



ESWG project register

Questionnaire completed by:	
Name	Baz Hughes
Email	baz.hughes@wwt.org.uk
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Project title	The status of breeding Common Scoter <i>Melanitta nigra nigra</i> in Britain and Ireland in 1996: the effect of the <i>Sea Empress</i> oil spill
Project coordinator(s)	Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) Wetland Advisory Service
Project partners and funders	Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), Irish Wildbird Conservancy (IWC), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)
Main individual / organisation to contact for information about project	
Project website	

Target species and population [enter X against all that apply] <i>Population boundaries can be viewed on the CSN too!</i>			
Greater Scaup (W Europe)		King Eider (N Europe/W Siberia)	
Greater Scaup (Black Sea/Caspian Sea)		Steller's Eider (NW Europe)	
Common Eider <i>S. m. mollissima</i> (Britain/Ireland)		Harlequin Duck (Iceland)	
Common Eider <i>S. m. mollissima</i> (Baltic/Wadden Sea)		Long-tailed Duck (Iceland/Greenland)	
Common Eider <i>S. m. mollissima</i> (Norway/NW Russia)		Long-tailed Duck (W Siberia/N Europe)	
Common Eider <i>S. m. mollissima</i> (White Sea)		Common Scoter (European)	X
Common Eider <i>S. m. mollissima</i> (Black Sea)		Velvet Scoter (W European)	
Common Eider <i>S. m. faeroeensis</i> (Faeroe Islands)		Velvet Scoter (Black Sea)	
Common Eider <i>S. m. faeroeensis</i> (Shetland Islands)		Red-breasted Merganser (NW & C Europe)	
Common Eider <i>S. m. borealis</i> (Svalbard/Franz Joseph Land)		Red-breasted Merganser (Mediterranean/Black Sea)	
Common Eider <i>S. m. borealis</i> (Iceland)		Red-breasted Merganser (Greenland)	
Common Eider <i>S. m. borealis</i> (NE Greenland)			

Project type [enter X against all that apply and/or specify other]	
Abundance/distribution	X
Life history (breeding success/survival/recruitment)	
Population delineation / migration	
Ecological research (e.g. habitat use, diet)	
Methodological / techniques	
Anthropomorphic (e.g. contaminants, aquaculture)	
Physiology/energetic/genetics/disease	
Other (please specify below)	
S	

Project description	
Project duration	
Start date	May 1996
End data/expected end date	June 1996
Will the project be repeated?	No
If yes, please provided estimated start year and end year	
Bird season [enter X against all that apply]	
Breeding	X
Non-breeding	
Moulting	
Migration	
Geographical location	
<p>Shetland, the Flow Country, and Inverness Glens to Dumfries and Galloway in Scotland, UK Loughs Conn/Cullin, Lough Corrib, Lough Ree and Lough Arrow in northwest Ireland.</p>	
Main aims and objectives	
<p>The main objective was to assess whether there had been a major decline in the British and Irish breeding Common Scoter population following the <i>Sea Empress</i> oil spill, which occurred in Carmarthen Bay, south Wales, in February 1996.</p> <p>The aim was to repeat the survey of breeding Common Scoter in Britain and Ireland that had been undertaken in 1995 by WWT, IWC, SNH and JNCC; with the intention of visiting all sites where scoter had been found during the 1995 survey.</p>	

Methods

The survey followed the methods used during the 1995 survey.

Surveys took place in May – June. Most waterbodies were surveyed from shore but larger, more complex sites were surveyed by boat. Observers scanned the water and shoreline using binoculars and telescopes. Observers recorded the number of birds present; classified in to pairs (male and female birds in continuous close consort), adult males, single immature males, un-aged males, single females and unsexed birds.

Data were analysed to determine whether there had been a decline in numbers between 1995 and 1996 using a generalised linear model with Poisson error distribution and log link function in the GLIM statistical package. Sex, area, site and year were used as variables in the model.

Datasets

Project outputs

Reports and papers

Underhill, M.C. & B. Hughes. 1996. *The status of breeding Common Scoter Melanitta nigra nigra in Britain and Ireland in 1996: the effect of the Sea Empress Oil Spill*. WWT Wetlands Advisory Service report to CCW.

Other outputs

Data ownership and access	
Are data collated during the project available to external users?	
Person/organisation that owns the data	
Contact name	
Organisation	
Contact email	
Person/organisation responsible for maintaining the dataset	
Contact name	
Organisation	
Contact email	
Person/organisation that can be contacted for accessing the data	
Contact name	
Organisation	
Contact email	

Additional information