



OGÓLNOPOLSKIE  
TOWARZYSTWO  
OCHRONY PTAKÓW



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Warsaw, 27.04.2023

Dear Colleagues,

The populations of many seabird species that breed in Northern Europe and migrate through the East Atlantic Flyway to spend winter in the Baltic Sea region are currently experiencing a negative trend and declining annually. As migratory seabird populations cross national and exclusive economic zone borders, their favourable status is an international concern. Therefore, the system of marine and coastal protected areas, including marine Natura 2000 sites, is an ideal way to implement international marine biodiversity conservation measures for species that are themselves international. In order to contribute to the protection of migratory bird species and their habitats, the East Atlantic Flyway Initiative (EAFI) has been established by BirdLife International with 32 participatory organisations stretching from the far north of Europe (Greenland, Iceland, Svalbard) to the far south of Africa (South Africa, Angola via the west African countries) in order to try to better manage the hotspots that are essential of migratory birds, seabirds included. The Flyway crosses the Baltic region and the birds that use this route rely on the Baltic Sea. Besides, the Baltic Sea is the largest wintering site for seabirds in Europe.

In this connection, we hereby kindly invite you to take part in the ***EU Biogeographical Process Networking Event: Migratory seabirds-friendly management of marine and/or coastal protected areas in the Baltic Sea Region***. The Networking Event will be held **online on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023** (please see the agenda attached) and it will bring together biodiversity management experts from the eight EU Baltic Sea littoral countries (i.e., Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Sweden) with the objective to devise appropriate management practices which will supplement the existing management practices in the Baltic Sea region aimed specifically at migratory seabird populations that use the Baltic Sea in their migration. Current management approaches in marine biodiversity/seabirds, will be subjected to revision, the exact gaps and needs (in terms of ecosystem structures and functions) for migratory seabirds will be identified, whilst management practices will be elaborated for the marine and/or coastal protected areas management – not exclusive to the Baltic Sea region but along the entire lengths of the Flyway. The Networking Event will focus on the exact habitat requirements of different



Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process in the Marine Regions



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species of migratory seabirds and existing threats thereto (e.g., bycatch, trawling damage to seafloor and food, offshore windfarms, navigation, oil spills, watersports, hunting, and recreation disturbance).

Additionally, experts from the non-EU maritime countries, i.e. Iceland, Norway, and the United Kingdom will be invited to participate in the Networking Event. This would enable prospective accession of the co-ordinated EAFI activities in order to cover the full stretch of the East-Atlantic Flyway with the managed framework of marine and/or coastal protected areas, subjected to co-ordinated management.

We are looking forward to see you at the Networking Event!

Sincerely,

dr Jarosław Krogulec,

Head of Conservation



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## EU Biogeographical Process Networking Event: Migratory seabirds-friendly management of marine and/or coastal protected areas in the Baltic Sea Region

Held online on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023  
(CEST time, please mind your time zone)

- |       |  |   |
|-------|--|---|
| 09:30 | Welcome Speech   | Jarosław Krogulec, OTOPO – BirdLife Poland, Head of Conservation  |
| 09:40 | EC perspective regarding conservation of migratory seabirds.   | Jeremy Crispin, European Commission   |
| 10:00 | Biogeographical process: Protected Areas and status improvement target   | Luna Milatović, Aleksandra Khirv, CEEweb for Biodiversity   |
| 10:20 | Conservation status of European Seabirds and main policies to protect them   | Antonio Vulcano, BirdLife ECA, Marine Officer   |
| 10:40 | Moderated discussion on seeking solutions to the 30% marine and/or coastal protected areas and the 10% strictly protected (identifying and designating areas; formulating the criteria for what is strictly protected) | Moderator: Dominik Marchowski, Ornithological Station, Museum and Institute of Zoology, Polish Academy of Science, Gdańsk, Poland |
| 11:10 | Coffee break   |   |
| 11:30 | Key anthropogenic threats in the Western Baltic and North Sea  | Kai Borkenhagen, Volker Dierschke, Nele Markones, (Dachverband Deutscher Avifaunisten e.V., Germany)                              |
| 12:00 | By-catch as a threat for seabirds in Europe  | Daniel Mitchell (BirdLife ECA, European Marine Coordinator)   |
| 12:30 | By-catch mitigation measures based on experience of LT and other Baltic countries  | Julius Morkunas (Lithuanian Ornithological Society)   |



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|-------|---|---|
| 13:00 | Moderated discussion on specific issues/threats (e.g., gill net fisheries and bird by-catch)          | Moderator: Włodzimierz Meissner (University of Gdańsk)  |
| 13:30 | Lunch break   |   |
| 14:30 | Status and protection of the key wintering population of migratory seabirds in the Baltic Sea         | Dominik Marchowski (Ornithological Station, Museum and Institute of Zoology, Polish Academy of Science, Gdańsk, Poland) |
| 15:00 | Monitoring of seabirds in the Polish Baltic Sea Exclusive Economic Zone                               | Włodzimierz Meissner (University of Gdańsk)   |
| 15:30 | Moderated discussion on conservation and monitoring for specific species (e.g., wintering sea ducks). | Moderator: Jarosław Krogulec, OTOPI Head of Conservation  |
| 16:00 | Summary of the Event  |   |

*Minor changes in the agenda are still possible.*

For participation in the Networking Event, please, fill in the registration form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScgu9kANEa5VdTU00TkwspXJ9njAqSpRByDhbBq8ztoRvZiog/viewform?usp=sharing> no later than 10<sup>th</sup> May.



Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process in the Marine Regions