



# Common Name

## Atlantic puffin

**Scientific Name:** *Fratercula arctica*

FAMILY: Alcidae

ORDER: Charadriiformes

AZA MANAGEMENT: Studbook

### GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

- EUROPE
- ASIA
- NORTH AMERICA
- NEOTROPICAL
- AFRICA
- AUSTRALIA
- OTHER

“North Atlantic”: Maine, to high Arctic in eastern Canada and east to northern Russia, south to northern France.

### HABITAT

- FOREST And Atlantic waters
- DESERT
- GRASSLAND
- COASTAL
- RIVERINE
- MONTANE
- OTHER

### CIRCADIAN CYCLE

- DIURNAL
- CREPUSCULAR
- NOCTURNAL
- OTHER

### TEMPERATURE TOLERANCE



From °40 F to °60 F

### DIET

- FRUGIVORE
- CARNIVORE
- PISCIVORE
- INSECTIVORE
- NECTIVORE
- OMNIVORE
- FOLIVORE
- OTHER

Captive Dietary Needs: Capelin, Smelt, Silversides, Krill, Herring

### LIFE EXPECTANCY

Median Life Expectancy	Maximum Longevity
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Within AZA	20-30 years (Average)	
In the Wild	20-25 years (Average)	

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# BREEDING INFORMATION

## AGE AT SEXUAL MATURITY



Males 3-5 Years



Females 3-5 years

**Incubation period: Both sexes incubate; 39-45 days**

**Fledgling Period: 43-52 days**



## CLUTCH SIZE, & EGG DESCRIPTION



Pairs typically lay one egg, a second may be laid if the first is lost early in incubation

# CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION



## SOCIAL STRUCTURE

**In the wild: Colonial**

**In Captivity: Colonial**

**Minimum Group Size: 1.1**

**Maximum Group Size: Limited by exhibit size**



## COURTSHIP DISPLAYS

Courtship displays occur on water and land. (Most successful copulations occur on water.) Males will perform sexual nodding; rapid head jerks, like a hiccup, raising their bill vertically, accompanied by soft vocalizations. Billing also occurs between mates. Mates will lower their heads, point their bills downward, and touch their closed bills together.



## NEST SITE DESCRIPTION

Rock crevice or burrow



## CHICK DEVELOPMENT

Chicks remain in the nest until fledging and are completely independent when they leave the nest. Typically they leave the nest at night, to avoid predation. In captivity, chicks can be pulled before fledging, to be introduced back to the exhibit after fledging.



## PARENTAL CARE

Both parents feed from hatch to fledging. One parent remains in the nest with the chick at all times, the other then forages



## MIXED SPECIES EXHIBITS

**Compatible in mixed species exhibits?**  YES

NO

**Comments:** Other alcids and waterfowl primarily. Hybridization is possible with Horned puffins.



## OPTIMAL HABITAT SIZE

There are not currently any published exhibit standards at this time. With that, pool/water space should be ample to allow the entire collection to utilize it comfortably at the same time. The land space should be the same, with some sort of burrows, or access to burrows built into the exhibit.



## MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

Life support to maintain chilled water and air are the main challenges.

# ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Species photo credit: Mike Aguilera, SeaWorld photographer

## REFERENCES

Gaston, Anthony J. (2004). *Seabirds: A Natural History*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press.

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[Johnsgard, Paul A. \(1987\). \*Diving Birds of North America\*. University of Nebraska Press](#)

Nettleship, David N., Birkhead, Tim R. (1985). *The Atlantic Alcidae*. London: Academic Press

<http://projectpuffin.audubon.org/atlantic-puffin-3>

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