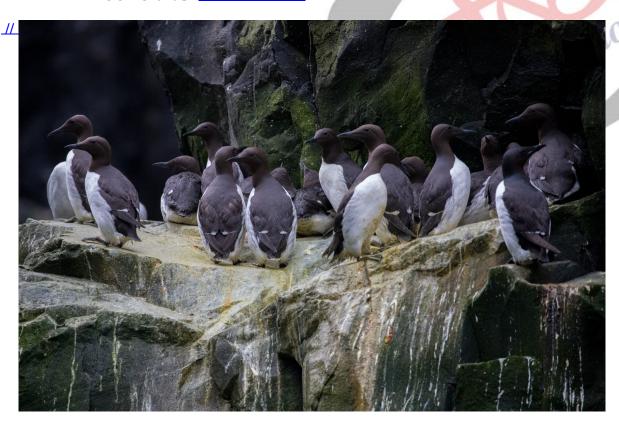


## Marine Heat Wave Killed 4 Million Murre Seabirds

## **Source: BBC**

A marine heatwave (MHW) nicknamed "the Blob" killed 4 Million of Alaska's Common Murre Seabirds between 2014 and 2016.

- This was the largest documented die-off of a single species of wild bird or mammal.
- Common Murres: They are black-and-white seabirds (often described as "flying penguins")
  that somewhat resemble penguins in appearance, and are among the most plentiful
  seabirds in Alaska.
  - They are the deepest diving bird in the northern hemisphere diving up to 600 feet deep.
  - IUCN Status: Least Concern.

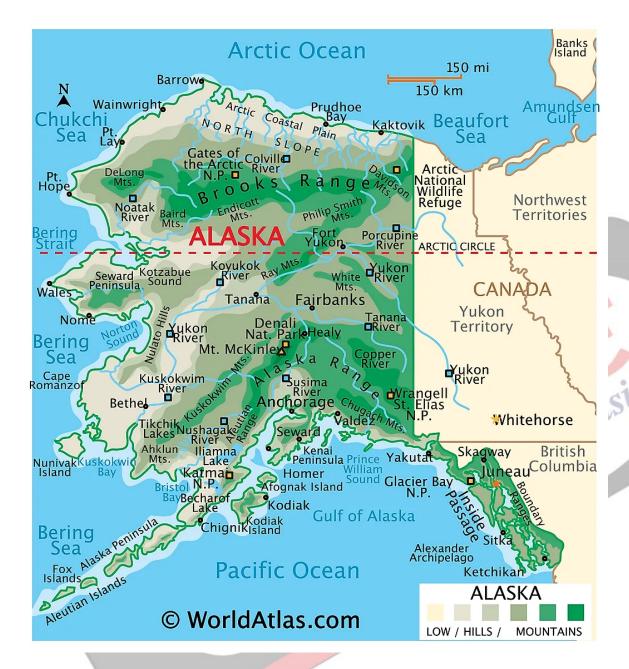


- MHW: It occurs when the surface temperature of a particular region of the sea rises to 3 or 4 degree Celsius above the average temperature for at least five days.
  - MHWs can last for weeks, months or even years.
  - MHWs destroy kelp forests as <u>Kleps</u> (underwater ecosystems in shallow water) usually grow in cooler waters.
- Alaska:
  - Alaska is the largest state in the US by area.
  - It is bordered by the Arctic Ocean to the north, Canada to the east, the Pacific

## Ocean to the south, and Russia across the Bering Strait to the west.

• Originally a part of Russia, Alaska was purchased by the US in 1867.

• It is rich in oil, natural gas, and minerals.



Read More: Marine Heatwaves in Arctic Ocean

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