

## TAXON SUMMARY

# Pacific Gull (western)

1	Family	Laridae
2	Scientific name	<i>Larus pacificus georgii</i> Vigors, 1827
3	Common name	Pacific Gull (western)
4	Conservation status	Least Concern

### 5 Reasons for listing

Although the subspecies has a relatively small population, only if there is evidence of a decline should it be listed as threatened. The area of occupancy is also small, but spread among numerous sites.

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	700,000 km <sup>2</sup>	medium
trend	stable	medium
Area of occupancy	1,000 km <sup>2</sup>	low
trend	stable	medium
No. of breeding birds	4,000	low
trend	stable	medium
Number of populations:	1	low
Generation time	10 years	low

### 6 Intraspecific taxa

*L. p. pacificus* (eastern Australia) is Least Concern.

### 7 Past range and abundance

Coastal South Australia, from the Coorong to Cape Leeuwin, Western Australia, and on west coast of Western Australia, from Cape Naturaliste north to Point Quobba (Burbidge *et al.*, 1996, Copley, 1996, Higgins and Davies, 1996).

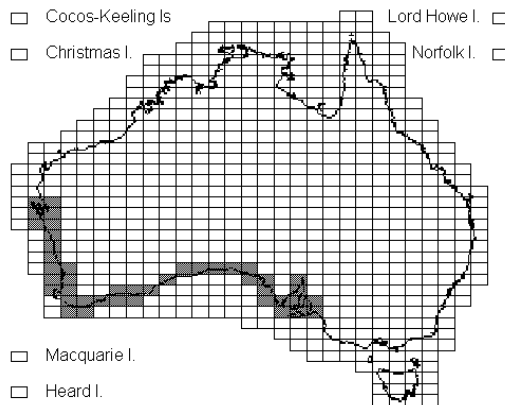
### 8 Present range and abundance

As above, except uncommon from Lancelin to Bunbury, W. A. Western Australian population estimated to be in the thousands. Particularly common in the Houtman Abrolhos and between Albany and Esperance, including Archipelago of the Recherche (Burbidge and Fuller, 1996, Burbidge *et al.* 1996, Johnstone and Storr, 1999). While evidence of 76-170+ pairs breeding in South Australia at sites scattered from the Coorong west, a figure of 500 pairs is thought more realistic (Copley, 1996).

### 9 Ecology

Pacific Gulls occur primarily along sandy coastlines, although they also use rocky coasts and estuaries, as well as refuse tips and other inland sites near the sea. They feed on a range of marine animals, particularly molluscs, crabs and fish, but also take substantial quantities of refuse (Coulson and Coulson, 1993, Johnstone and Storr, 1999). They have well-spaced territories, usually build nests rocky islands or

headlands, and lay 1-2 eggs (Higgins and Davies, 1999, Johnstone and Storr, 1999).



### 10 Threats

As with other coastal species, western Pacific Gulls are prone to disturbance, both while breeding and when feeding. Most nest sites are protected, however, by their inaccessibility and the species has proved adaptable in exploiting new food sources associated with urban settlement (Higgins and Davies, 1996).

### 11 Recommended actions

11.1 Monitor occupancy of breeding islands at 3-5 year intervals.

### 12 Bibliography

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