

Circumpolar Seabird Expert Group (CBird) Implementation Update Norway, 2019

The [Circumpolar Seabird Expert Group \(CBird\)](#) promotes, facilitates, and coordinates conservation, management and research activities among circumpolar countries and improves communication between seabird scientists and managers inside and outside the Arctic.



Photo: Hallvard Strøm



Current CBird Priorities

● Country participating ● Country not participating

- The State of the Arctic Marine Biodiversity Report (SAMBR)
- Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI) (Implementing the Circumpolar Flyway Workplan)
- Implementation of the species-specific conservation strategies and action plans
- Contributing seabird monitoring data to State of the Arctic Marine Biodiversity Report (SAMBR) and Seabird Information Network (SIN)
- Circumpolar Review of Arctic Tern Population Trends
- Assessment of seabird bycatch in Lumpfish fisheries
- Murre harvest study and scientific recommendations to international and national harvest schemes
- Black-legged Kittiwake conservation strategy
- Publication: Circumpolar dynamics of a marine top-predator track ocean warming rates (Descamps et al. 2017, Global Change Biology)

Links with National Priorities

CBird addresses and coordinates work on issues related to seabird management and research that are very relevant for seabird research and management at the national level in Norway. Issues of particular relevance for Norway are international status assessments (e.g. SAMBR), species-specific conservation strategies and action plans (eiders, guillemots, ivory gull), assessments of seabird harvest and bycatch of seabirds in fisheries, and the development of a joint seabird monitoring programme for the circumpolar Arctic.

CBird helps putting the national work into a larger context and facilitates contact between scientist and managers in the Arctic countries.

Participants at the 2019 CBird Annual Meeting in Akureyri, Iceland.
Photo: CAFF



CBird Summary of 2017-18 Country Achievements

Non-breeding distribution of Northeast-Atlantic seabirds (SEATRACK)

Phase I of the large-scale tracking programme for seabirds breeding in the Northeast Atlantic was completed in 2018. Since 2014, more than 10 000 geolocator loggers have been deployed on 11 species in 36 colonies in five countries (Norway, Russia, Iceland, Faroes and UK). Output from the programme includes maps of important marine habitats for the different populations (<http://seatrack.seapop.no/map/>). Phase II (2019-2022) of the programme has now been launched, which also will include deployment of miniaturized GPS loggers and a geographical expansion into Greenland and Canada. SEATRACK is one of the main Norwegian contributions to the Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI), and the programme may serve as model for how circumpolar seabird tracking data can be compiled into a common repository. This will facilitate large-scale analyses of habitat use and demographic effects of environmental changes in the non-breeding areas, as well as the data integration into habitat protection processes such as Marine Protected Areas planning and assessments of shipping routes.

Global assessment of seabird bycatch in lumpsucker fisheries

This project aims to review all available information on seabird bycatch in North Atlantic lumpsucker fisheries, and quantifies their overall bycatch of seabirds. The results are presented in a scientific paper that was submitted to an appropriate peer-reviewed journal in April 2019.

A three-year plan developed for the national programme SEAPOP

SEAPOP, the long-term monitoring, mapping and research programme for Norwegian seabirds, provides and maintains base-line knowledge of seabirds in Norway, Svalbard and adjacent sea areas. A three-year work plan was developed in 2018 to facilitate long-term planning for all involved and better focus the work on identifying key drivers of the population declines observed for many species. An English version of the programme web site was launched in 2018 (<http://www.seapop.no/en/>)

Black-legged kittiwake conservation strategy

The black-legged kittiwake has declined dramatically in numbers across most of the Arctic, particularly in the Northeast Atlantic. The CBird group therefore decided to develop a conservation strategy and action plan for the species, parallel to those already made for murre, eiders and ivory gull. With Norway as the lead, a draft plan was developed in 2018 and is planned to be finalised in 2019.



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Hallvard Strøm

Research scientist

Norwegian Polar Institute (NPI)
The Fram Center, NO-9296 Tromsø, Norway
hallvard.strom@npolar.no
+47 932 45 868

Tycho Anker-Nilssen

Senior research scientist

Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA)
P.O. Box 5685 Torgarden, NO-7485 Trondheim,
Norway
tycho@nina.no
+47 934 66 771

Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)

Borgir, Nordurlod
600 Akureyri, Iceland
www.caff.is/cbird
caff@caff.is

