

TRŽAŠKI ZALIV – MEDNARODNO MORSKO OBMOČJE IBA / SPA?

The Gulf of Trieste – an international marine IBA / SPA site?



Pri dosedANJI mreži območij IBA, ki jo je vzpostavila organizacija BirdLife International in je v Evropi tudi podlaga za določanje območij SPA v okviru omrežja Natura 2000 (HEATH & EVANS 2000), se je pokazalo nekaj pomanjkljivosti, ki kažejo na nezadostnost pri uspešnem varstvu nekaterih vrst ptic. Mednje sodijo morske ptice, saj pravega morskega območja IBA ni med območji, ki jih je definiral BirdLife International. S strani organizacije je bila speljana pobuda, imenovana Globalni program za morske ptice (Global Seabird Programme), ki naj bi zapolnila to vrzel. Naloga programa naj bi bila identifikacija morskih območij IBA, pri čemer so bili oblikovani štirje glavni tipi le-teh (CARBONERAS & REQUENA 2006):

- (1) morske razširitve obstoječih IBA-jev z gnezditvenimi kolonijami morskih ptic (prehranjevališča v radiu 5, 15 ali 40 km);
- (2) obalne negnezdeče koncentracije ptic (gre zlasti za agregacije nekaterih kopenskih vrst na morju, denimo slapnikov *Gavia* sp., ponirkov *Podiceps* sp., rac Anatidae ipd.);
- (3) selitvena ozka grla (predvsem morske ožine, kjer se selijo ogrožene in potencialno ogrožene morske ptice);
- (4) prehranjevališča zunaj dosega gnezdečih kolonij (gre predvsem za območja, bogata s hrano, kjer prihaja do večjih agregacij morskih ptic).

V Sredozemlju, ki obsega tudi manjši košček slovenske obale, je bil sprejet splošni pristop k varstvu te razmeroma občutljive in dokaj obremenjene morske regije. Za 15 ogroženih morskih ptic je bil v II. dodatku Barcelonske konvencije izdelan akcijski načrt (UNEP MAP RAC/SPA 2003). V Sloveniji in na slovenskem morju naj bi se po doslej znanih in zbranih podatkih pojavljalo kar 14 vrst s tega seznama, med njimi na Obali, vsaj v zadnjem času, sedem vrst razmeroma redno (VREZEC 2006): sredozemski viharnik *Puffinus yelkouan*, vranjek *Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*, pritlikavi kormoran *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, ribji orel *Pandion haliaetus*, bengalska čigra *Sterna bengalensis*, kričava čigra *Sterna sandvicensis* in mala čigra *Sternula albifrons*. Narejena je bila analiza populacijskih ocen vrst glede deleža sredozemske oziroma svetovne populacije teh ptic, ki se v slovenskem morju relativno redno zadržujejo bodisi na gnezditvi, poleti na prehranjevališčih ali pozimi na prezimovališčih (podatki primerjani z ocenami po BURFIELD & VAN BOMMEL 2004). Ob tem sta se z visokim deležem (>1%) svetovne populacije izkazali dve vrsti, in sicer sredozemski viharnik (do 1.5%) in vranjek (do 11.4%), pri slednjem gre za endemično sredozemsko podvrsto *Ph. a. desmarestii*, ki ima edina status naravovarstveno pomembnega taksona (VREZEC 2006). Pri obeh vrstah pa gre za pretežno poletne agregacije ptic na prehranjevališčih v razmeroma plitvem in s hrano bogatem morju Tržaškega zaliva, kamor sodi tudi slovensko morje. Sredozemski viharnik se na območju jeseni pojavlja v velikih jatah do 1000 osebkov, kar so največje agregacije vrste v Jadranskem morju (zbrano v STIPČEVIĆ & LUKAČ 2001). V poletno-jesenskem času se na prehranjevališčih v Tržaškem zalivu zbere izredno velika populacija vranjekov, po ocenah 1500–2000 ptic (BENUSSI 2005), kar je verjetno dobra polovica vse jadranske populacije (BURFIELD & VAN BOMMEL 2004). Gledano v celoti, Tržaški zaliv s svojim slovenskim in italijanskim delom

izpolnjuje kriterije za četrti tip morskega območja IBA, saj je prehranjevališče pomembnega deleža svetovne populacije sredozemskega viharnika in sredozemske podvrste vranjeka. Težava pri tem je, da je območje razdeljeno med dve državi, zato bi moral obstajati dogovor med obema stranema o obojestranski razglasitvi mednarodnega morskega območja IBA. Čeprav, kot kaže, območje izpolnjuje kriterije, pa je vendar naloga tako slovenskih kot italijanskih ornitologov, da pripravijo ustrezne strokovne podlage, varstvene smernice in hkrati s tem pobude za formalno razglasitev območja IBA, ki bi po kriterijih BirdLife International sodilo tudi na seznam območij SPA znotraj omrežja Natura 2000. Tesno mednarodno sodelovanje je v tem primeru več kot nujno in potrebno!

The BirdLife International has developed a net of IBA areas, which is also fundamental for declaring SPA areas in Europe in the scope of the Natura 2000 network (HEATH & EVANS 2000). However, there are some gaps that do not allow all the needs for successful bird conservation to be fulfilled. One is conservation of marine birds, as no real marine IBAs have been declared so far. Therefore, BirdLife International developed a Global Seabird Programme for resolving the problem. The main task of the programme is to identify marine IBA areas, where three distinct types are considered (CARBONERAS & REQUENA 2006):

- (1) Seaward extensions of marine bird breeding colonies in the existing IBAs (foraging areas in radii of 5, 15 or 40 km);
- (2) Coastal concentrations of non-breeding birds (aggregations of some waterbirds at sea, e.g. divers *Gavia* sp., grebes *Podiceps* sp., ducks Anatidae etc.);
- (3) Migration bottlenecks of threatened and potentially threatened marine birds;
- (4) Non-contiguous foraging areas (areas rich with food far from breeding colonies, where larger flocks of marine birds aggregate).

In the Mediterranean, including the Slovenian coast and sea, a general consensus has been accepted for conservation of this relatively sensitive and heavily influenced sea region. According to Appendix II of the Barcelona Convention, an action plan was prepared for 15 threatened marine bird species (UNEP MAP RAC/SPA 2003). 14 species from this list have been recorded in Slovenia. Among them, seven species have been regularly frequenting the coast in recent years (VREZEC 2006): Mediterranean Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan*, European Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*, Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*, Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis*, Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandwicensis*, and Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*. An analysis of population size estimates was conducted in terms of the proportion of birds of the respective global populations breeding, wintering or foraging relatively regularly in the Gulf of Trieste, including the Slovenian sea (compared to BURFIELD & VAN BOMMEL 2004). Those whose proportion of their global population was high (>1%) were the Mediterranean Shearwater (up to 1.5%) and Shag (up to 11.4%; VREZEC 2006). In the latter species, only the endemic Mediterranean subspecies *Ph. a. desmarestii* was taken into consideration, as it is the only taxa of the species of conservation importance. Both Mediterranean Shearwater and Shag exhibited dense summer aggregations in foraging

areas of the relatively shallow and rich Gulf of Trieste. The Mediterranean Shearwater is especially abundant in the autumn, when large flocks of up to 1,000 individuals forage in the area, which are the largest flocks recorded in the Adriatic Sea (STIPČEVIĆ & LUKAČ 2001). A large aggregation of Shags also forages in the area in the summer-autumn time with an estimated population of 1,500–2,000 birds (BENUSSI 2005), which is probably nearly a half the entire breeding population in the Adriatic Sea (BURFIELD & VAN BOMMEL 2004). Given these data, the Italian and Slovenian parts of the Gulf of Trieste area, together fulfil the criteria for the fourth marine IBA type as a foraging area for an important part of the global population of the Mediterranean Shearwater and Mediterranean subspecies of the European Shag. The major problem lies in the fact that two countries contribute to the area, while a common agreement in declaring an international marine IBA area needs to be made. Slovenian and Italian ornithologists should jointly prepare the requisite scientific background issues, conservation guidelines and initiatives for a formal declaration of a new IBA area, which would according to BirdLife International criteria also be considered as an SPA site in the Natura 2000 network. Close international cooperation is therefore more than needed in this respect!

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