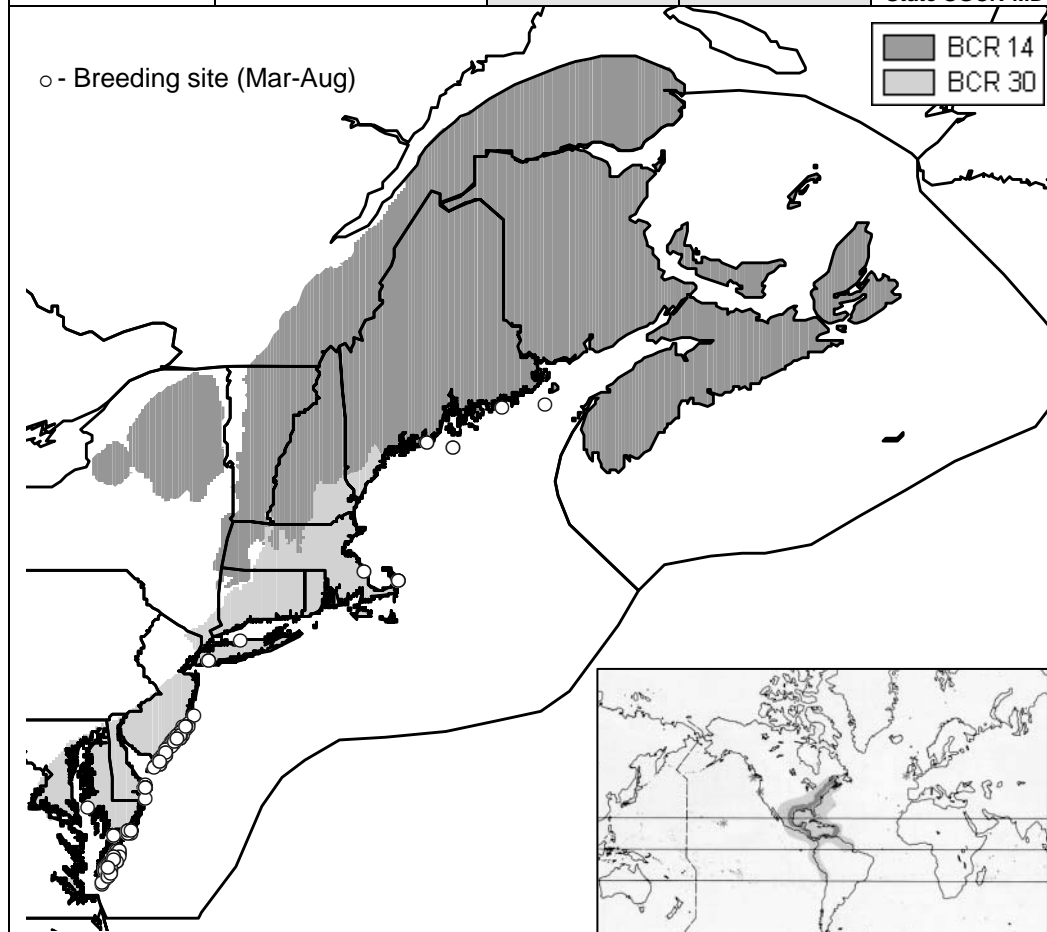


LAUGHING GULL (*Larus atricilla megalopterus*)

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
810,000 – 840,000t	528,000 – 538,000b (96-98% global)	2,704b (<1% NA)	202,646b (38% NA)	189,122b (92% MANEM)	13,524b (7% MANEM)	2,702b (1% MANEM)	2b (<1% MANEM)
IUCN- Least Concern	NAWCP- Lowest Concern	Lowest Concern	Lowest Concern	NJ- S5B; DE- S4B; MD- S1B, S4N; VA-S3S4 MANEM Focal Species State SGCN-MD	NY-S1; CT-SZN; RI- SZN; MA-S2; VT-na MANEM Focal Species State SGCN-NY,MA	MA-S2, NH-SZN; ME-SCS2S3B; NB- S1B; NS- S2N State SGCN-MA	QC-SN; NB- S1B; PE- no info; NS- S2N



Regional Occurrence

- Distribution: breeds in region
- Habitats used: salt marsh islands, sandy islands with scattered patches of long grass (breeding); seacoasts, bays, estuaries (non-breeding); foraging: non-breeding summer birds 30-60 km inland from coastal breeding sites; breeders may fly 40 km for food; coast at edge of water; inland during high tides and high winds and to find insects in meadows and plowed fields; also feeds on inland lakes, marshes, coastal marshes, impoundments and pools

NAWCP BD=3; NAWCP ND=2

Regional Abundance

- 1990s: US—205,348b (275 colonies); CAN—2b
- 1970s: US—129,768b (63 colonies)
- 58% increase in regional population

NAWCP PS=2; NAWCP PT=2

Regional Threats/Limiting Factors

- Habitat degradation and loss due to coastal development
- Human intrusion and predation at nesting colonies (will abandon site early in season)
- Pesticide contamination (especially organochlorines)
- Competes with other species of conservation concern (i.e. HERG) at nesting areas
- Collisions at several airports has led to direct killing as control technique
- Rack deposits, sea water rise, storm tides

NAWCP TB=2; NAWCP TN=2

Conservation Needs: *Sustainability:* 1.4 fledglings/nest/yr. *Conservation Actions:* No established management plans currently implemented; some states conduct periodic monitoring of population status. *Needs:* monitor; manage conflicts with terns, Red Knots and other waterbirds; manage local sites. *Population Goals:* maintain (below maximum) at 184,860-225,940b. *Habitat Goals:* Restore/protect breeding habitat in following priority complexes: VA-Barrier Is Group, Chincoteague Group, S Lagoon Group; DE- Calf Is Group; NJ-Cape May Wetlands Group, Great Bay Group; NY-Jamaica Bay Group; MA-National Seashore. *Conservation Projects:* 3, 12, 40, 45, 116.