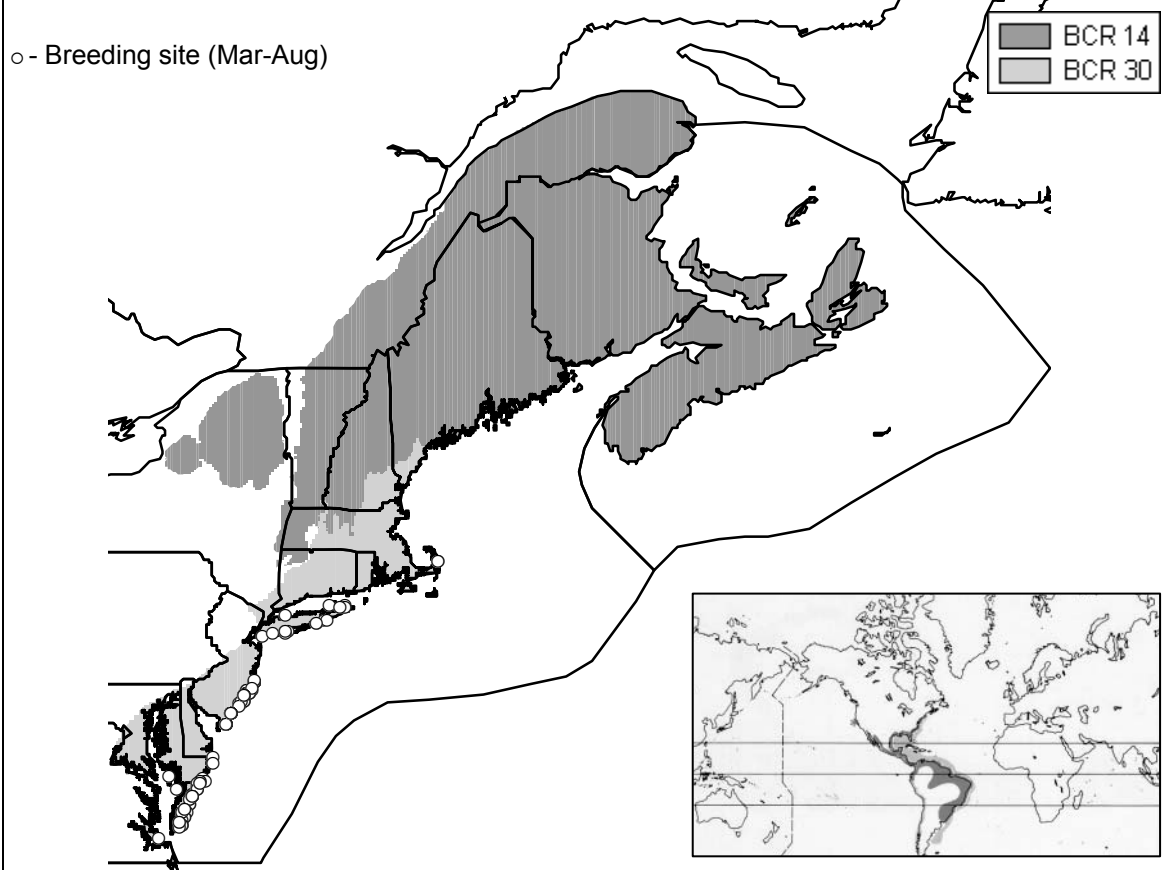


BLACK SKIMMER (*Rynchops niger niger*)

Conservation Status: Abundance (b=breeding, nb=nonbreeding, t=total individuals), Population Importance (% reference population) and Conservation Rank							
Global	North America	BCR 14	BCR 30	Mid-Atlantic	S. New England	Gulf of Maine	Maritimes
120,000-210,000t	65,000 – 70,000b (50-81% global)	0b (0% NA)	10,058b (13-14% NA)	9,024b (90% MANEM)	1034b (10% MANEM)	0b (0% MANEM)	0b (0% MANEM)
IUCN- Least Concern	NAWCP- High Concern	High Concern	High Concern	NJ- ES1B; DE-ES1B; MD-ES1S2B; VA-S2B, S1N MANEM Focal Species State SGCN-NJ,DE,MD,VA	NY-SCS2; CT-SAB,SZN; RI- S1N; MA-S1; VT-no info State SGCN-NY,CT,RI	MA-S1; NH- no info; ME- no info; NB, NS- no info	QC, PEI - no info; NB, NS - no info



Regional Occurrence

- Distribution: breeds in BCR 30
- Habitats used: breeding: near coasts on sandy beaches, shell banks, coastal islands; bays, estuaries, mudflats (migrating); foraging: ≤ 8 km from NY colony; 5.2 km from GA colony; tidal waters of bays, estuaries, lagoons, rivers, salt marsh pools, creeks, ditches

NAWCP BD=3; NAWCP ND=3

Regional Abundance

- 2001: US—10,058b
- 1990s: US—9,116b (57 colonies)
- 1970s: US—8,488b (45 colonies)
- 7% increase in regional population; recent declines in VA, NY, NJ

NAWCP PS=2; NAWCP PT=4

Regional Threats/Limiting Factors

- Population concentrated into few nesting sites
- Flooding of nests, overall sea level rise
- Predation and competition with gulls
- Human disturbance reduces breeding success; eggng by humans has previously greatly reduced populations

NAWCP TB=4; NAWCP TN=3

Conservation Needs: *Sustainability:* 2.8 young/pair/yr. *Conservation Actions:* Protect suitable breeding sites. Protect large colonies by restricting development, prohibiting use of recreational vehicles in nesting areas, and by educating the public. Use roof nesting opportunities; restore nesting sites; gull and vegetation management. *Needs:* assess productivity, manage nesting site predators, monitor. *Population Goals:* Restore (increase) to 6,900-8,500b. *Habitat Goals:* Restore/protect breeding habitat in following priority complexes: VA-Barrier Is Group, E Shore Chesapeake Bay Group; MD-Assawoman & Sinepuxent Bays; NJ-Great Bay Group, Cape May Wetlands Group, Little Egg Harbor. *Conservation Projects:* 9, 10, 45, 116.

BLSK_final1