

# ENMPG21:

# Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services 2020

## Simulation modelling in conservation decision making (1): CASE STUDY EXCERCISE

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25 March 2020 (*updated: 24/03/2020*)

# The "Urban gull problem"

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## Seagull menace: Boy nearly loses FINGER and pensioner left bloodied by 'cannibal' birds

A TINY boy has nearly lost a FINGER while a pensioner was left with blood pouring down her face as aggressive SEAGULLS continue to menace Britain.

By NICK GUTTERIDGE

PUBLISHED: 14:36, Thu, Jul 23, 2015 | UPDATED: 15:08, Thu, Jul 23, 2015

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The notorious birds resumed their [campaign of terror against British holidaymakers](#) today with a ferocious attack on the terrified four-year-old.

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### Advice on how to deal with problem gulls

Natural England recognises that a number of problems with gulls in urban areas have been highlighted in recent weeks.

Published 30 July 2015

From: [Natural England](#)



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### Gull attacks: David Cameron wants 'big conversation'

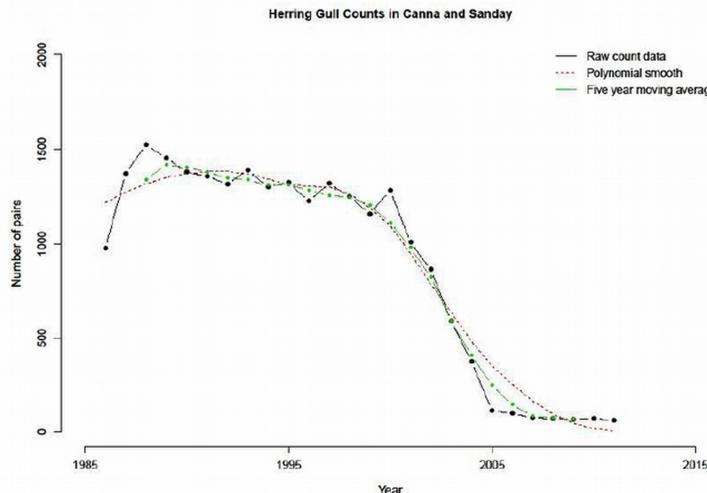
17 July 2015



# The "Urban gull problem"

## 4.5.4.2 Herring gull



Scientific name: **Larus argentatus**

Bird family: [\*\*Gulls and terns\*\*](#)

 UK conservation status: [\*\*Red\*\*](#)

Protected by [\*\*The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981\*\*](#)

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### War on urban gulls may be deadly blow to species in decline

Seagulls are pests to city-dwellers, but the RSPB says their numbers are falling and high-tech control methods will only make this worse



▲ Seagulls are regarded as pests in cities. Photograph: Dan Kitwood/Getty Images

The urban seagull is not one of nature's most popular birds – blamed for scattering litter, damaging vehicles and even attacking humans. Scientists and ornithologists have long battled over the best ways of dealing with this growing inner-city menace.

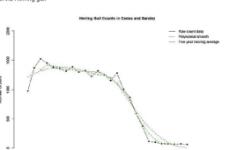


# The "Urban gull problem"

## Key questions

- Population size/trends in different sites?
  - Differences between urban and marine sites?
  - Predictions? Effects?
- Management effects?
  - Culling efforts?
  - Deterrents?
- Socio-economic issues?

# The "Urban gull problem"



## Aims:

- Develop conceptual model in groups
- Aimed at managers/conservationists
- Present/discuss to class at end

## Consider...

- Define question - could be different ones
- Consider parameters available and needed; feasibility
- Scan literature/reports

**Be creative, I don't know the answer!**

