

PUFFINS



INFO

- Puffins are any of three small species of alcids (a.k.a. auks) in the bird category
- All puffin species have predominantly black or black and white plumage and large beaks
- Their short wings are adapted for swimming with a flying technique under water. In the air, they beat their wings at 400 times/m in swift flight.

Here is its life cycle



TYPES

The Atlantic puffin is found in coasts of northern Europe, south to northern France, the British Isles, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland, Norway and Atlantic Canada. During winters they are found south to Morocco and New York.



The Horned puffin is found in the coasts of Siberia, Alaska and British Columbia, wintering south to California.



The Tufted puffin or crested puffin is found in British Columbia, throughout southeastern Alaska and the Aleutian Islands, Kamchatka, the Kuril Islands and throughout the Sea of Okhotsk. They winter mostly in California.



THEIR DIET

- Puffins eat both fish and zooplankton. Chicks primarily eat small marine fish several times a day. They are able to hold several fish on their mouth!



RELATIONSHIP WITH HUMANS

- Puffins are hunted for eggs, feathers and meat. Atlantic puffin populations have drastically declined due to habitat destruction and exploitation. They continue to be hunted in Iceland and the Faroe Islands.



- The Atlantic puffin forms part of the national diet in Iceland, where the species does not have legal protection. The fresh heart of a puffin is eaten raw as a traditional Icelandic delicacy. I've come to the conclusion that the relationship is not good!