



Marine Heat Wave Killed 4 Million Murre Seabirds

Source: [BBC](#)

A [marine heatwave \(MHW\)](#) nicknamed “the Blob” killed **4 Million of Alaska’s Common Murre Seabirds** between 2014 and 2016.

- This was the **largest documented die-off** of a single species of **wild bird or mammal**.
- **Common Murres:** They are **black-and-white seabirds** (often described as “flying penguins”) that somewhat resemble **penguins** in appearance, and are among the **most plentiful seabirds** in Alaska.
 - They are the **deepest diving bird** in the northern hemisphere diving up to **600 feet deep**.
 - **IUCN Status:** [Least Concern](#).



- **MHW:** It occurs when the **surface temperature** of a particular region of the sea rises to **3 or 4 degree Celsius above** the average temperature **for at least five days**.
 - MHWs can last for **weeks, months or even years**.
 - MHWs destroy kelp forests as [Klebs](#) (underwater ecosystems in shallow water) usually grow in **cooler waters**.
- **Alaska:**
 - Alaska is the largest state in the US by area.
 - It is bordered by the **Arctic Ocean to the north, Canada to the east, the Pacific**

Ocean to the south, and Russia across the Bering Strait to the west.

- Originally a part of Russia, Alaska was purchased by the US in 1867.
- It is rich in oil, natural gas, and minerals.



Read More: [Marine Heatwaves in Arctic Ocean](#)

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