

Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative



Common eider, a priority species for AMBI 2015-2019.
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Circumpolar

Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI): protecting Arctic lifestyles and peoples through migratory bird conservation is a project designed to improve the status and secure the long-term sustainability of declining Arctic breeding migratory bird populations. AMBI has developed the [Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative Work Plan 2015-2019](#) to identify priorities and guide actions.



The Circumpolar Flyway covers focal species that spend most or all of their life cycle in Arctic regions, and migrate east-west rather than north-south. These are mainly seabirds and seaducks.

Flyway Issues

Further research is needed to identify **where and when birds congregate** during their life cycle and how these areas overlap with **industrial activities** such as shipping and fisheries.

Conservation concerns include **habitat degradation**, **overharvest** and seabird **bycatch** in fisheries.

Traditional knowledge is a fundamental element in successful wildlife co-management programs. Arctic countries will engage with indigenous knowledge holders to incorporate **indigenous perspectives** in conservation and research and include **community-based monitoring** as a tool to reach conservation goals.

Relevant Regional Initiatives

[Circumpolar Seabird Group \(Cbird\)](#)

Priority Conservation Actions

Obtain critical information on key at-sea sites for marine bird congregations

- Develop and implement at-sea surveys
- Develop and implement at-sea tracking
- Identify areas where key marine seabird habitats intersect with current and especially emerging commercial fisheries, resource exploration and shipping developments.



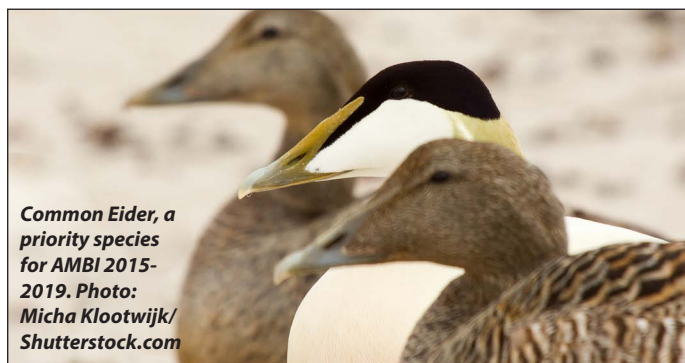
Mitigate seabird and seaduck bycatch

- Undertake gill net bycatch assessments in key regions
- Develop and test bycatch mitigation measures.



Mitigate habitat degradation

- Identify and participate in current initiatives to facilitate protection of marine birds and marine bird habitat.
- Ensure that guidelines for responsible seabird colony viewing are made available to the tourism industry.



Mitigate unsustainable harvest

- Develop reporting guidelines as well as outreach and education plans to support sustainable harvest of seabirds

Begin to assess status of poorly known Arctic bird species

- Support the activities and priorities of the International Snowy Owl Working Group



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