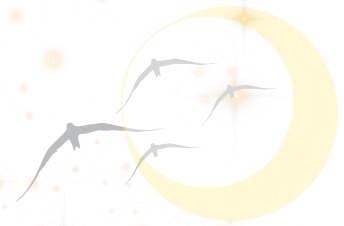


# Bird-Conscious Lighting for Vessels & Offshore Structures



Billions of birds navigate at night using stars and moonlight, especially during fall and spring migrations. Artificial lighting, especially at sea, disorients birds, leading to exhaustion and collisions that often result in death or injury. Seabirds, who live at sea for most of their lives, are especially vulnerable. Nights with low visibility, including periods of fog, new moon nights, or bad weather, often result in “bird storms” where hundreds of birds are impacted at once, causing significant death and injury. Collisions are not only devastating to birds but can also damage vessels, increase maintenance costs, and pose a safety risk for people on board. This has become a global issue. The good news: collisions are preventable!

## How You Can Help

- **Limit Light Use:** Only use lights when *necessary* for safety, operations and navigation.
- **Smart Controls:** Use automatic timers, dimmers, or motion sensors to turn lights on and off.
- **Focused Lighting:** Shield light down, facing the deck to reduce spillover into the sky and water.
- **Prevent light spill from windows:** Use blackout curtains or blinds in windows at night.

### Be Extra Careful During

- Dark moon phases
- Foggy, rainy and low cloud nights
- Bird migration seasons: April-May / August-October
- Seabird fledging (when baby birds leave the nest) in September-December

### Choosing the Right Lights

- Dimmable lights with lowest possible intensity to satisfy safety requirements.
- Correlated Color Temperature (CCT) at or below 2200K (yellow to amber lighting).
- Motion sensed.

### Benefits Beyond Birds

- **Safety Enhanced:** Reducing glare minimizes hazards, especially on wet decks and during emergencies.
- **Improved Reputation:** Taking sustainable, eco-friendly actions can create a more positive public image.
- **Enhanced Experiences:** Everyone likes clearer, starry skies; no one wants to witness a tragic collision.
- **Reduced Maintenance:** Less structural damage = less maintenance + more time and energy for staff.
- **Energy Savings:** Smart controls reduce energy use, resulting in cost savings and a lower carbon footprint.
- **Improved Human Health:** Natural, dimmer lighting results in better sleep and well-being for passengers.
- **Eye Health:** Reducing excessive or misdirected lighting helps preserve crew members’ night vision
- **Biodiversity Conservation:** Protecting birds maintains the balance of marine and coastal ecosystems.
- **Education Opportunity:** Engage with passengers to raise awareness about marine conservation topics.

### Additional Resources:

- Check [BirdCast](#) to know when birds migrate near coasts.
- Visit [DesignLights Consortium](#) & [International Dark Sky Association](#) for night sky-friendly products.

**These simple changes make a big difference!**

**Lower the Lights, Save a Flight.**

**Scan QR Code for more information**



*Birds use the night sky to navigate during migration but bright artificial lights off-shore can disorient them, leading to exhaustion and collisions that often result in death or injury. Graphic: Silhouette of birds in front of a night sky with two dimly lit offshore vessels in the distance by USFWS*



<https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds-offshore-structures>