

Marine Birds – Horned Puffin Colonies

description

The Horned Puffin (*Fratercula corniculata*) is a small, pigeon-sized bird with black crown, throat and upper sides and a white breast and undersides. It has a white face patch with a small black “horn” above its eyes and a large, triangular bill that ranges in colour from yellow at the base to a red tip. The Horned Puffin is similar to the Tufted Puffin but lacks the Tufted Puffin’s distinctive yellow face tufts and black undersides. This species of auk nests in colonies, often with Tufted Puffins, in burrows or rocky cavities on rocky islands. Horned Puffins winter far out at sea, only coming to shore to breed. Approximately 90% of the world population is found in Alaska and this species is rare in British Columbia and is included on the Province of British Columbia’s red list of threatened, endangered or extirpated species.

This atlas page depicts active and historic Horned Puffin colonies in terms of their relative importance. Because of the status of this species, the experts suggested that all sites be given a high relative importance value. Sites have been included regardless of whether breeding had been previously confirmed at a particular site. Attributes for each site include the date that breeding was last confirmed and the most recent survey results. Colony locations were buffered to represent some of the marine habitat used by these birds adjacent to each colony, based on the distances employed in the creation of the Canadian Wildlife Service’s Marine Bird Areas of Interest dataset.



PHOTO: JACLYN MCPHADEN

data sources

- Environment Canada (Canadian Wildlife Service) – British Columbia Seabird Colony Inventory
- Parks Canada – Nesting Seabird Colonies

data resolution

- 1:250,000 (some points have been adjusted to match the 1:20,000 TRIM coastline)

data collected

- 1977-1989 (years breeding was confirmed)

date compiled

- 2008

reviewers

- Harry Carter, Consultant
- Representatives from Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service

reviewer comments

- None provided.

caveats of use

- Gaps in the extent of this feature should not be inferred to be an absence of the species, but rather an absence in survey effort.
- Not all colonies are surveyed each year and colonies that were active in the past may or may not still support breeding populations but the sites are still deemed important by the experts.
- Possible breeding sites are sites where breeding is suspected but has not been confirmed or counted. This information is only available for the Parks Canada dataset for Haida Gwaii.
- Recommended date of expiry for use of these data in a marine planning context: None provided.

map, feature data and metadata access

- Visit www.bcmca.ca/data for more information.

references

- New Hampshire Public Television. *Nature Works*. Revised 2010. www.nhptv.org/NATUREWORKS
- Patuxent Wildlife Research Centre. *Horned Puffin*. United States Geological Survey (USGS). Revised 2005. www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/id/framlst/i0140id.html
- Species description contains material from:
- B.C. Conservation Data Centre. *Species Summary: Fratercula corniculata*. BC Ministry of Environment (MoE) 2010. 21 Sep. 2010 <http://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/eswp/>

BCMCA Atlas
Marine Birds
Horned Puffin Colonies

Legend

Relative Importance

■ High

Note:
 - Colonies have been buffered by 2 kilometres.

Data Sources:

Environment Canada
 (Canadian Wildlife Service),
 Parks Canada

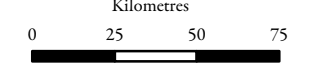
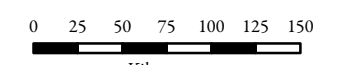
Base Data:

ESRI Base Data, GeoBase, GeoBC,
 NOAA, Natural Resources Canada,
 USGS, Washington State Government

Thematic Data:

For more information on data sources
 and methods please refer to the
 facing page to this map

Projection: BC Albers NAD83



1:4,250,000 *

* Written scales are approximate and
 are based on a 11 x 17 inch paper size.

Prepared for:



Map template by Caslys Consulting Ltd.

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