table 3.26 Recent peak counts at main sites for eider in SEA 6 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Firth of Clyde	17,596 ^a	14,679 ^a	15,692	14,297 ^a	15,276 ^a	15,508
Morecambe Bay	6,713	5,306	3,903 ^a	(4,541) ^a	(3,940) ^a	5,307
<i>Ayr–North Troon</i>	<i>2,000</i>	<i>1,700</i>	<i>7,000</i>	<i>4,000</i>	-	<i>3,675</i>
Foulney Island	-	-	-	3,700	3,455 ^f	3,578
South Walney	-	3,000	3,185	-	-	3,093
<i>Gare Loch</i>	<i>2,261</i>	<i>3,877</i>	-	-	-	<i>3,069</i>
Furness Coast	-	895	3,871	-	-	2,383
<i>Loch Ryan</i>	<i>1,400</i>	<i>2,037</i>	<i>(1,031)</i> ^a	<i>1,188</i> ^a	<i>1,803</i> ^a	<i>1,607</i>
<i>Loch Long/Loch Goil</i>	<i>2,164</i>	<i>1,539</i>	<i>1,299</i> ^a	<i>1,459</i> ^a	<i>1,390</i> ^a	<i>1,570</i>
<i>Loch Fyne</i>	<i>1,510</i>	<i>1,297</i>	<i>1,874</i> ^a	<i>1,505</i> ^a	<i>1,363</i> ^a	<i>1,510</i>
Leven Estuary	-	-	-	800	1,700 ^f	1,250
<i>Holy Loch to Toward Point</i>	<i>1,504</i> ^a	<i>1,319</i> ^a	<i>615</i> ^a	<i>1,146</i> ^a	<i>1,114</i> ^a	<i>1,140</i>
<i>Girvan to Turnberry</i>	<i>1,083</i> ^a	<i>957</i> ^a	<i>(151)</i> ^a	<i>1,198</i> ^a	<i>(330)</i> ^a	<i>1,079</i>
<i>Bute</i>	<i>1,367</i>	<i>771</i>	<i>1,143</i> ^a	<i>944</i>	<i>457</i> ^a	<i>936</i>
<i>Ardrossan – West Kilbride</i>	<i>937</i>	<i>803</i>	-	-	-	<i>870</i>
<i>Wemyss Bay to Fairlie</i>	<i>744</i> ^a	<i>561</i> ^a	<i>1,246</i> ^a	<i>733</i> ^a	<i>(247)</i> ^a	<i>821</i>
<i>Isle of Cumbrae</i>	<i>577</i>	-	-	-	-	<i>577</i>
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland SEA 6 area ²						
Belfast Lough	1,076	2,219	906 ^a	1,016 ^a	1,813 ^a	1,406
Copeland Sound	930	300	300	-	-	510
Outer Ards	522	241	-	428 ^a	(256) ^a	397
Strangford Lough	122	279	283	165 ^a	259 ^a	222
Larne Lough	157	128	107 ^a	120 ^a	55 ^a	113

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)

² All-Ireland threshold applies.

^a Collier *et al* 2005

^f Robinson & Hartley 2004

[∅] Incomplete count

Sites in italics are within Firth of Clyde

3.13.2 Distribution within SEA 7 Area

JNCC aerial surveys

The only additional counts available were from JNCC aerial surveys in the Outer Hebrides (Table 3.27). Aerial surveys were conducted in February 2004 and March 2005. Nationally significant numbers of eider were recorded along the west coast of the Outer Hebrides in February 2004, although numbers were lower on surveys in March 2003 and 2005 (> 730 birds – Kershaw & Cranswick 2003).

Table 3.27 Recent raw sample counts of eider on JNCC aerial surveys in SEA 7 area ¹

Site	March 2003	Feb 2004	March 2005
West Coast Outer Hebrides	634	1,078	621
Coll & Tiree	-	496	220
West coast of Mull	-	19 ²	67
Sound of Gigha	-	-	335

¹ Wilson et al 2006 ² Incomplete survey

3.13.3 Distribution within SEA 8 Area

No additional counts were available for coastal sites within the SEA 8 area.

3.14 Long-tailed duck

3.14.1 Distribution within SEA 7 Area

One additional count of 126 long-tailed ducks at Traigh Luskentyre was available (Table 3.28). The most recent five year mean for this site was below the nationally important threshold (>160 birds – Kershaw & Cranswick 2003). There were no counts available in the last five years for Peninerine, Rubha Ardvule, Stillgarry or Howmore on South Uist or Howmore on North Uist, all of which previously held nationally important numbers. These sites no longer feature in Table 3.28. Additional counts were not available for any other sites in the SEA 7 area.

Low numbers of long-tailed ducks were recorded on JNCC aerial surveys in the Outer Hebrides, around Coll and Tiree and the west coast of Mull in 2004 and 2005 (Wilson *et al* 2006).

Table 3.28 Recent peak counts at main sites for long-tailed duck in SEA 7 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Drimsdale, S Uist	-	-	302	-	-	302
Braighe, Lewis	300	-	-	-	-	300
Sound of Harris	220	-	200	-	-	200
Traigh Luskentyre	49	49	126 ^a	-	-	75

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
^a Collier *et al* 2005

3.14.2 Distribution within SEA 6 and 8 Areas

No additional counts were available for coastal sites within the SEA 6 and 8 areas.

3.15 Common scoter

3.15.1 Distribution within SEA 6 Area

Revised figures for Liverpool Bay using extrapolated estimates are shown in Table 3.29. These estimates were derived from recent aerial surveys by WWT using ‘distance’ sampling techniques (Cranswick *et al* 2004). The two year mean exceeded the internationally important threshold of 16,000 birds (Delaney & Scott 2002). Additional figures were also available for sites within the Liverpool Bay (italics in Table 3.26).

Recent counts in Cardigan Bay were largely incomplete, apart from in 2001/02. There were no counts available in the last five years for Rough Firth, which previously held nationally important numbers. This site no longer features in Table 3.29.

No additional counts were available for sites in Northern Ireland.

Table 3.29 Recent peak counts at main sites for common scoter in SEA 6 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Liverpool Bay	-	(16,604)	27,772 ^g	79,136 ^g	-	53,454
<i>Shell Flat</i>	-	-	11,300	14,002	-	12,651
<i>Coblyn Bay</i>	(735) ^a	(500) ^a	(5,194) ^a	(7,436) ^a	(1,737) ^a	(7,436)
Cardigan Bay	(126) ^a	(3,767) ^a	6,297	(4,219) ^a	(198) ^a	6,297
Heston Island	5,400	-	5,800	-	-	5,600
Solway Firth	-	-	-	5,300	-	5,300
<i>Blackpool</i>	3,146	2,264	1,811	3,250	5,000 ^b	3,094
<i>Ribble Estuary</i>	-	-	-	1,142	-	1,142
<i>Tremadog Bay</i>	400	1,000	3,250	810	1,420 ^c	1,376
<i>Formby Point</i>	572	399	1,800	1,818	1,821 ^b	1,282
Wigtown Bay	-	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
Balcary	-	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
Mersehead	-	775	-	-	-	775
<i>Llanfairfechan</i>	-	615	-	-	-	615
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland SEA 6 area ²						
Dundrum Bay	1,400	1,500	2,100	950	-	1,341
Belfast Lough	86	-	-	-	-	86

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)

² All-Ireland threshold applies. ^a Collier *et al* 2005 ^b White *et al* 2004 ^c Pritchard *et al* 2004 ^g Cranswick *et al* 2005

Sites in italics are within Liverpool Bay () Incomplete count

3.15.2 Distribution within SEA 7 Area

No additional counts were available for coastal sites within the SEA 7 area.

3.15.3 Distribution within SEA 8 Area

Additional counts were available for Carmarthen Bay (Table 3.30), where the most recent five year mean exceeded the internationally important threshold of 16,000 birds (Delaney & Scott 2002). This site has been designated as a marine SPA for common scoter.

Table 3.30 Recent peak counts at main sites for common scoter in SEA 8 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Carmarthen Bay	21,592	19,506	20,078 ^a	23,288 ^a	20,271 ^a	20,947
Brighton Marina	1,200	1,533	1,600	1,003	-	1,334
Bexhill-Hastings	80	-	133	344	-	186
Rye Bay	80	115	250	-	-	148

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
^a Collier *et al* 2005

3.16 Goldeneye

3.16.1 Distribution within SEA 6 area

Additional counts of goldeneye were available for two sites in Britain and four sites in Northern Ireland (Table 3.31). The most recent five year mean for the Clyde Estuary dropped slightly, as did the five year mean for Morecambe Bay. There were no counts available in the last five years for Dipple Shore or Ardgowan, which previously held nationally important numbers. These sites no longer feature in Table 3.31. The most recent five year mean for Girvan to Turnberry was below the nationally important threshold (>249 birds – Kershaw & Cranswick 2003).

Table 3.31 Recent peak counts at main sites for goldeneye in SEA 6 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Clyde Estuary	858	869	321 ^a	264 ^a	(514) ^a	565
Doon Estuary	400	365	120	-	-	295
Loch Ryan	271	247	364	-	-	294
Ayr-Prestwick	-	-	270	-	-	270
Morecambe Bay	288	346	221 ^a	280 ^a	204 ^a	268
Girvan-Turnberry	131	122	-	-	-	127
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland SEA 6 area ²						
Strangford Lough	238	108	256	295 ^a	253 ^a	230
Belfast Lough	161	276 ^a	140 ^a	249 ^a	242 ^a	214
Larne Lough	247	136	189 ^a	130 ^a	95 ^a	159
Groomsport	153 ⁵	-	-	-	-	153
Carlingford Lough	(139) ^a	163	(68) ^a	103 ^a	68 ^a	118

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
² All-Ireland threshold applies. ^a Collier *et al* 2005 [∅] Incomplete count

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Within Northern Ireland, means for Strangford Lough, Belfast Lough, Larne Lough all decreased but remained above the all-Ireland threshold of 140 birds (Crowe 2005). Numbers at Carlingford Lough fell below this threshold.

3.16.2 Distribution within SEA 7 and 8 Areas

No additional counts were available for sites within the SEA 7 and 8 areas.

3.17 Red breasted merganser

3.17.1 Distribution within SEA 6 Area

Additional counts of red-breasted mergansers were available for nine sites in Britain and six sites in Northern Ireland (Table 3.32). The most recent five year means for Morecambe Bay, Traeth Lafan, Duddon Estuary and Clyde Estuary all decreased slightly, while five year means at Hodbarrow and Solway Firth increased. Three additional sites (Cardigan Bay, Loch Ryan and Arran) qualified as nationally important, based on the most recent five year means (>98 birds – Kershaw & Cranswick 2003).

Table 3.32 Recent peak counts at main sites for red-breasted merganser in SEA 6 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Morecambe Bay	475	338	229 ^a	(265) ^a	(170) ^a	347
Hilbre	-	-	332	-	-	332
Traeth Lafan	255	317	322	236	266 ^c	279
Duddon Estuary	240	(148) ^a	136	232	(167) ^a	203
Hodbarrow	-	-	124	185	271 ^f	193
Clyde Estuary	244	125	(196) ^a	141 ^a	(164) ^a	174
Furness Coast	-	114	138	173	-	142
Balkenna-Dipple	-	149	116	124	-	130
Solway Firth	(127) ^a	(111) ^a	(58) ^a	(55) ^a	(92) ^a	127
Cardigan Bay	(113) ^a	(109) ^a	118 ^a	(47) ^a	(76) ^a	118
Hunterston	-	-	-	100	-	100
Bogside	-	-	-	100	-	100
Loch Ryan	80 ^a	94 ^a	(113) ^a	133 ^a	74 ^a	99
Arran	64 ^a	108 ^a	(94) ^a	(126) ^a	103 ^a	99
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland SEA 6 area ²						
Strangford Lough	211	148	342 ^a	187 ^a	188 ^a	215
Belfast Lough	166	169	162 ^a	228 ^a	216 ^a	188
Larne Lough	243	188	176 ^a	123 ^a	135 ^a	173
Dundrum Bay	54	60	25	87	(3) ^a	90
Outer Ards	(52) ^a	(35) ^a	-	62 ^a	48 ^a	55
Carlingford Lough	41	44	24 ^a	106 ^a	40 ^a	51

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)

² All-Ireland threshold applies. ^a Collier *et al* 2005 ^c Pritchard *et al* 2004 ^f Robinson & Hartley 2004 ⁽⁾ Incomplete count

There were no counts available in the last five years for Irvine to Saltcoats, which previously held nationally important numbers. This site no longer features in Table 3.32.

In Northern Ireland, additional counts were available for five sites. The most recent five year means for Strangford Lough and Larne Lough decreased slightly, while five year means at Belfast Lough, Outer Ards and Carlingford Lough increased. All sites held numbers of all-Ireland national importance (>40 birds – Crowe 2005).

3.17.2 Distribution within SEA 7 Area

The only available additional counts were for Loch Indaal, Islay (Table 3.33). The most recent five year mean decreased slightly over the period.

Table 3.33 Recent peak counts at main sites for red-breasted merganser in SEA 7 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Sound of Gigha	-	420	-	-	-	420
Loch Indaal, Islay	185	163	112	172 ^a	138 ^a	154
Braiche, Lewis	150	-	-	-	-	150
Gualan, Lewis	-	144	-	-	-	144
Skipness Bay	-	103	-	-	-	103
The Reef, Lewis	100	100	-	-	-	100
Tiree coast	100	-	-	-	-	100

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
^a Collier *et al* 2005

3.17.3 Distribution within SEA 8 Area

Additional counts were available for five sites (Table 3.34). The most recent five year means for the top listed sites Poole Harbour and Fleet/Way both increased, as did Chichester and Langstone Harbours and Exe Estuary. The most recent five year mean for Portsmouth harbour fell slightly.

Table 3.34 Recent peak counts at main sites for red-breasted merganser in SEA 8 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Poole Harbour	466	336	(417) ^a	469 ^a	(392) ^a	424
Fleet/Way	530	283	366 ^a	358 ^a	425 ^a	392
Worthing Beach	213	200	158	254	-	206
Chichester Harbour	(212) ^a	180	(159) ^a	(184) ^a	191 ^a	194
Goring Gap	-	200	186	-	-	193
Langstone Harbour	190	122	213	158 ^a	159 ^d	168
Dawlish Warren	140	103	135	-	-	126
Exe Estuary	130	139	134	112	(132) ^a	129
Selsey Bill	-	-	121	-	-	121
Portsmouth Harbour	(104) ^a	(63) ^a	125	126	85 ^a	110
Church Norton	100	115	115	-	-	110
Carrick Roads	119	-	90	-	-	105
Climping	-	103	-	-	-	103

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
^a Collier *et al* 2005 ^d Cox 2004 () Incomplete count

3.18 Little gull

3.18.1 Distribution within SEA 6 Area

Additional counts of little gull were available for three sites (Table 3.35). The most recent five year mean at Seaforth decreased following a count of 160 in April 2003, while numbers at the Alt Estuary have increased in recent years, resulting in a larger five year mean. A boat survey in November 2003 recorded 200 at Shell Flat.

Table 3.35 Recent peak counts at main sites for little gull in SEA 6 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Seaforth NR	150	250	819	180	160 ^b	312
Hilbre	-	-	257	-	-	257
Shell Flat	-	-	-	-	200 ^b	200
Alt Estuary	119	67	80 ^a	218 ^a	430 ^a	183
Rossall Point	-	-	100	-	-	100

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
^a Collier *et al* 2005 ^b White *et al* 2004

3.18.2 Distribution within SEA 7 and 8 Areas

No additional counts were available for coastal sites within the SEA 7 and 8 areas.

3.19 Black-headed gull

3.19.1 Distribution within SEA 6 Area

The most recent five year mean for the Clyde Estuary exceeded the internationally important threshold (>20,000 birds – Pollit *et al* 2003), but no additional counts were available for this site (Table 3.36). The most recent five year mean for Morecambe Bay was considerably lower than for earlier years, and numbers at this site no longer exceeded the international or national importance thresholds for Britain (International: >20,000 birds; National: >19,000 birds – Pollit *et al* 2003). Counts for the Ribble Estuary and Bardsey were not previously available.

In Northern Ireland, four sites regularly held numbers of all-Ireland importance (> 1,000 birds – Crowe 2005). The most recent five year means for Belfast Lough and Strangford Lough increased, while the five year mean decreased slightly for Outer Ards. Counts for Larne Lough were not previously available.

Table 3.36 Recent peak counts at main sites for black-headed gull in SEA 6 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Clyde Estuary	26,000	15,356	28,000	-	-	23,119
Ribble Estuary	(12,450) ^a	(6,793) ^a	24,460 ^a	(821) ^a	7,419 ^a	15,940
Morecambe Bay	17,670	(17,610) ^a	7,795 ^a	(17,772) ^a	12,574 ^a	14,684
Bardsey	-	-	-	-	12,000 ^c	12,000
Marshside	17,000	-	13,200	2,000	-	10,733
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland SEA 6 area ²						
Belfast Lough	7,000	7,496 ^a	8,986 ^a	5,503 ^a	7,095 ^a	7,216
Outer Ards	8,040 ^a	3,290 ^a	-	4,945 ^a	5,113 ^a	5,347
Strangford Lough	2,767 ^a	3,588 ^a	3,503 ^a	3,518 ^a	3,388 ^a	3,353
Larne Lough	2,639 ^a	942 ^a	2,060 ^a	733 ^a	831 ^a	1,441

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)

² All-Ireland threshold applies

^a Collier *et al* 2005

^c Pritchard *et al* 2004

() Incomplete count

3.19.2 Distribution within SEA 7 Area

No additional counts were available for coastal sites within the SEA 7 area.

3.19.3 Distribution within SEA 8 Area

Additional counts of black-headed gulls were available for three sites (Table 3.37). The most recent five year means for Poole Harbour and Portsmouth Harbour both increased, while counts for the Severn Estuary were not previously available.

Table 3.37 Recent peak counts at main sites for black-headed gull in SEA 8 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Pagham Harbour	-	-	20,000	-	-	20,000
Poole Harbour	10,629	(10,162) ^a	(7,386) ^a	(12,461) ^a	17,707 ^a	14,168
Langstone Harbour	8,000	20,000	-	-	-	14,000
Portsmouth Harbour	(15,509) ^a	(14,247) ^a	4,881 ^a	15,311 ^a	12,153 ^a	12,420
Exe Estuary	11,650	12,000	-	-	-	11,825
Severn Estuary	(3,236) ^a	(4,478) ^a	(5,725) ^a	9,209 ^a	13,139 ^a	11,174
Eling	-	10,000	-	-	-	10,000

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
^a Collier *et al* 2005 ⁽⁾ Incomplete count

3.20 Common gull

3.20.1 Distribution within SEA 6 Area

The most recent mean at Ainsdale–Birkdale exceeded the internationally important threshold (>17,000 birds – Cranswick *et al* 2005) (Table 3.38). No additional counts were available for this site. The most recent five year mean for Rockliffe Marsh exceeded the nationally important threshold for Britain (>9,000 birds – Pollit *et al* 2003), following a minimum count of 21,000 birds there in September 2003, which exceeded the international importance threshold. The most recent five year mean for Morecambe Bay decreased, while counts for the Solway, Ribble and Dee estuaries were not previously available.

Table 3.38 Recent peak counts at main sites for common gull in SEA 6 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Ainsdale-Birkdale	15,000	-	25,000	-	-	18,333
Rockliffe Marsh	-	-	-	11,000	21,000 ^f	16,000
Solway Estuary	(2,671) ^a	(2,247) ^a	(1,398) ^a	7,193 ^a	9,564 ^a	8,379
Mersehead	12,800	2,550	-	-	-	7,675
Ribble Estuary	(591) ^a	(3,077) ^a	8,653 ^a	(146) ^a	6,036 ^a	7,345
Morecambe Bay	3,397	4,860	3,632 ^a	3,194 ^a	4,358 ^a	3,888
Dee Estuary	(3,466) ^a	(572) ^a	(1,519) ^a	4,182 ^a	5,311 ^a	4,747
Clydesdale	-	4,000	-	-	-	4,000
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland SEA 6 area ²						
Belfast Lough	533 ^a	1,416 ^a	2,103 ^a	2,718 ^a	2,644 ^a	1,883
Larne Lough	2,506 ^a	761 ^a	1,941 ^a	338 ^a	514 ^a	1,212
Outer Ards	490 ^a	706 ^a	-	772 ^a	2,543 ^a	1,128

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
² All-Ireland threshold applies ^a Collier *et al* 2005 ^f Robinson & Hartley 2004 ⁽⁾ Incomplete count

In Northern Ireland, the most recent five year means for Belfast Lough and Outer Ards increased, while counts for Larne Lough were not previously available. All three sites regularly supported numbers of all-Ireland importance, (>500 birds – Crowe 2005).

3.20.2 Distribution within SEA 7 Area

No additional counts were available for coastal sites within the SEA 7 area.

3.20.3 Distribution within SEA 8 Area

Additional counts were only available for Rye Harbour (Table 3.39). Numbers at this site appear to have decreased compared to previous years and the most recent five year mean was below the nationally important threshold for Britain (>9,000 birds – Pollit *et al* 2003).

Table 3.39 Recent peak counts at main sites for common gull in SEA 8 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Rye Harbour	15,000	-	3,000	-	8,600 ^a	8,867
Southwick	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
Pilsey Sands	-	4,000	4,000	-	-	4,000
Langstone Harbour	-	-	4,000	-	-	4,000

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
^a Collier *et al* 2005

3.21 Lesser black-backed gull

3.21.1 Distribution within SEA 6 Area

Additional counts of lesser black-backed gulls were available for nine sites (Table 3.40). Numbers recorded in Morecambe Bay have declined in recent years, resulting in a lower five year mean, although this still exceeds the international threshold (> 5,300 birds – Collier *et al* 2006).

The most recent five year means for the Alt Estuary and Formby Point increased while five year means decreased at Seaforth, the Cleddau Estuary and the Solway Estuary. Counts for Rockcliffe Marsh, the Dee Estuary and the inner Firth of Clyde were not previously available. Recent five year means for all three sites exceeded the nationally important threshold (>500 birds – Pollit *et al* 2003).

3.21.2 Distribution within SEA 7 Area

No additional counts were available for coastal sites within the SEA 7 area.

Table 3.40 Recent peak counts at main sites for lesser black-backed gull in SEA 6 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Morecambe Bay	41,945	40,590	31,620 ^a	36,461 ^a	31,479 ^a	36,419
Furness Coast	-	-	6,056	4,500	-	5,278
Alt Estuary	769	1,122	1,619 ^a	4,341 ^a	(945) ^a	1,963
Formby Point	-	755	1,250	4,178	945 ^b	1,787
Seaforth NR	-	-	1,500	-	1,000 ^b	1,250
Rockliffe Marsh	-	-	-	-	1,100 ^f	1,100
Cleddau Estuary	(1,246) ^a	625	825 ^a	659 ^a	723 ^a	816
Lendalfoot	-	-	800	-	-	800
Dee Estuary	(56) ^a	(130) ^a	(170) ^a	(384) ^a	648 ^a	648
Solway Estuary	(725) ^a	436	(243) ^a	(673) ^a	581 ^a	604
Inner Firth of Clyde	378 ^a	393 ^a	(557) ^a	544 ^a	705 ^a	515

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
^a Collier *et al* 2005 ^b White *et al* 2004 ^f Robinson & Hartley 2004 ⁽⁾ Incomplete count

3.21.3 Distribution within SEA 8 Area

Additional counts of lesser black-backed gulls were available for five sites (Table 3.41). The most recent five year mean for the Severn Estuary fell below the internationally important threshold (>5,300 birds – Collier *et al* 2006), following lower counts in 2000/01 and 2001/02. Numbers rose to 6,051 in January 2004. Recent five year means had increased for the Rhymney and Hayle estuaries and at Poole Harbour, while numbers on the Camel Estuary were fairly static.

Table 3.41 Recent peak counts at main sites for lesser black-backed in SEA 8 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Severn Estuary	7,224	669	945 ^a	(3,072) ^a	6,051 ^a	3,592
Rhymney Estuary	-	-	750	2,500	1,700 ^b	1,650
Hayle Estuary	1,750	2,092	860	980	940 ^a	1,324
Camel Estuary	802	1,525	1,181	818	769 ^a	1,019
Poole Harbour	888	565	(237) ^a	285 ^a	997 ^a	684

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
^a Collier *et al* 2005 ^b Thomas & Wilson 2004 ⁽⁾ Incomplete count

3.22 Herring gull

3.22.1 Distribution within SEA 6 Area

Additional counts of herring gulls were available for four sites in Britain and two sites in Northern Ireland (Table 3.42). Numbers at Morecambe Bay continued to decline, although the most recent five year mean still exceeded the threshold for international importance (>13,000 birds – Pollit *et al* 2003). The most recent five year mean for the Ribble Estuary increased considerably following a high count of 14,859 birds in January 2004. Recent counts at South Walney, which is included in Morecambe Bay totals appeared stable. The most recent five year mean for the Alt Estuary decreased.

Within Northern Ireland, recent five year means for both Belfast Lough and Outer Ards increased, with Belfast Lough showing the most dramatic increase over the last three winters.

Table 3.42 Recent peak counts at main sites for herring gull in SEA 6 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Ainsdale-Birkdale	20,000	20,000	100,000	-	-	46,667
Marshside	33,000	-	-	-	-	33,000
Morecambe Bay	20,553	20,530 ^a	12,170 ^a	14,373 ^a	10,551 ^a	15,635
Ribble Estuary	(7,287) ^a	(9,032) ^a	9,767 ^a	(209) ^a	14,859 ^a	12,313
South Walney	-	-	-	10,000	10,000 ^f	10,000
Lendalfoot	-	6,000	13,000	-	-	9,500
Furness Coast	-	-	12,020	5,630	-	8,825
Formby Point	6,300	3,650	5,000	3,035	-	4,496
Alt Estuary	6,800	3,967	1,440 ^a	3,153 ^a	3,825 ^a	3,837
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland SEA 6 area ²						
Belfast Lough	3,637	6,749	9,157 ^a	7,046 ^a	7,536 ^a	6,825
Outer Ards	3,003	898	-	1,001 ^a	(1,351) ^a	1,634

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
² All-Ireland threshold applies a Collier *et al* 2005 f Robinson & Hartley 2004 g Incomplete count

3.22.2 Distribution within SEA 7 Area

No additional counts were available for coastal sites within the SEA 7 area.

3.22.3 Distribution within SEA 8 Area

Additional counts of herring gulls were available for three sites (Table 3.43). The most recent five year mean for the Rhymney Estuary decreased, following a count of 4,000 birds in December 2003. Counts for Rye Harbour and Hastings to Bexhill were not previously available. Both counts were recorded in January 2004.

Table 3.43 Recent peak counts at main sites for herring gull in SEA 8 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Tor Bay	-	8,000	10,000	-	-	9,000
St Ives Bay	6,000	-	-	-	-	6,000
Rye Harbour	-	-	-	-	5,850 ^a	5,850
Hastings to Bexhill	-	-	-	-	5,700 ^a	5,700
Rhymney Estuary	-	-	5,570	7,500	4,000 ^h	5,690
Worthing-Ferring	-	1,300	10,000	-	-	5,650
Exe-Dawlish Bay	-	5,000	-	-	-	5,000

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
a Collier *et al* 2005 h Thomas & Wilson 2004

3.23 Great black-backed gull

3.23.1 Distribution within SEA 6 Area

Additional counts were only available for Morecambe Bay (Table 3.44). The most recent five year mean decreased following lower counts in 2002/03 and 2003/04. No counts were available from 1999/00 to 2003/04 for Outer Ards, which previously held nationally important numbers. This site no longer features in Table 3.42. The most recent five year mean for Belfast Lough was below the all-Ireland importance threshold (>500 birds – Crowe 2005).

Table 3.44 Recent peak counts at main sites for great black-backed gull in SEA 6 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Lendalfoot-Ballantrae	-	428	1,000	-	-	714
Morecambe Bay	451	(716) ^a	331 ^a	353 ^a	(322) ^a	463
Hilbre	-	500	400	600	-	500
Ainsdale	-	413	-	-	-	413
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland SEA 6 area ²						
Belfast Lough	227	398	-	-	-	313

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
² All-Ireland threshold applies a Collier *et al* 2005 ∅ Incomplete count

3.23.2 Distribution within SEA 7 Area

No additional counts were available for coastal sites within the SEA 7 area.

3.23.3 Distribution within SEA 8 Area

Additional counts of great black-backed gulls were available for three sites (Table 3.45). The most recent five year means for Portsmouth Harbour decreased considerably based on recent counts as did the five year means for Rye Bay and Fleet/Way, which fell below the nationally important threshold (>400 birds – Pollit *et al* 2003).

Counts from Hastings to Bexhill were not previously available. The 2003/04 count was recorded in January 2004.

There were no counts available in the last five years for Lade Sands, which previously held nationally important numbers. This site no longer features in Table 3.45.

Table 3.45 Recent peak counts at main sites for great black-backed gull in SEA 8 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Pagham Harbour	-	2,300	3,000	400	-	1,900
Plym Estuary	-	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
Exe Estuary	-	-	657	-	-	657
Camel Estuary	-	614	928	396	-	646
Dawlish Warren	620	605	-	647	-	624
Hayle Estuary	-	-	-	550	-	550
Hastings to Bexhill	-	-	-	-	520 ^a	520
Start Bay	510	-	-	-	-	510
Portsmouth Harbour	872	1,102	54 ^a	304 ^a	186 ^a	504
Langstone Harbour	-	506	500	-	-	503
Plymouth Breakwater	-	550	400	-	-	475
Ferrybridge	-	450	-	-	-	450
Rye Bay	-	210	585	-	-	398
Fleet/Way	312	550	576 ^a	87 ^a	200 ^a	345

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
^a Collier *et al* 2005

3.24 Kittiwake

3.24.1 Distribution within SEA 6 Area

Additional counts were available from two sites in Britain and one in Northern Ireland, all of which involved large flocks of several thousand birds (Table 3.46). Very large numbers were occasionally recorded in the area, for example 15,000 kittiwakes were seen off Copeland Island on 2nd September 2003 (CEDaR – unpublished data). No national or international thresholds have been set for this species (Pollit *et al* 2003).

Table 3.46 Recent peak counts at main sites for kittiwake in SEA 6 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Bardsey	-	-	5,735	-	8,000 ^e	6,868
Arran	5,400	-	-	-	-	5,400
Point Lynas, Anglesey	-	1,676	3,500	2,000	7,250 ^e	3,607
Sites in Northern Ireland SEA 6 area						
Copeland Island	-	5,000	5,000	2,000	15,000 ⁱ	6,750
St John's Point	3,000	2,500	1,000	3,500	-	2,500

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
^a Collier *et al* 2005 ^e Pritchard *et al* 2004 ⁱ CeDAR

3.24.2 Distribution within SEA 7 Area

No additional counts were available for coastal sites within the SEA 7 area.

3.24.3 Distribution within SEA 8 Area

Additional counts involving large movements of kittiwakes were only available for Pendeen Watch in Cornwall (Table 3.47). A peak count of 7,500 birds were recorded there in November 2003.

Table 3.47 Recent peak counts at main sites for kittiwake in SEA 8 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Cape Cornwall	-	6,000	15,000	20,000	-	13,667
St Ives Bay	-	12,589	-	-	-	12,589
Pendeen Watch	-	-	-	7,083	7,500 ^c	7,292
Selsey Bill	-	7,000	5,000	1,100	-	4,367

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
^c Wilson 2004

3.25 Sandwich tern

3.25.1 Distribution within SEA 6 Area

Additional counts of Sandwich terns were available for four sites in Britain and two sites in Northern Ireland (Table 3.48). The most recent five year mean for Cemlyn, Anglesey increased considerably following a count of 2,455 birds in July 2003, while five year means also increased at the Duddon and Dee estuaries. Counts from Morecambe Bay were not previously available.

Within Northern Ireland, the most recent five year means for Dundrum Bay and Belfast Lough both increased.

Table 3.48 Recent peak counts at main sites for Sandwich tern in SEA 6 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Hilbre	-	1,000	1,800	1,500	-	1,433
Cemlyn, Anglesey	-	1,260	-	105	2,455 ^a	1,273
Duddon Estuary	1,204	994	1,100	704 ^a	1,000 ^f	1,000
Dee Estuary	629 ^a	(672) ^a	(11) ^a	1,632	716 ^a	992
Solway Estuary	(59) ^a	(78) ^a	(235) ^a	(206) ^a	(548) ^a	(548)
Saltcoats	300	-	-	-	-	300
Morecambe Bay	(23) ^a	110 ^a	(0) ^a	220 ^a	531 ^a	287
Clyde Estuary	243	-	-	-	-	243
Gillfoot	238	-	-	-	-	238
Doonfoot	225	-	-	-	-	225
Sites in Northern Ireland SEA 6 area						
Dundrum Bay	234	166	296 ^a	722 ^a	264 ^a	336
Belfast Lough	344	195	409 ^a	357 ^a	136 ^a	288

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
^a Collier *et al* 2005 ^f Robinson & Hartley 2004 ⁽⁾ Incomplete count

3.25.2 Distribution within SEA 7 Area

No additional counts were available for coastal sites within the SEA 7 area.

3.25.3 Distribution within SEA 8 Area

Additional counts of Sandwich terns were available for two sites (Table 3.49). Counts from Langstone Harbour were not previously included in the SEA 6,7 & 8 review of inshore seabirds. The peak 2003/04 count of 780 birds was recorded in August. The most recent five year mean for Sandy Point in Hampshire increased following a count of 433 birds in April 2003.

Table 3.49 Recent peak counts at main sites for Sandwich tern in SEA 8 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Langstone Harbour	-	-	-	-	780 ^d	780
Brighton Marina	563	393	558	470	-	496
Rye Harbour	-	318	325	650	-	431
Exe/Dawlish Warren	394	313	374	200	-	320
Sandy Point	320	140	254	254	433 ^d	280

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
^d Cox 2004

3.26 Roseate tern

3.26.1 Distribution within SEA 6, 7 and 8 Areas

No additional counts were available for coastal sites within the SEA 6, 7 and 8 areas.

3.27 Common tern

3.27.1 Distribution within SEA 6 Area

Additional counts of common terns were available for four sites (Table 3.50). The most recent five year means for Seaforth, the Alt Estuary, Formby Point and the Dee Estuary all increased. The 2003/04 peak counts at the three former sites all occurred in August, while the Dee Estuary peak count was recorded in May.

Table 3.50 Recent peak counts at main sites for common tern in SEA 6 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Seaforth NR	-	1,100	800	900	1,300 ^b	1,025
Alt Estuary	1,156	1,292	129 ^a	868 ^a	1,664 ^a	1,022
Formby Point	-	250	-	-	1,036 ^b	643
Hilbre	-	1,000	480	400	-	627
Ainsdale	-	-	500	-	-	500
Hoylake	-	438	-	-	-	438
Dee Estuary	(348) ^a	(246) ^a	(3) ^a	422 ^a	(384) ^a	422

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
^a Collier *et al* 2005 ^b White *et al* 2004 () Incomplete count

3.27.2 Distribution within SEA 7 Area

No additional counts were available for coastal sites within the SEA 7 area.

3.27.3 Distribution within SEA 8 Area

Additional counts of common terns were available for four sites (Table 3.51). The most recent five year mean for Langstone Harbour increased following a count of 3,170 birds in August 2003. Numbers at this site exceeded the internationally important threshold of 1,900 birds (Collier *et al* 2005). The most recent five year mean for Sandy Point decreased over this period. Numbers at Chichester Harbour increased while counts from Hurst in Hampshire were not previously available.

Table 3.51 Recent peak counts at main sites for common tern in SEA 8 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Langstone Harbour	3,200	2,025	2,510	2,300	3,170 ^d	2,641
Sandy Point	2,534	-	962	1,045	1,000 ^d	1,385
Berry Head	590	-	-	-	-	590
Hurst	-	-	936 ^d	-	467 ^d	702
Brighton Marina	-	214	311	934	-	486
Severn Beach	-	400	-	-	-	400
Southampton Water	-	238	-	-	-	238
Chichester Harbour	(59) ^a	209	500 ^a	(167) ^a	(314) ^a	355
Taw/Torridge Estuary	350	125	-	130	-	202

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
^a Collier *et al* 2005 ^d Cox 2004 () Incomplete count

3.28 Arctic tern

3.28.1 Distribution within SEA 6 Area

Additional counts of Arctic terns were available for three sites in 2003/04 (Table 3.52). Counts from Blackpool were not previously available and involved birds on passage in April 2003. The most recent five year mean for Heysham in Lancashire increased following a count of 544 birds in April 2003. The 2003 count for Morecambe Bay was also recorded in April.

No additional counts were available for coastal sites in Northern Ireland.

Table 3.52 Recent peak counts at main sites for Arctic tern in SEA 6 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Blackpool	-	-	-	-	434 ^b	434
Heysham	114	500	338	387	544 ^b	377
Turnberry	141	-	-	-		141
Morecambe Bay	80	(103) ^a	-	94 ^a	(178) ^a	114
Sites in Northern Ireland SEA 6 area						
Copeland Islands	-	-	120	-	-	120
Groomsport	-	100	-	-	-	100

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
^a Collier *et al* 2005 ^b White *et al* 2004 () Incomplete count

3.28.2 Distribution within SEA 7 Area

Additional WeBS counts were available for Arctic terns for Loch a' Phuill on Tiree (Table 3.53).

Table 3.53 Recent peak counts at main sites for Arctic tern in SEA 7 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Tiree	471	-	-	-	-	471
Loch a' Phuill – Tiree	-	0 ^a	-	190 ^a	150 ^a	113
Sites in Northern Ireland SEA 7 area						
Ramore Head	-	-	156	-	-	156

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
^a Collier *et al* 2005

3.28.3 Distribution within SEA 8 Area

No additional counts were available for coastal sites within the SEA 8 area.

3.29 Little tern

3.29.1 Distribution within SEA 6 Area

Additional counts of little terns were available for the Dee Estuary (Table 3.54), where the most recent five year mean increased following an incomplete count of 256 birds in June 2003.

Table 3.54 Recent peak counts at main sites for little tern in SEA 6 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Dee Estuary	200	111	(0) ^a	242	(256) ^a	202
Hilbre	-	-	170	165	-	168
West Kirby	-	-	-	110	-	110
Duddon Estuary	56	-	-	-	-	56

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
^a Collier *et al* 2005 () Incomplete count

No counts were available from 1999/00 to 2003/04 for the Solway Firth, which previously held nationally important numbers. This site no longer features in Table 3.54.

3.29.2 Distribution within SEA 7 Area

No additional counts were available for coastal sites within the SEA 7 area.

3.29.3 Distribution within SEA 8 Area

Additional counts of little terns were available for three sites (Table 3.55). The most recent five year mean for Langstone Harbour decreased following a count of 50 birds in July, and the most recent five year mean for Fleet/Way also decreased following an apparent drop in numbers. Counts from Chichester Harbour were not previously available.

Table 3.55 Recent peak counts at main sites for little tern in SEA 8 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Langstone Harbour	296	220	190	(140) ^a	50 ^a	189
Pilsey Sands	-	42	200	42	-	95
Fleet/Way	154 ^a	125 ^a	0 ^a	59 ^a	58 ^a	79
Brighton Marina	-	116	44	62	-	74
Chichester Harbour	0 ^a	15 ^a	200 ^a	42 ^a	28 ^a	57
Rye Harbour	-	-	43	50	-	47

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
^a Collier *et al* 2005 () Incomplete count

3.30 Guillemot

3.30.1 Distribution within SEA 6 and 7 Areas

No additional counts were available for coastal sites within the SEA 6 and 7 areas.

3.30.2 Distribution within SEA 8 Area

An additional count of 500 guillemots from Cape Cornwall in November 2003 was recorded, however this was not significant compared to the large numbers of unidentified guillemots/razorbills recorded from several regular seawatching points within the SEA 8 region (Table 3.56).

Table 3.56 Recent peak counts at main sites for unidentified guillemots/razorbills in SEA 8 area

Site	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Mean ¹
Rumps Point	-	32,870	-	-	-	32,870
Cape Cornwall	-	-	20,000	30,000	-	25,000
St Ives Island	-	21,354	-	-	-	21,354
Trevoze Head	-	-	15,678	-	14,246 ^c	14,962
Pendeen Watch	-	-	8,800	13,128	15,000 ^c	12,309
Brighton Marina	4,500	4,040	6,930	10,680	-	6,538
Berry Head	9,000	433	600	-	-	3,344

¹ Mean of most recent 5 years, where available. Data sources up to 02/03 are listed in Appendix B of Barton & Pollock (2005)
^c Wilson 2004

Additional recent counts were available for Trevoise Head and Pendeen Watch. The most recent mean for Trevoise Head decreased slightly following a count of 14,246 birds in November 2003 while the most recent mean for Pendeen Watch increased, following a count of 15,000 birds in October 2003.

3.31 Razorbill

No additional counts were available for coastal sites within the SEA 6, 7 and 8 areas, however large numbers of unidentified guillemots/razorbills were recorded from several regular seawatching points within the SEA 8 region (Table 3.56).

3.32 Black guillemot

No additional counts were available for coastal sites within the SEA 6, 7 and 8 areas.

4. Important sites within the SEA 6, 7 and 8 Areas

4.1 Summary of important areas for non-breeding seabirds in SEA 6

Table 4.1 lists the most important areas for inshore seabirds in the SEA 6 area i.e. sites which hold 5% or more of the nationally important population for 1 species or a combination of species and is an update of Table 4.4 in the Inshore Seabird Review for SEA 6, 7 & 8 (Barton & Pollock 2005). Sites and species are arranged in descending order of national importance, with species that occur in internationally important numbers shown in bold. Species shown in italics are passage counts.

Table 4.1 Summary of important sites for inshore seabirds in the SEA 6 Area

Sites	Species
Liverpool Bay	Common scoter, red-throated diver
Morecambe Bay	Lesser black-backed gull , eider, cormorant, herring gull , red-breasted merganser, great black-backed gull, red-throated diver, great crested grebe, goldeneye
Solway Firth	Scaup, common scoter, cormorant, great crested grebe, red-breasted merganser, red-throated diver
Hilbre & Dee Estuary	Sandwich tern, little gull, little tern, red-breasted merganser, common tern, scaup, cormorant, great black-backed gull, lesser black-backed gull
Clyde Estuary	Eider , slavonian grebe, red-throated diver, goldeneye, cormorant, red-breasted merganser, scaup, black-headed gull , sandwich tern, red necked grebe, lesser black-backed gull
Shell Flat	Common scoter, little gull
Cardigan Bay	Common scoter, red-throated diver, great crested grebe, red-breasted merganser
Loch Ryan	Scaup, slavonian grebe, red-necked grebe, eider, goldeneye, red-throated diver, great crested grebe, red-breasted merganser
Furness Coast	Lesser black-backed gull, eider, herring gull, red-breasted merganser, cormorant
Seaforth NR	Little gull, common tern, lesser black-backed gull, cormorant
Alt & Ribble Estuaries	Common tern, lesser black-backed gull, cormorant, little gull, herring gull, scaup
Ainsdale – Birkdale	Herring gull, common gull , common tern, great black-backed gull
Formby Point	Lesser black-backed gull, common scoter, red-throated diver, common tern, cormorant
Duddon Estuary	Sandwich tern, red-breasted merganser, little tern, lesser black-backed gull
South Walney & Foulney Island	Eider, herring gull, red-throated diver
Ballantrae shore	Black-throated diver
Traeth Lafan	Red-breasted merganser, red-throated diver, slavonian grebe, great crested grebe, common scoter
Blackpool	Common scoter, red-throated diver
Tremadog Bay	Common scoter, slavonian grebe, cormorant
Marshside	Herring gull
Ayr – Barrasie	Eider

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Belfast Lough	Eider, great crested grebe, herring gull, scaup, black-headed gull, red-breasted merganser, sandwich tern, cormorant, red-throated diver, common gull, goldeneye, black guillemot, long-tailed duck, great black-backed gull, black-throated diver
Outer Ards	Eider, black-headed gull, shag, herring gull, cormorant, red-breasted merganser, great black-backed gull, black-throated diver, great crested grebe, common gull
Strangford Lough	Eider, red-breasted merganser, black-headed gull, little grebe, great crested grebe, goldeneye, cormorant, shag, black throated diver, slavonian grebe, red-throated diver
Copeland Islands	<i>Manx shearwater</i> , eider, <i>razorbill</i> , arctic tern, cormorant, <i>kittiwake</i>
Dundrum Bay	Common scoter, Sandwich tern, red-breasted merganser, red-throated diver, black guillemot, long-tailed duck, cormorant
Carlingford Lough	Scaup, great crested grebe, long-tailed duck, goldeneye, cormorant, red-breasted merganser
Larne Lough	Eider, red-breasted merganser, great crested grebe, goldeneye, black-headed gull, common gull
St. John's Point	<i>Manx shearwater</i> , <i>black guillemot</i> , <i>kittiwake</i> , <i>razorbill</i> , <i>red-throated diver</i> , <i>black-throated diver</i>

4.2 Summary of important areas for non-breeding seabirds in SEA 7

Table 4.2 lists the most important areas for inshore seabirds in the SEA 7 area i.e. sites which hold 5% or more of the nationally important population for 1 species or a combination of species and is an update of Table 5.4 in the Inshore Seabird Review for SEA 6, 7 & 8 (Barton & Pollock 2005). Sites and species are arranged in descending order of importance, with species that occur in internationally important numbers shown in bold. Species shown in italics are passage counts.

Table 4.2 Summary of important sites for inshore seabirds in the SEA 7 Area

Sites	Species
Loch Indaal, Islay	Scaup, slavonian grebe, great northern diver , red-breasted merganser, red-throated diver
Sound of Gigha	Slavonian grebe , black-throated diver, red-breasted merganser, great northern diver
West Kintyre Peninsula	Great northern diver
Braighe, Lewis	Black-throated diver, long-tailed duck, red-breasted merganser
Sound of Taransay	Slavonian grebe , great northern diver
Eriskay	Black-throated diver
Loch Caolisport	Black-throated diver, great northern diver
Howmore, S Uist	Great northern diver , long-tailed duck
Traigh Luskentyre	Slavonian grebe , black-throated diver
Loch Ewe	Black-throated diver, slavonian grebe
Sound of Harris	Slavonian grebe, great northern diver, long-tailed duck
Frenchman's Rocks, Islay	<i>Manx shearwater</i>

4.3 Summary of important areas for non-breeding seabirds in SEA 8

Table 4.3 lists the most important areas for inshore seabirds in the SEA 8 area i.e. sites which hold 5% or more of the nationally important population for 1 species or a combination of species and is an update of Table 6.3 in the Inshore Seabird Review for SEA 6, 7 & 8 (Barton & Pollock 2005). Sites and species are arranged in descending order of importance, with species that occur in internationally important numbers shown in bold. Species shown in italics are passage counts.

Table 4.3 Summary of important sites for inshore seabirds in the SEA 8 Area

Sites	Species
Langstone Harbour	Black-necked grebe, common tern , little tern, red-necked grebe, slavonian grebe, great black-backed gull, red-breasted merganser, Sandwich tern
Fal Complex	Black-necked grebe
Carmarthen Bay	Common scoter
Torbay	Black-necked grebe, red-necked grebe, black-throated diver, herring gull
Newhaven	Black-necked grebe, red-throated diver
Gerrans Bay	Black-necked grebe, black-throated diver, slavonian grebe, red-necked grebe
Studland bay	Black-necked grebe
Fleet/Way	Black-necked grebe, little tern, great black-backed gull, red-breasted merganser
Brighton Marina	<i>Little gull, common scoter</i> , red-necked grebe, <i>common tern, Sandwich tern, little tern</i> ,
Pagham Harbour	Slavonian grebe, great black-backed gull, black-headed gull , cormorant
Poole Harbour	Black-necked grebe, cormorant, red-necked grebe, slavonian grebe, lesser black-backed gull, black-throated diver, goldeneye, red-breasted merganser
Veryan Bay	Black-throated diver, red-necked grebe
St Austell Bay	Slavonian grebe, <i>Manx shearwater</i> , black-throated diver, great northern diver , red-necked grebe
Severn Estuary	Lesser black-backed gull
Looe Beach	Black-necked grebe
Sandy Point	<i>Common tern, Sandwich tern</i>
Selsey Bill	Slavonian grebe, <i>little gull</i> , red-breasted merganser, <i>kittiwake</i>
Black Point	Black-necked grebe, slavonian grebe
Dawlish Warren & Exe Estuary	Slavonian grebe, red-necked grebe, great black-backed gull, Sandwich tern, red-breasted merganser, herring gull, great northern diver
Ferrybridge	Black-necked grebe, great black-backed gull
St Ives Bay	<i>Manx shearwater</i> , <i>kittiwake</i> , herring gull, red-necked grebe
Tamar Complex	Black-necked grebe
Brand's Bay	Black-necked grebe, red-necked grebe
Rye Harbour	Sandwich tern, cormorant, little tern, common gull, great crested grebe, herring gull
Porthgwarra	<i>Manx shearwater</i> , black-throated diver
Cape Cornwall	<i>Manx shearwater</i> , <i>kittiwake</i>
Knoll Beach	Black-necked grebe
Mevagissey Bay	Black-throated diver
Pendeen Watch	<i>Manx shearwater</i> , <i>kittiwake</i>
Bosigran	<i>Manx shearwater</i>
Trevoise Head	<i>Manx shearwater</i>

5. Summary of non-breeding seabirds

This section summarises the important areas for non-breeding seabirds in the SEA 6, 7 and 8 area. The information here is an update of the non-breeding sections of the Regional Summary (Section 7) of the Inshore Seabird Review of SEA 6, 7 and 8 (Barton & Pollock 2005). Table 5.1 is an update of Table 7.1 in the same report.

SEA 6

Britain

Outside of the breeding season, the SEA 6 area holds internationally important concentrations of red-throated diver, Manx shearwater, eider, common scoter, black-headed gull, common gull, lesser black-backed gull and herring gull. A further fourteen species occur in nationally important numbers (Table 5.1).

Key areas are Liverpool Bay for red-throated divers and common scoter, and Morecambe Bay for lesser black-backed gull and herring gull, plus seven other species of national importance. The Firth of Clyde is internationally important for eider and black-headed gull plus nine other species of national importance. The Solway Firth is nationally important for six species including scaup and common scoter, while Hilbre and the Dee Estuary hold nine nationally important species (Table 4.1).

Northern Ireland

Away from breeding colonies, twenty one species occur in nationally important numbers. Important sites are Belfast Lough, Outer Ards, Strangford Lough, Copeland Islands, Dundrum Bay, Carlingford Lough, Larne Lough and St. John's Point (Table 4.1).

SEA 7

Britain

Away from breeding colonies, internationally important concentrations of great northern diver, slavonian grebe, and Manx shearwaters occur within the SEA 7 area, and nationally important numbers of a further eleven species have also been recorded (Table 5.1).

Key areas for great northern divers were Loch Indaal, Islay, the Sound of Gigha, west Kintyre peninsula, Loch Caolisport and Howmore, South Uist, while the Sound of Taransay, Sound of Gigha and Traigh Luskentyre held internationally important numbers of slavonian grebe. Large numbers of Manx shearwaters are regularly recorded passing Frenchman's Rocks, Islay on passage (Table 4.2).

Northern Ireland

Outside of the breeding season, nationally important numbers of eider were recorded at Rathlin Island, with important numbers of kittiwake and Arctic tern recorded flying past Ramore Head.

SEA 8

Away from breeding colonies, the SEA 8 area holds internationally important concentrations of great northern diver, Manx shearwater, common scoter, black-headed gull and common tern, with a further seventeen species occurring in nationally important numbers (Table 5.1).

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Key areas are St Austell Bay (Cornwall) for great northern divers, Langstone Harbour (Hampshire) for common tern, the Fal complex (Cornwall) for black-necked grebes, Carmarthen Bay (Pembrokeshire) for common scoter, the Severn Estuary for lesser black-backed gulls and several seawatching sites in south-west England for high numbers of Manx shearwaters on passage (Table 4.3).

Table 5.1 Summary of important inshore seabirds in SEA 6, 7 & 8 Areas ¹ (non breeding counts)

Species group	Species	SEA 6	SEA6 NI	SEA 7	SEA 7 NI	SEA 8
Divers	Red-throated diver ²					
	Black-throated diver ²					
	Great northern diver ²					
Grebes	Little grebe					
	Great crested grebe					
	Red-necked grebe					
	Slavonian grebe ²					
Petrels	Manx shearwater					
	Cormorants					
Seaduck	Scaup					
	Eider					
	Long-tailed duck					
	Common scoter					
	Goldeneye					
	Red-breasted merganser					
	Gulls	Little gull				
Black-headed gull						
Common gull						
Lesser black-backed gull						
Herring gull						
Great black-backed gull						
Terns	Kittiwake					
	Sandwich tern ²					
	Roseate tern ²					
	Common tern ²					
	Arctic tern ²					
Auks	Little tern ²					
	Guillemot					
	Razorbill					
	Black guillemot					

¹ based on 1% thresholds defined in Appendix A ² Annex I species

Key

	1-5 Nationally important sites		1-5 Internationally important sites
	6-10 Nationally important sites		6-10 Internationally important sites
	11-20 Nationally important sites		11-20 Internationally important sites

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