OSPAR QSR 2023: Marine Bird Data Call Nov 2020 – 28th Feb 2021

Instructions for filling in the OSPAR Marine Bird Data Reporting Format

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IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ

Since the last OSPAR marine bird data call in 2016 for the Intermediate Assessment, a few minor changes have been made to data forms - see highlighted in <mark>yellow</mark> below. These changes were necessary to address some issues encountered in 2016. Otherwise, the data submission method is the same as in 2016.

Please note that in order to consider data previously submitted to the Biodiversity Database, those data will need to be resubmitted under this data call, in line with the revised reporting format. Please ensure you read all the guidance below:

Do not remove, add, or adjust any columns or calculations included in the associated MS Excel reporting sheets

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- Always use the latest version of the reporting sheets, which will be delivered as part of the OSPAR data call. Do not use old versions.

- Please do not use any thousand separators (commas, apostrophies, or blanks) in number fields.

- Latest guidance and formats will always be available at **https://biodiversity.ices.dk/**

CONTACTS

Content Contact: Ian Mitchell (UK) **ian.mitchell@jncc.gov.uk**

Please contact Ian Mitchell if you have any queries about what data to include in your submission.

Technical contact: accessions@ices.dk

Please contact accessions@ices.dk if you encounter problems submitting your data online or need any additional codes.

Latest reporting format: https://biodiversity.ices.dk

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1. Data Use

The Contracting Parties will report data (as specified below) that will enable an assessment, for the QSR2023, of two Biodiversity Common Indicators:

B1 - Marine bird abundance

B3 - Marine bird breeding success

The data received from this call will form the basis for the B1 and B3 Marine Birds indicator assessment. The data will be stored by ICES and made available via the OSPAR Data and Information System (ODIMs) in support of delivery of the Quality Status Report 2023 (QSR2023).

Assessments of both indicators will be included in the QSR2023 for OSPAR Region I – Arctic Waters, OSPAR Region II - Greater North Sea subregion, OSPAR Region III - the Celtic Seas and OSPAR Region IV - Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast for which the indicator has been agreed as common. The geographical extent of the assessments in each Region will depend on the amount of data available to Contracting Parties.

It should be noted that Regions V is included in the data call with the caveat that the extension of indicators B1 and B3 to this region has not been agreed. Any data submitted against this region for this data call would be used for the purpose of testing and exploring the applicability and use of the indicators in Region V as a basis for further decisions on assessment work. Any decision to use and publish data for Region V would only be taken later and agreed at BDC.

The data will be used to construct regional indicators, baselines and thresholds. Assessments will then be performed against the respective threshold values. The work will be conducted by OSPAR's nominated lead for B1 and B3 and will be overseen by the Joint OSPAR/ICES/HELCOM Working Group on Marine Birds– JWGBird, reporting to the OSPAR Biological Diversity Committee (via ICG-COBAM). The results will be used by JWGBird and ICG-COBAM to provide Contracting Parties with an assessment of marine bird common indicators for the QSR2023.

Both indicators will be constructed from data collected by existing monitoring schemes. They were both included in the Intermediate Assessment in 2017 for Regions I, II and III (https://oap.ospar.org/en/ospar-assessments/intermediate-assessment-2017/biodiversity-status/marine-birds/). This data request will aim to extend the time-series for both indicators and to collate all available data on abundance and breeding success in regions I-IV.

Data Access

OSPAR is committed to making as much information as possible publicly available, consistent with achieving other similarly important goals of public policy. The framework for this is set out in Article 9 of the OSPAR Convention and Annex 3 of the OSPAR Rules of Procedure (2013-2).

Contracting Parties should contact Chris Moulton (Chris.Moulton@ospar.org) if they have any queries over what data to include in the submissions.

Data access can be specified by the submitters directly in the submission form as:

Public   Data are publicly accessible

Restricted   Data, in their reported form, are not to be made publicly accessible. All aggregated data products are, by default, publicly available, including those derived from restricted data

Data will be made available in line with the terms of the OSPAR Data Policy where they are not restricted: https://odims.ospar.org/data_policy.html

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2.   Reporting Format QSR2023

The data required are as follows (details are provided in Tables 1-6 below). For a full list of seabird and water-bird species that could be included in the indicators and in the data submission, see the respective vocabulary that accompanies the MS Excel Reporting Sheets:

   a) **breeding seabird colonies (incl. gulls and terns) and breeding waterbirds (incl. waders) nesting close to the coast and using the marine environment (e.g. for food)** – counts of breeding pairs (preferably or failing that - adults) per species per colony per year (see Table 2); and counts of young fledged (preferably or failing that, counts of young hatched), per species per colony per year (see Table 3).

   b) **wintering and passage waterbirds (incl. waders)** – numbers of birds per species per site per year that are counted from land (see Table 2).

   Note 1: We do not require data on seabirds or waterbirds at-sea, collected from boats or from planes. Except, we do require data collected by aerial surveys in the Wadden Sea for Eider (January) and Shelduck (July/August - moulting).

   Note 2: All data under a) and b) should preferably come from individual colonies or sites rather than over large stretches of coastline.

   Note 3: Data on non-breeding waterbirds will be requested for two time periods, depending on availability: a) max count in January; and b) mean count during July to June. (b) is currently used by TMAP in the Wadden Sea. This will be used to provide an indicator in the southern North Sea subdivision of OSPAR II, but may not be used elsewhere. Maximum January counts are more widely used (e.g. by International Waterbird Census) and will be used to construct indicators for each OSPAR Region.

   Note 4: Abundance data CAN include previously modelled estimates that account for temporal and spatial gaps in data coverage. This is recorded in the Excel using the field 'Count_method' to distinguish modelled and observed records.

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c) **Baselines (all species - <mark>OPTIONAL</mark>)** – Ideally, for indicator B1 – abundance, a baseline for each species should be set at a population size that is considered desirable for each individual species in each Region. However, few countries were able to supply baselines for the IA2017 and the COVID pandemic has hindered attempts by JWGBIRD to address this. Therefore, during QSR2023 we will use a default baseline that will be set at a mean abundance recorded during the first few years of the timeseries in each region.

d) **Regional weightings (all species - MANDATORY) -** size of the population of each species in:

    i.   the whole of the relevant OSPAR Region and

    ii.   in each subdivision of OSPAR Regions I and II, where applicable (see Figure 2).

These data will be used to weight the annual estimates of abundance from the sample of sites monitored in each country. The weightings are required because the proportion of a regional or subdivisional population that is monitored varies between species and between countries. In a given year, the trend models will be used to estimate numbers at colonies or sites that were not surveyed in that year and add them to the observed counts from those colonies that were surveyed. Without the weighting, there would be a bias, in that those countries where a smaller proportion of the population is monitored, will be underrepresented in the resultant regional or subdivisional trends.
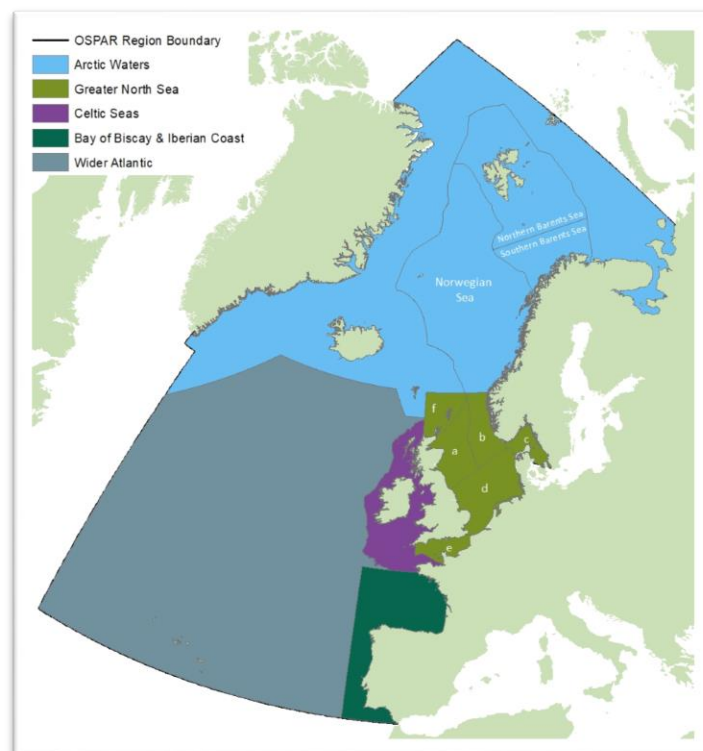

Figure 1. Marine bird assessment units. Greater North Sea sub-divisions: a) Northeast coast of Britain, b) West coast of Norway, c) Skagerrak and Kattegat, d) Southern North Sea, e) English Channel, f) North coast of Scotland and the Northern Isles https://odims.ospar.org/layers/geonode:ospar_assessment_areas_2020_11_001

3. Submitting data online

Each Contracting Party should submit their data to ICES. **Data submission deadline is 28ᵗʰ February 2021.**

Step 1: The Excel sheets available at https://biodiversity.ices.dk should be filled out with data.

Step 2: When the data sheets are filled out, the <**Export data to XML**> button on the export_data worksheet should be pressed to produce the xml data file. (see Figure)

Step 3: The xml file should then be uploaded to the ICES website **(https://biodiversity.ices.dk/managebirds).**

Note: the Excel file contains macros that are used to transform the worksheets to the XML data format for uploading. Generally you should only enable macros from a trusted source, please ensure you download the Excel file from ICES directly to be sure of a clean, virus free file.

Login

A login is required in order to upload and manage data. The ICES sharepoint login can be used, if you do not have an ICES login please contact accessions@ices.dk

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During data submission, data will be checked for correct use of vocabulary codes and data types. This quality control will ensure that the data standards have been met, a report of control issues will be generated and made available to the submitter online. Data not complying with the correct format will not be accepted by the uploading utility.

The Excel worksheets are described in Tables 1-5 below. Fields marked in red are mandatory whereas fields marked in green are optional. Some fields have specific 'fixed' values that need to be entered. These values are contained in drop down lists within the cells of the Excel data entry sheets and in the accompanying 'Vocabularies' sheet.

All data submitted in 2016 should be resubmitted along with new data in the following sheets: [File_information], [B1_abundance_data], [B3_breeding_success_data], [Birds_site_description] and [Birds_survey_metadata]. This required because of the formatting changes made to the database since 2016 - see changes highlighted in yellow in Tables 1-5 below.)

Regional weighting values should be entered in a separate spreadsheet available at http://ices.dk/data/Documents/biodiversity/BaselinesAndweightings.xlsm and should be submitted to accessions (accessions@ices.dk) – see guidance in Table 6 below **Regional weighting values that were submitted in 2016 do not need to be resubmitted as part of this data call**. Any changes to existing regional weighting values, can be made using an online tool (requires ICES login): https://biodiversity.ices.dk/managebirds (see Figure 2).

Figure 2 Regional weightings online editing

Figure 3 Excel sheet with export button for XML

Table1. File_information

Column Header	Optional/mandatory	Format Example	Explanation
Country	Mandatory	Sweden	selected from a drop-down list
Reporting_organisation	Mandatory	"3512" for The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management	EDMO code lookup (Vocabulary)
Preparation_date	Mandatory	31052016	Datestamp (ddmmyyyy)
Reporting_year	Mandatory	2020	For version (yyyy) control and back tracking

Table 2: B1_adundance_data

Column Header	Optional/mandatory	Format Example	Explanation
NationalColonyID	Mandatory	2568	A National unique numerical identifier for each colony (links to Table 4: Birds_site_description
AphiaID	Autofilled	137156	Will be automatically filled in by the template based on the species name. AphiaID according to the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS) – marinespecies.org
Species_name	Mandatory	*Rissa tridactyla*	Scientific name, according to the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS) – marinespecies.org
Year	Mandatory	1987	The year that the reported data applies to. Please include a row for each year from 1980 to 2014- even if there is no data to be reported for the year
Count	Mandatory	2456	Enter count, "-1" for no data, or "0" for a zero count i.e. the colony or site was surveyed but no birds or pairs were present. Integers only.
Count_unit	Mandatory	Pairs	"Individuals" "Pairs" (selected from drop down list) Note. In 2016 this field contained numerical values: "1" = Individuals "2" = Pairs.
Count_flag	Mandatory	breeding_data	Indicate if it is "breeding_data" or "non_breeding" (i.e. counts of overwintering or migratory birds)
Count_method	Mandatory	observed	Indicate if the count was "observed" or was "modelled" (i.e. estimated or interpolated from an incomplete data time-series.)
Sample_breeding	Optional	Whole colony or site	"Whole colony or site" "Plot" (selected from drop down list) Data on breeding numbers consist of whole colony counts and of plot counts. Whole colony counts are generated for all species by a complete survey of a colony. Plots are sections of the colony that are easily demarcated by observers and generally contain no more than 200-300 birds or pairs. For a given colony, a sample of plots is chosen at random and the number of birds

Column Header	Optional/mandatory	Format Example	Explanation
			or pairs in each plot is counted several times within the breeding season, to estimate counting error and account for daily variation in the number of birds present at a given time (see Walsh et al. 1995). If you are entering plot data, please enter in the "Count" column the total number of birds or pairs in all the plots in a given year. ==Note. In 2016 this field contained numerical values: "1" = PLOT "2" = WHOLE COLONY or SITE==
Plot_combination	Optional	1	"1", "2", "3", "4", "5", etc. = the identity of each different combination of plots because different plot combinations may be used over the time period. Leave blank if the whole colony counted.
Adjustment_factor	Optional	12	Decimal (factor to adjust Plot count to whole colony). Mandatory if Plot_combination is filled in
Time_period	Mandatory	==January (peak count)==	=="January (peak count)" "Full year: July-June" (mean count) "Breeding season" (selected from drop down list)== ==Note. In 2016 this field contained numerical values: "1" = January (peak count) "2" = full year: July-June (mean count) "3" = breeding season==
Data_access	Mandatory	Public	Indicates if data is public or restricted. "Public" for data that are publicly accessible "Restricted" if data, in their reported form, are not to be made publicly accessible. All aggregated data products are, by default, publicly available, including those derived from restricted data
SurveyID	Mandatory	SMP	This is a unique identifier that provides links to worksheet Birds_survey_metadata

Table 3: B3_breeding_success_data (changes to 2015 format are highlighted in yellow)

Column Header	Optional/mandatory	Format Example	Explanation
NationalColonyID	Mandatory	2568	A National unique numerical identifier for each colony (links to Table 4: Birds_site_description)
AphiaID	Autofilled	137156	Will be automatically filled in by the template based on the species name. AphiaID according to the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS) – marinespecies.org
Species_name	Mandatory	*Rissa tridactyla*	Scientific name, according to the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS) – marinespecies.org
Year	Mandatory	1987	The year that the reported data applies to. Please include a row for each year from 1980 to 2014- even if there is no data to be reported for the year
Plot_size	Mandatory	335	The total number of nests or breeding pairs that were present in the breeding success monitoring plot (this could be an entire colony). Enter count, or "-1" for no data, or "0" for a zero count i.e. the plot was visited but no birds or pairs were present. Integers only.
Plot_size_unit	Mandatory	Apparently occupied nests/sites	Enter unit of plot size: "Pairs" "Apparently occupied nests/sites" (selected from drop down list) Note. In 2016 this field contained numerical values: "2" = PAIRS "3" = APPARENTLY OCCUPIED NESTS/SITES
Chicks_fledged	Optional	300	The total number of chicks in the plot or colony that were estimated to have fledged. Enter count, or blank for no data, or "0" for a zero count i.e. the plot was visited but no chicks were fledged. Integers only.
Chicks_hatched	Optional	400	Where available (and in the absence of any data on chicks fledged) please enter the total number of chicks that hatched within the plot or colony. Enter count, or blank for no data, or "0" for a zero count i.e. the plot was visited but no chicks hatched. Integers only.
Prescored_success	Optional	breeding success	This is only required if there are no estimates of chicks fledged or hatched. This is used to record an assessment of

Column Header	Optional/mandatory	Format Example	Explanation
		>0.1 chicks per pair	whether breeding failure occurred or not. Indicate if: "breeding success >0.1 chicks per pair" or "breeding success <0.1 chicks per pair" (selected from drop down list). Note. In 2016 this field contained numerical values: "1" = breeding success >0.1 chicks per pair "0" = breeding success <0.1 chicks per pair .
Data_access	Mandatory	Public	Indicates if data is public or restricted "Public" for data that are publicly accessible "Restricted" if data, in their reported form, are not to be made publicly accessible. All aggregated data products are, by default, publicly available, including those derived from restricted data
SurveyID	Mandatory	SMP	This is a unique identifier that provides links to Table 5: Birds_survey_metadata

Table 4: Birds_site_description (changes to 2016 format are highlighted in yellow)

Column Header	Optional/mandatory	Format Example	Explanation
NationalColonyID	Mandatory	2568	A National unique numerical identifier for each colony (used to link to data tables 2- B1_abundance_data and 3 - B3_breeding_success_data).
Colony_name	Mandatory		Name of Colony (free text)
Latitude	Mandatory		WGS84, decimal degrees
Longitude	Mandatory		WGS84, decimal degrees
Location_definition	Mandatory	start point	Indicate which part of the colony/site the Lat/Long refers to: "start point" "end point" "mid point" "centroid of a polygon" "arbitrary" (selected from drop down list) Note. In 2016 this field contained numerical values: "1" = start point, "2" = end point, "3"= mid point, "4" = centroid of a polygon or "5"= arbitrary
Area_type	Autofilled	OSPARRegion	Area reference type, prefilled for this data call
Area_reference	Mandatory	2	Indicates if the site lies in Artic Waters (OSPAR region I) ("1"), Greater North Sea (OSPAR region II) ("2"), Celtic Seas (OSPAR region III) ("3"), Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast (OSPAR region IV) ("4"), or Wider Atlantic (OSPAR region V) ("5")
Bird_subdivision	Optional	a	Indicates if the site lies in a specific Bird subdivision of OSPAR region I or II (Bird subdivisions are shown in **Error! Reference source not found.** and listed in Vocabularies.). NB OSPAR Regions III-V are not sub-divided.
SurveyID	Mandatory	SMP	This is a unique identifier that provides links to Table 5: Birds_survey_metadata

Table 5: Birds_survey_metadata

Column Header	Optional/ mandatory	Format Example	Explanation
SurveyID	Mandatory	SMP	Use a unique identifier that provides links to tables 2-B1_abundance_data and 3 - B3_breeding_success_data
Survey_name	Mandatory	Seabird Monitoring Programme (SMP)	Full name of survey with abbreviation in parentheses.
Survey_parameter	Mandatory	breeding_success	please enter one of the following and use only one parameter per cell: "breeding_success" "breeding_abundance" "non-breeding_abundance"
Start_year	Mandatory	1986	Enter the year the survey started.
End_year	Optional	2005	Enter the year the survey ended. If the survey is ongoing, please leave blank
Country	Mandatory	Sweden	selected from a drop-down list. Enter one country per cell.
Contact	Mandatory	Jon Smitsson	Point of contact for survey (e.g. co-ordinator or data manager).
Email	Mandatory	jon.smitsson@havochvatten.se	Email address of contact
Institute	Mandatory	"3512" for The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management	Affiliation of contact. EDMO code lookup (Vocabulary)
Website	Optional	www.slu.se/en/seabirds	Website dedicated to survey, if available.
References	Optional	Smitsson et al (2012)	Any relevant references that describe methods and/or results.
Notes	Optional		Please add any additional information you may think useful.

Table 6: Regional Weightings and Baselines <u>(changes to 2016 format are highlighted in yellow)</u>

The initial baselines and weighting values (using the separate spreadsheet **BaselinesAndWeightings.xlsm**) should be submitted to accessions (accessions@ices.dk), thereafter adjustments and edits can be made to the online version (requires login):

https://biodiversity.ices.dk/managebirds

Column Header	Optional/mandatory	Format Example	Explanation
Country	Mandatory	SE	ISO 3166 Code (2 ALPHA) – see Vocabulary. Enter one country only per cell.
Species_name	Mandatory	*Rissa tridactyla*	Scientific name, according to the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS) – marinespecies.org
WeightingRegionID	Mandatory	2c	Enter the weighting region ID, which is a combination of the OSPAR region code and the Bird Subdivisions. See Vocabulary for details.
Weighting_value	Mandatory	1	Please enter the weighting value. Integers only
Source_year_weighting	Mandatory	1999	Source year for weighting, YYYY
Baseline_value	<mark>Optional</mark>	1	Please enter the baseline value. Integers only
Source_year_baseline	<mark>Optional</mark>	1999	Source year for baseline, YYYY
Count_unit	Mandatory	2	"1" = Individuals "2" = Pairs
Count_flag	Mandatory	breeding_data	Indicate if it is "breeding_data" or "non_breeding" (i.e. counts of overwintering or migratory birds)
Justification_for_baseline	<mark>Optional</mark>	reference_level	Please enter one of the following options: "historical_reference_level" "reference_level" "start_of_time_series" "other_baseline"