



SEABIRDS, SHOREBIRDS AND COASTAL BIRDS, AND WATERFOWL



- Out of the thousands of species of birds throughout the U.S., the Final PEIS considers the bird species that inhabit coastal and marine environments including seabirds, shorebirds, coastal birds, and waterfowl.
- These birds are found in all regions identified in the Final PEIS, and 22 species are listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Many of the birds found in the action area are migratory and are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). Bald eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

Seabirds spend the majority of their lives over the open sea, often thousands of kilometers from their nesting grounds. Seabirds exhibit a variety of surface and diving feeding behaviors.



Grey-headed Albatross



Piping Plover

Coastal birds live in coastal habitats and vary in feeding and nesting behaviors. **Shorebirds** are a subset of coastal birds that use marine and/or freshwater edge habitat for feeding, breeding, and nesting.

Waterfowl inhabit freshwater and saltwater environments and spend much of their lives on the water's surface.



Red-breasted Merganser

Environmental Consequences from NOS Activities

NOS activities that could impact birds

- Trailing lines and underwater equipment use
- Vessel presence and movement
- Water column disruption and underwater activities
- Onshore activities
- Aircraft sounds

Birds likely cannot hear the majority of sounds produced by active acoustic underwater sound sources; thus, impacts from acoustic sources would be limited. Birds and their prey are expected to return to project areas after the completion of NOS project activities with no long-term changes in habitat availability, habitat use, or energy expenditure. The overall impact of the Proposed Action on birds and their habitat would be **adverse, minor, and insignificant**.