

Marine Birds – Thick-billed Murre Colonies

description

Thick-billed Murres (*Uria lomvia*) are black with white underparts and have a long and pointed bill. They lack the white stripe behind the eye that is found in Common Murres. Thick-billed Murres nest in large, noisy colonies with murres numbering in the thousands. These colonies are found on the rocky coasts of Alaska, Canada, Greenland, Scandinavia and Russia, typically on cliff faces that are inaccessible to terrestrial predators. Within the colonies, each murre has a reduced territory, and only defends the area it can reach with its bill from where it sits on its egg. There is stiff competition for nesting sites on a limited amount of suitable cliff face, and as many birds as possible will cram their nests into one area.

This atlas page depicts active and historic Thick-billed Murre colonies in terms of their relative importance. As only one known breeding site exists within the study area, experts suggested the site be assigned a high relative importance. This colony on Triangle Island had an estimated count of 41 individuals in the most recent survey in 1989. Attributes for each site include the date that breeding was last confirmed and the most recent survey results. The colony location was buffered to represent some of the marine habitat used by these birds adjacent to the colony, based on the distances employed in the creation of the Canadian Wildlife Service's Marine Bird Areas of Interest dataset.



PHOTO: PHIL EAGER

data sources

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

data resolution

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

data collected

- 1989 (year 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.
- Buffer distances do not represent the entire foraging area of the birds.
- 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

Species description contains material from:

- B.C. Conservation Data Centre. *Species Summary: Uria lomvia*. BC Ministry of Environment (MoE) 2010. 21 Sep. 2010 <http://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/eswp/>
- Hebert PDN, Wearing-Wilde J, eds. *Canada's Polar Life*. CyberNatural Software, University of Guelph. Revised 2002. www.polarlife.ca
- National Geographic. *Thick-billed Murre*. Revised 2010. <http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/birds/murre.html>

BCMCA Atlas
Marine Birds
Thick-billed Murre Colonies

Legend

Relative Importance

■ High

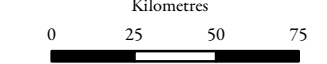
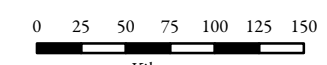
Note:
 - Colony has been buffered by 5 kilometres.

Data Sources:
 Environment Canada
 (Canadian Wildlife Service)

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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