

2018 Hamilton Harbour RAP Fact Sheet

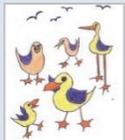
BUI 3b Degradation of Wildlife Populations

IMPAIRED

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Delisting Criteria:

1. Colonial waterbirds: The overall objective is to have a sustainable mixed community of colonial waterbirds. In general, are aiming for an increase of the rarer species and a reduction in the number of over-abundant species. Management of colonial waterbirds and achieving specific populations of particular species requires an adaptive management approach to ensure sustainable populations continue to the extent possible after delisting.



Targets (Number of Nests)

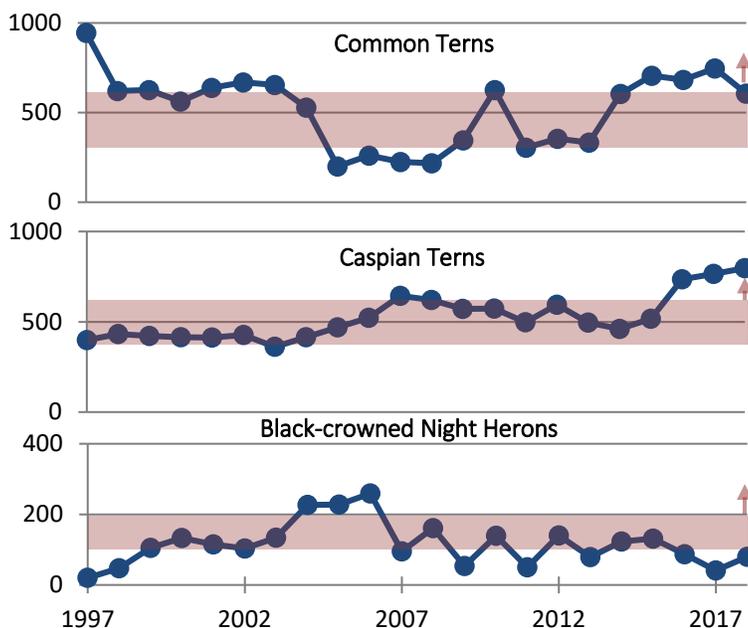
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|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Ring-billed Gulls < 10,000 | Common Terns 300-600+ |
| Herring Gulls 200-300+ | Caspian Terns 400-600+ |
| Double-crested Cormorants < 2,500 | Black-crowned Night Herons 100-200+ |

2. Other wildlife including waterfowl: No target will be suggested for other species of birds or animals, but a target for habitat (BU xiv) has been suggested which will enhance wildlife populations generally. In addition, management of some species may be necessary as a result of habitat enhancement.

Note: A status change from 'impaired to 'not impaired' is being proposed for this BUI in 2019.

Did you know?

Colonial waterbirds are species that gather in large assemblages when nesting. A recent report (Gilroy 2018) suggests a status change to 'not impaired' as nest targets for a sustainable mixed community have been met and 10-year funding has been secured to continue adaptive management.



Goal Exceeded



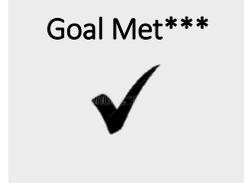
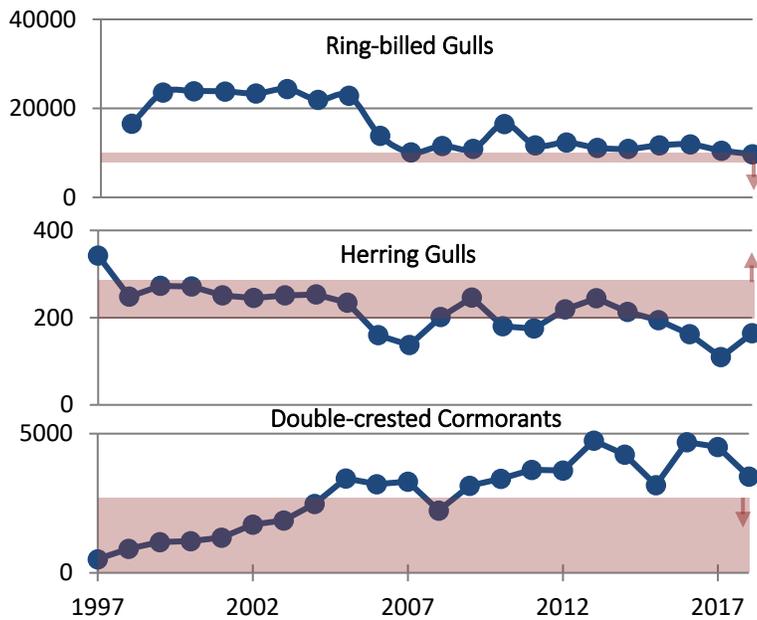
Goal Exceeded



Goal Met*



*Small fluctuations in numbers reflect the difficulty in finding Black-crowned Night Heron colonies as they are not site-specific. Due to limited access, colonies on industrial property are not counted, but are known to exist every year.



** Herring Gulls are declining throughout the Great Lakes Basin and local nest counts reflect the basin-wide population.
 *** Cormorants are actively managed across the Great Lakes Basin and local nest counts reflect the basin-wide population.

What Was the Original Problem?

Nesting habitat was contaminated or temporary and communities were dominated by a few abundant species; clean, permanent and species appropriate habitat creation and management was required.

Other AOC Comparisons

Most AOCs target “self-sustaining and healthy communities of indicator wildlife species”. Toronto and Region & Niagara River AOCs list specific species, comparison to reference, but no targeted numbers.

How are Improvements Being Made?

1. Islands were constructed to create colonial waterbird nesting habitat (Northeast Islands, Windermere Basin Wetland, LaSalle shoals).
2. Colonial waterbird populations are actively managed by reserving nesting space for rarer species and discouraging overabundant colonies from occupying all available nesting habitat.



Dancing Santa & flying raptors discourage some species, while tarps reserve space others.

What Still Needs to Happen?

- No further actions beyond the long-term management of a sustainable mixed community.
- The Remedial Action Plan will engage the public and Indigenous communities on the recommended status change from ‘impaired’ to ‘not impaired’ as part of an assessment in 2019.

Where Can I Learn More?

[Gilroy](#). 2018. Status Assessment Report of the BUI “Degradation of Wildlife Populations” for the Hamilton Harbour AOC.
[BARC](#). 2017. Toward Safe Harbour Report Card: hamiltonharbour.ca/reportcard
[Pynenburg, et al.](#) 2017. Efficacy of decoys and familiar versus unfamiliar playback calls in attracting Common Terns to a rehabilitated wetland on Lake Ontario. *Aquatic Ecosystem Health and Management* 20(3):285-294.
[Zanchetta, et al.](#) 2016. Population trends of colonial waterbirds nesting in Hamilton Harbour in relation to changes in habitat and management. *Aquatic Ecosystem Health and Management* 19(2):192-205.

Most references can be provided as a PDF upon request. Visit hamiltonharbour.ca