Marine Natura 2000 Progress Assessment
Protection of marine Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (mIBAs), and sites at sea for seabirds

Progress: Mediocre, Terrestrial/coastal SPA network good, but overlap with mIBAs not very high. Some sites at sea designated. Further work to identify and protect sites offshore needed.

Map showing overlap of marine Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas and Special Protection Areas (Natura 2000) sites. See larger map on next page.

2014- Status update on mIBAs and Natura 2000 for seabirds

Finland has a large coastline and marine area in the North-East Baltic Sea, which includes an extensive archipelago of islands and islets. It is important for breeding Black Guillemot, and Arctic and Caspian Terns. It is also important for migratory and over-wintering seabirds and sea ducks, including the Velvet Scoter (Red List, Endangered) Long-tailed Duck (Red List, Vulnerable) and Steller’s Eider (Red List, Vulnerable). The Government of Finland has designated 98 coastal and marine SPAs. Many of these sites are located in the same area as the mIBA inventory compiled by BirdLife’s Partner in Finland (BirdLife Suomi), although only 56% of the mIBA area is overlapped by SPAs. The SPA network is currently protecting 8% of Finland’s marine area (Ranked 10th). The overall SPA progress is assessed as ‘Mediocre’, as additional sites could be identified in the offshore area.

Next steps & priorities:
Identification of additional sites offshore for more pelagic species, such as the Black Guillemot.

Resources:
BirdLife Suomi http://www.birdlife.fi/
Marine E-atlas http://maps.birdlife.org/marineIBAs/default.html
Seabird Tracking Database, http://www.seabirdtracking.org/
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Overlap of marine Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas and Special Protection Areas (Natura 2000) sites.

MAP LEGEND

- Marine Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas mIBA
- Natura 2000, Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Marine Area, Territorial Sea & Exclusive Economic Zone