

Hornsea Project Three
Offshore Wind Farm

**Appendix 15 to Deadline 7 submission - Ornithological Data Request and Tabulation of Collision Risk Modelling Parameters** 

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Front cover picture: Kite surfer near a UK offshore wind farm © Orsted Hornsea Project Three (UK) Ltd., 2018.







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## 1. Coefficients of variation

## <u>Introduction</u>

- 1.1 At Deadline 4, Natural England suggested that the Applicant supply various data that Natural England's contends would allow the Competent Authority to conduct a full assessment. The Applicant has presented all data considered relevant to the analyses and assessments presented throughout the application and examination and, when requested the Applicant has sought to provide additional data that were used to inform relevant analyses and assessments.
- 1.2 As can be seen from the explanatory notes in the sequence summary tables which follow in this report, the majority of the data that Natural England suggest should be provided are either not used to inform the analyses and assessments conducted by the Applicant, would not be used to inform assessments based on SNCB guidance or are not directly used to inform analyses and assessments (e.g. raw data which is processed to calculate population estimates/densities). Where possible, however, these data have been provided in this report and associated appendices.
- 1.3 In addition to the data request provided by Natural England, the Examining Authority at Issue Specific Hearing 7 (6<sup>th</sup> March 2019) requested that the Applicant provide a tabulation of the parameters used for collision risk modelling (CRM). These are therefore also provided in Table 1.3 in this report.

### **Baseline characterisation data**

1.4 The data to provide, as suggested by Natural England are presented in Table 1.1 alongside where these data can be found.

Table 1.1: Data request in relation to baseline characterisation data

Data	Where provided	Notes
Raw digital aerial survey data giving the number of birds of each species recorded on each survey day and each transect, with birds in flight and birds on the water presented separately.	Provided as Annex A to this report.	These data are not used to directly inform any analyses or assessments presented by the Applicant and are not required when following guidance from SNCBs (e.g. JNCC et al. 2017).
Tables of raw numbers of birds recorded in each year and month of the baseline surveys – presented for Hornsea Three, Hornsea Three plus 2 km buffer and Hornsea Three plus 4 km buffer. With numbers presented separately for birds in flight and birds on the water at each scale	All raw data, with associated coordinate data is provided in Annex A to this report	These data are not used to directly inform any analyses or assessments presented by the Applicant and are not required when following guidance from SNCBs







Data	Where provided	Notes
Tables of population estimates for birds in each year and month of the baseline surveys – presented for Hornsea Three, Hornsea Three plus 2 km buffer and Hornsea Three plus 4 km buffer. With numbers presented separately for birds in flight and birds on the water (availability bias corrected) and upper and lower 95% confidence intervals around each population estimate provided and the coefficient of variation presented for each estimate.	Not provided – it is not possible to provide these data in a timescale consistent with the deadlines of the examination.	These data have not been used for the analyses or assessments presented by the Applicant.
Tables of population estimates with 95% confidence intervals, generated by bootstrapping all the transect data (i.e. from all four cameras used for the digital aerial surveys) for a given month and year (i.e. two separate monthly estimates where there are data from two years) calculated for birds on the water (with availability bias correction) and birds in flight combined. Presented for Hornsea Three, Hornsea Three plus 2km buffer and Hornsea Three plus 4 km buffer. Standard deviations and coefficients of variation should also be presented for each population estimate.	The requested data are presented in Annex A to this report for the analyses conducted for data from two cameras. The methodology for aerial surveys was agreed as part of the Evidence Plan process (APP-035) and further analyses are unlikely to provide any greater benefit in assessment terms (REP4-096).  The requested data for Hornsea Three plus a 4 km buffer are presented in Annex 5.1: Baseline Characterisation Report (APP-107).	Population estimates for Hornsea Three alone have not been used to inform any analyses or assessments presented by the Applicant and are not required when following guidance from SNCBs.  Population estimates for Hornsea Three plus a 2 km buffer are used to derive mean-peak populations for use in displacement analyses following SNCB guidance.  Population estimates for Hornsea Three plus a 4 km buffer are used to identify Valued Ornithological Receptors in Annex 5.1: Baseline Characterisation Report (APP-107).
Tables of density estimates for birds in flight for each year and month of the baseline surveys - presented for Hornsea Three, Hornsea Three plus 2km buffer and Hornsea Three plus 4 km buffer. With upper and lower 95% confidence intervals around each density estimate provided. Standard deviations and coefficients of variation should also be presented for each population estimate	Not provided – it is not possible to provide these data in a timescale consistent with the deadlines of the examination.	These data have not been used for the analyses or assessments presented by the Applicant.







Data	Where provided	Notes
Tables of density estimates for birds in flight for each year and month of the baseline surveys with 95% confidence intervals, generated by bootstrapping all the transect data (i.e. from all four cameras used for the digital aerial surveys) for a given month and year (i.e. two separate monthly estimates where there are data from two years). Presented for Hornsea Three, Hornsea Three plus 2km buffer and Hornsea Three plus 4 km buffer. Standard deviations and coefficients of variation should also be presented for each density estimate	The requested data are presented in Annex A for the analyses conducted for data from two cameras. The methodology for aerial surveys was agreed as part of the Evidence Plan process (APP-035) and further analyses are unlikely to provide any greater benefit in assessment terms (REP4-096).  The requested data for Hornsea Three plus a 4 km buffer are presented in Annex 5.1: Baseline Characterisation Report (APP-107).	Density data for Hornsea Three alone are used in collision risk modelling.  Density data for Hornsea Three plus a 2 km buffer have not been used to inform any analyses or assessments presented by the Applicant and are not required when following guidance from SNCBs.  Density data for Hornsea Three plus a 4 km buffer have not been used to inform any analyses or assessments presented by the Applicant and are not required when following guidance from SNCBs.

- 1.5 In response to ExA written question 2.2.3, the Applicant previously presented a comparison between the coefficient of variation values derived for monthly abundance metrics for Hornsea Three plus a 4 km buffer alongside those associated with abundance metrics calculated at two other offshore wind farms, namely East Anglia Three and Moray East (REP4-096). The Applicant has identified two further projects at which coefficient of variation values were calculated with these added to the graphs below.
- 1.6 These figures continue to illustrate two points. First, the CVs recorded are highly variable by species and month. Consistently achieving a target CV is extremely difficult, if not impossible, in practice and it is necessary to make a judgement at the outset of the survey programme about a strategy that is likely to deliver sufficient precision for the purposes of impact assessment. Second, the values achieved for Hornsea Three are similar to and, in many cases superior, to those achieved at other projects.





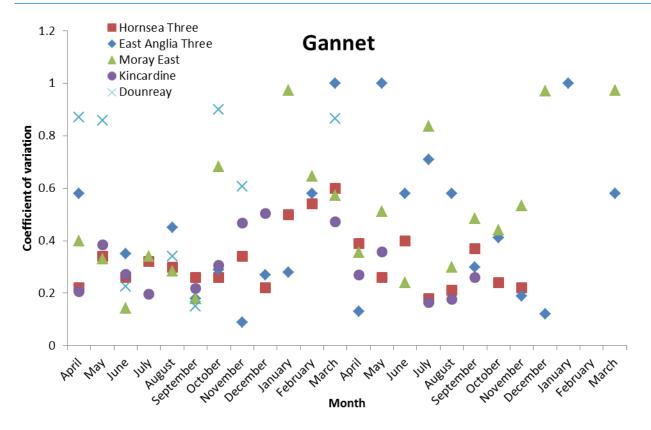


Figure 1.1: CoVs associated with abundance metrics calculated for Moray East, East Anglia Three, Kincardine, Dounreay Tri and Hornsea Three on a monthly basis: gannet

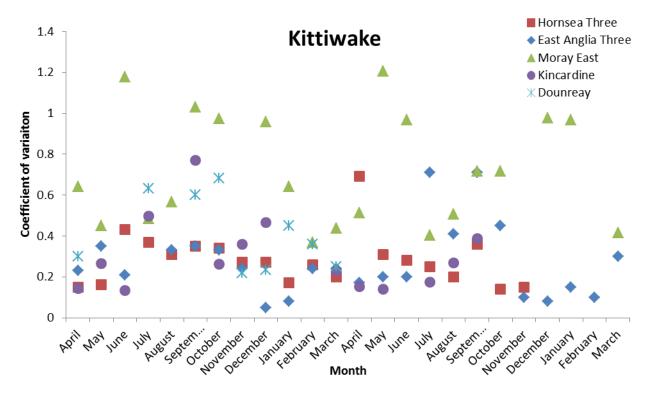


Figure 1.2: CoVs associated with abundance metrics calculated for Moray East, East Anglia Three, Kincardine, Dounreay Tri and Hornsea Three on a monthly basis: kittiwake





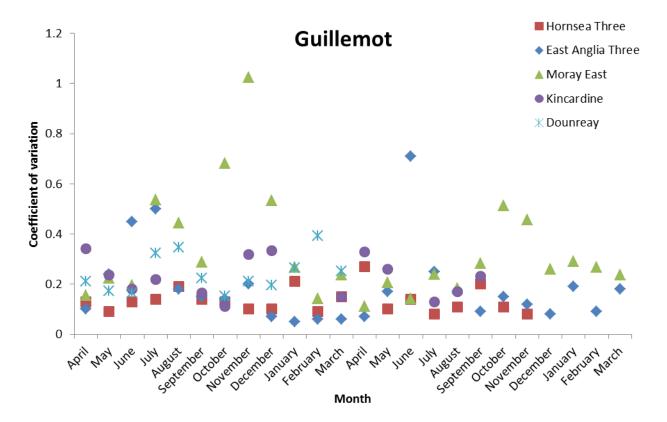


Figure 1.3: CoVs associated with abundance metrics calculated for Moray East, East Anglia Three, Kincardine, Dounreay Tri and Hornsea Three on a monthly basis: guillemot

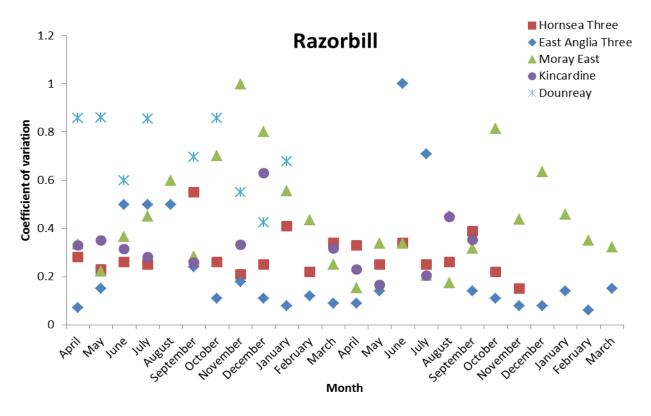


Figure 1.4: CoVs associated with abundance metrics calculated for Moray East, East Anglia Three, Kincardine, Dounreay Tri and Hornsea Three on a monthly basis: razorbill





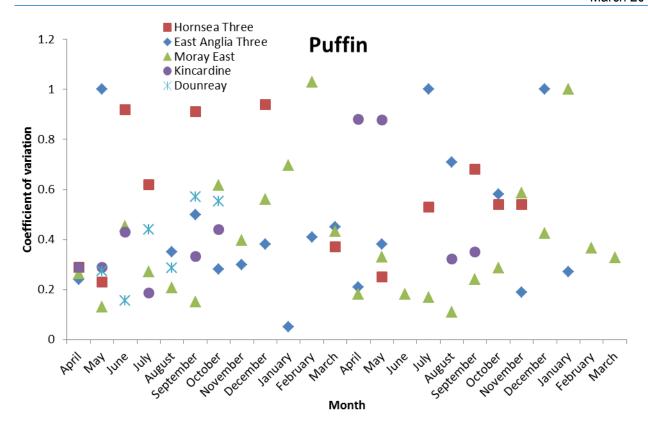


Figure 1.5: CoVs associated with abundance metrics calculated for Moray East, East Anglia Three, Kincardine, Dounreay Tri and Hornsea Three on a monthly basis: puffin

# **Collision Risk Modelling**

1.7 The data to provide, as suggested by Natural England are presented in Table 1.2 alongside where these data can be found.

Table 1.2: Data request in relation to collision risk modelling

Data	Where provided	Notes
Band Model spreadsheets populated with all the project, turbine and bird parameters and data used for CRM for each species (gannet, kittiwake, lesser black-backed gull, great black-backed gull and herring gull);	Appendix A	Due to the large number of collision risk models required to model the various parameter iterations throughout the examination process it is not possible to provide all collision risk models. The models used to calculate Natural England's position (as interpreted by the Applicant) and the Applicant's position are presented in Appendix B. These models present collision risk estimates calculated using the mean estimate for all parameters.







Data	Where provided	Notes
Natural England advises that monthly density estimates and confidence intervals for the CRM assessments should be derived using only data collected from the digital aerial surveys of Hornsea Three, and that the precision of the density estimates is improved by analysing the data collected from all four cameras, rather than the data from just two cameras.	N/A	Density estimates for Hornsea Three alone alongside upper and lower confidence intervals are presented in REP4-049. It is not possible to provide data from four cameras in a timescale consistent with the deadlines of the examination.
Natural England requests that the Applicant presents collision outputs for each species that reflect the variability and uncertainty around densities, flight heights and avoidance rates as a minimum. This should include presentation of collisions calculated using the relevant mean avoidance rate and ± 2SD of the mean avoidance rate as given in JNCC et al. (2014); presentation of collisions using mean, upper and lower 95% confidence intervals around the mean flight density data by month; presentation of collisions using mean, upper and lower flight height distribution data from Johnston et al. (2014), and presentation of collisions that reflect variability in Nocturnal Activity Factors as set out in REP1-211 for species where relevant.	This is the approach followed by the Applicant throughout the application and examination submissions, where relevant.	

At Issue Specific Hearing 7 (6<sup>th</sup> March 2019) in relation to Offshore Ecology, the Examining Authority requested that the Applicant provide a tabulated comparison of the parameters incorporated into collision risk modelling as part of the application (APP-109 and REP1-189) and those included in the submissions at Deadline 6 confirming the Applicant's position on CRM (REP-042) and the Applicant's interpretation of Natural England's position on CRM (REP-043) or the equivalent values for those species not included in these submissions. These are provided in Table 1.3 for each species.







Table 1.3: Parameters used for collision risk modelling

Parameter	Position			Source						
Bird parameters										
Species	-	Gannet	Kittiwake	Lesser black- backed gull	Herring gull	Great black- backed gull	-			
Bird length (m)	Application									
	REP6-042	0.94	0.39	0.58	0.6	0.71	Robinson (2017)			
	REP6-043									
Wingspan (m)	Application									
	REP6-042	1.72	1.08	1.42	1.44	1.58	Robinson (2017)			
	REP6-043									
Flight speed (m/s)	Application	14.9	13.1	13.1	12.8	13.7	Alerstam <i>et al.</i> (2007) or Pennycuick (1987)			
	REP6-042	13.33	8.71	9.80	9.80	9.80	Skov et al. (2018)			
	REP6-043	14.9	13.1	13.1	12.8	13.7	Alerstam <i>et al.</i> (2007) or Pennycuick (1987)			
Nocturnal activity factor	Application	1	2	3	3	3	Empirically derived/King et al. (2009) (APP-109/REP1-189)			
	REP6-042	8% breeding 3% non- breeding	20% breeding 17% non- breeding	3	3	3	Furness et al. (2018)/MacArthur Green (2018)/Garthe and Hüppop (2004)			
	REP6-043	1-2	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	REP1-211			







Parameter	Position			Source			
Flight type	All	Flapping	Flapping	Flapping	Flapping	Flapping	1
Proportion of flights upwind	All	50	50	50	50	50	2
Avoidance rate (%)	Application	98.9 (±0.2) 98.0	98.9 (±0.2)/ 99.2 (±0.2) 98.0	9.2 ( $\pm 0.2$ ) 99.3 ( $\pm 0.1$ ) 99.3 ( $\pm 0.1$ )		99.5 (±0.1) 98.9 (±0.2)	Cook et al. (2014) JNCC et al. (2014)
	REP6-042	99.5	99.0	99.5	99.5	99.5	Bowgen and Cook (2018)
	REP6-043	98.9 (±0.2)	98.9 (±0.2)	99.5 (±0.1)	99.5 (±0.1)	99.5 (±0.1)	JNCC et al. (2014)
Proportion at rotor height	Application		sented utilising in ct One and Two (0	-			
	REP6-042	Boat-based flig	jht height data (O	Option 3)	-		
	REP6-043	Johnston et al.	(2014) – Option 2		-		
Wind farm parameters							
Latitude (degrees)	All				-		
Number of turbines	All				-		





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Based on expert opinion - the input parameters for flight type are either 'flapping' or 'gliding' with flapping representing the worst case scenario <sup>2</sup> Assumed that there is a 50:50 split in flights upwind and downwind this is the default parameterisation suggested by the Band (2012) guidance



Parameter	Position		Parameter value								Source			
Tidal offset (m)	All					1.8				-	-			
No. of blades	All					3				-	-			
Average rotation speed (rpm)	All		8.1						-					
Rotor radius (m)	All		97.5						-	-				
Hub height (m)	All		128.87						-					
Max blade width (m)	All		6						-	-				
Average pitch (°)	All		4.3						-					
Proportion of time	<b>A</b> II	Jan	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug S					Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec			
operational (%)	All	92.50	92.61	92.14	90.96	90.71	89.36	89.18	89.86	91.29	92.57	92.59	92.61	







# **Data to inform displacement assessment**

1.9 The data to provide, as suggested by Natural England are presented in Table 1.4 alongside where these data can be found.

Table 1.4: Data request in relation to displacement assessment

Data	Where provided	Notes
Natural England advises that monthly abundance estimates and confidence intervals for use in the displacement assessments (prior to calculating seasonal mean of peaks) should:  • be derived using only data collected from the digital aerial surveys of Hornsea Three; and  • be presented as population estimates of the Hornsea Three footprint and a 2km buffer (total birds in flight and on the water, after correcting for survey effort and availability bias) on a month by month basis for all 20 months individually with associated upper and lower confidence intervals.  Natural England advises that the precision of the population estimates is improved by analysing the data collected from all four cameras, rather than the data from just two cameras.	Population estimates for relevant species for Hornsea Three plus a 2 km buffer for use in displacement analyses are presented in Table 1.3 in REP4-049.  It is not possible to provide data from four cameras in a timescale consistent with the deadlines of the examination. The methodology for aerial surveys was agreed as part of the Evidence Plan process (APP-035) and further analyses are unlikely to provide any greater benefit in assessment terms (REP4-096).	SNCB guidance on displacement states that the use of a mean-peak population "allows for year-to-year variation in the precise time (and magnitude) of peak abundance estimates to be taken into account in arriving at a mean peak population estimate". The use of confidence intervals as applied by Natural England in previous assessments (i.e. averaging separate confidence intervals) is not recommended in the SNCB displacement guidance (JNCC et al., 2017) and is not a statistically appropriate way in which to utilise confidence intervals.

# Age class data

1.10 The Applicant has previously provided all data requested by Natural England (see REP1-169 and REP3-026). In relation to revised list of suggested data provided by Natural England (REP4-130) the following applies:







- Guillemot and razorbill cannot be aged during boat-based or aerial surveys as immature birds
  are indistinguishable from adult birds. Juvenile guillemot and razorbill can be identified for a
  short period after fledging but data associated with these birds is not relevant to the
  assessments conducted for Hornsea Three; and
- It is not possible to provide data from four cameras in a timescale consistent with the deadlines of the examination.
- 1.11 Age class data from digital aerial surveys has previously been provided for Hornsea Three plus a 4 km buffer. These are the only data used in assessments and provide the largest, most robust dataset from the aerial survey data.

## Population modelling

1.12 The Applicant has provided a large number of outputs from Population Viability Modelling at Deadline 1 and 4 (REP1-135 and REP4-092). These were provided in order to address a previous request from Natural England and are considered to represent all outputs that will be required to formulate conclusions.

## **Cumulative and in-combination project figures**

- 1.13 The Applicant has provided cumulative and in-combination collision risk estimates on a seasonal basis in APP-051, APP-065, REP1-005, REP1-139 and REP1-148.
- 1.14 The Applicant has provided cumulative and in-combination displacement values on a seasonal basis in APP-051 and APP-065.







## Appendix A - Collision Risk Modelling

### Collision risk models – Applicant's interpretation of Natural England's position

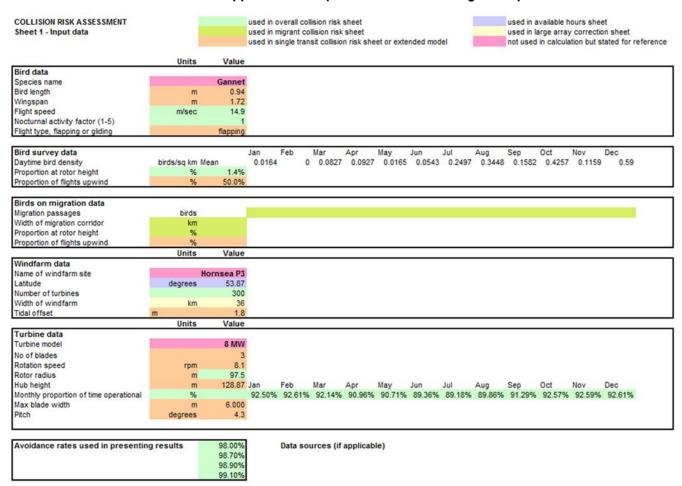


Figure 1.6: Input data spreadsheet from the Band (2012) CRM for gannet using the Applicant's interpretation of Natural England's position (using mean estimates for density and flight height distribution and a nocturnal activity of 1)







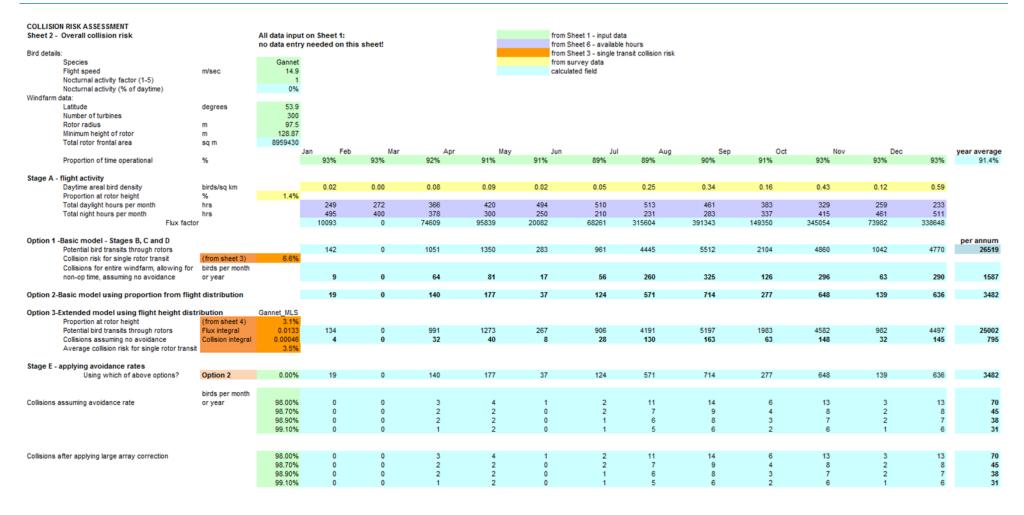


Figure 1.7: Overall collision risk spreadsheet from the Band (2012) CRM for gannet using the Applicant's interpretation of Natural England's position (using mean estimates for density and flight height distribution and a nocturnal activity of 1)





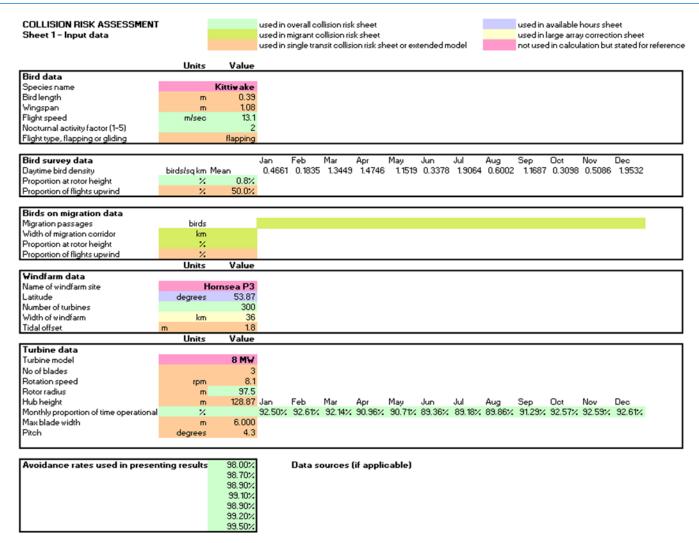


Figure 1.8: Input data spreadsheet from the Band (2012) CRM for kittiwake using the Applicant's interpretation of Natural England's position (using mean estimates for density and flight height distribution and a nocturnal activity of 2)







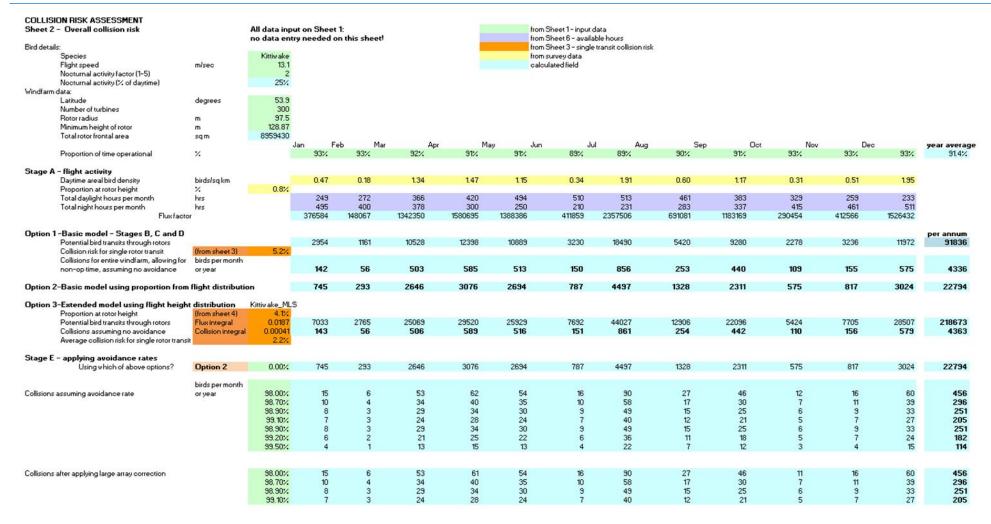


Figure 1.9: Overall collision risk spreadsheet from the Band (2012) CRM for kittiwake using the Applicant's interpretation of Natural England's position (using mean estimates for density and flight height distribution and a nocturnal activity of 2)





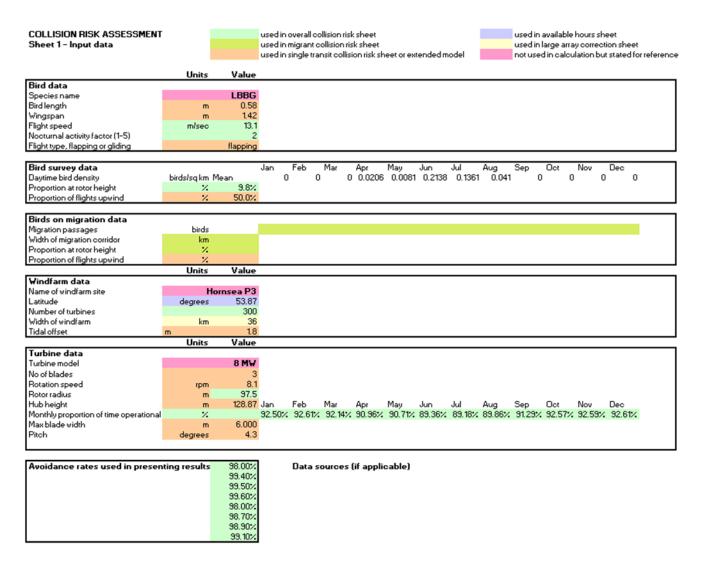


Figure 1.10: Input data spreadsheet from the Band (2012) CRM for lesser black-backed gull using the Applicant's interpretation of Natural England's position (using mean estimates for density and flight height distribution and a nocturnal activity of 2)







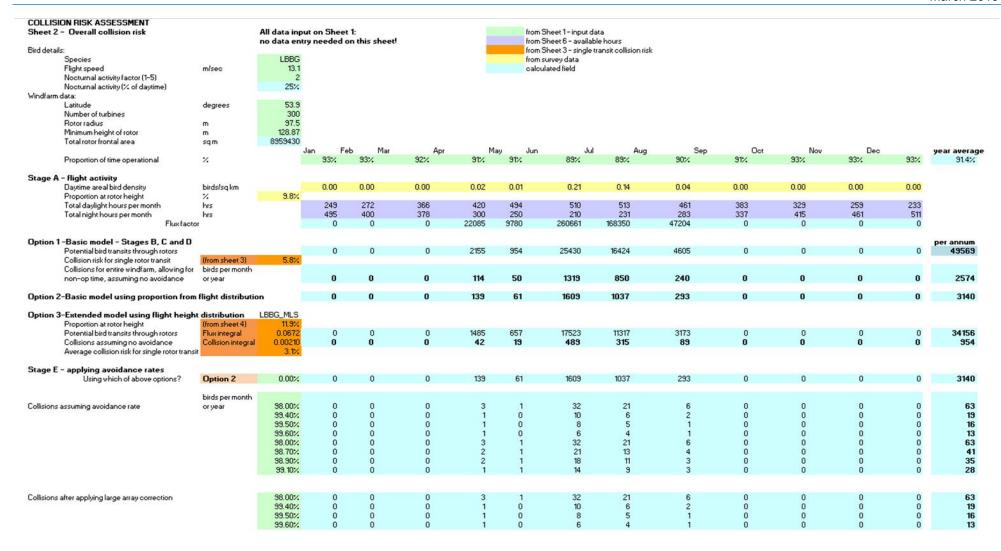


Figure 1.11: Overall collision risk spreadsheet from the Band (2012) CRM for lesser black-backed gull using the Applicant's interpretation of Natural England's position (using mean estimates for density and flight height distribution and a nocturnal activity of 2)







Figure 1.12: Input data spreadsheet from the Band (2012) CRM for herring gull using the Applicant's interpretation of Natural England's position using mean estimates for density and flight height distribution and a (nocturnal activity of 2)







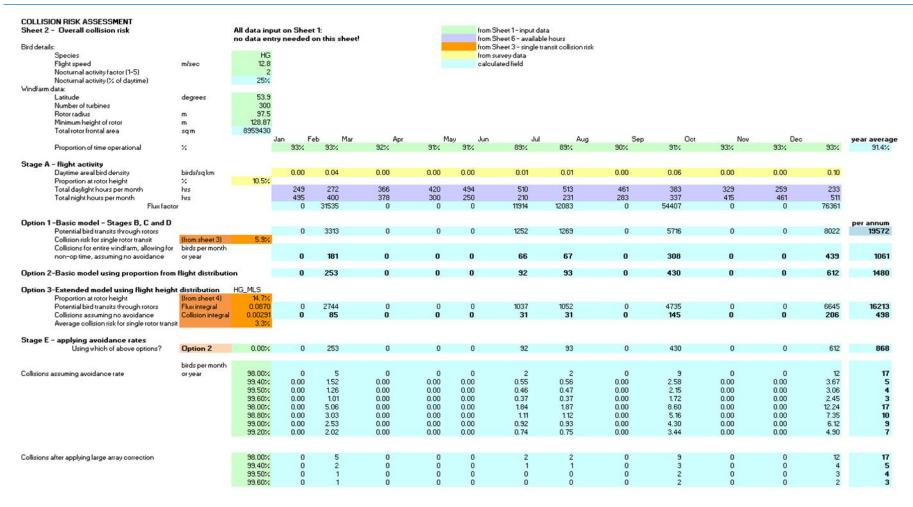


Figure 1.13: Overall collision risk spreadsheet from the Band (2012) CRM for herring gull using the Applicant's interpretation of Natural England's position (using mean estimates for density and flight height distribution and a nocturnal activity of 2)





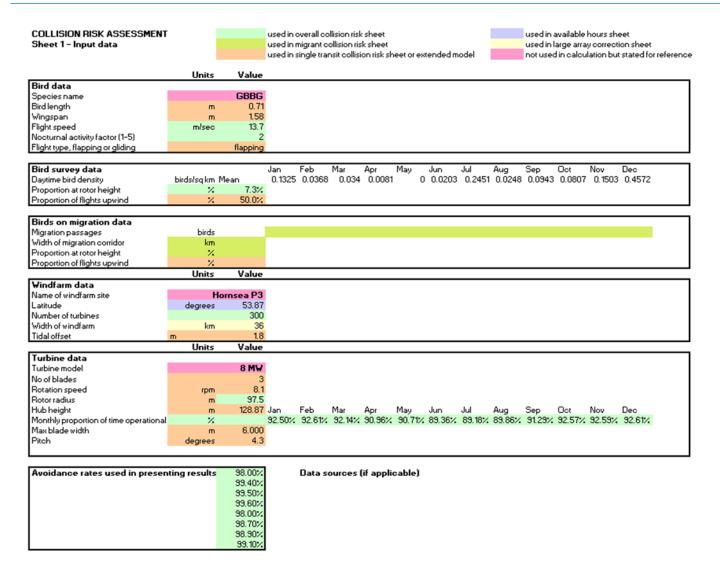


Figure 1.14: Input data spreadsheet from the Band (2012) CRM for great black-backed gull using the Applicant's interpretation of Natural England's position (using mean estimates for density and flight height distribution and a nocturnal activity of 2)







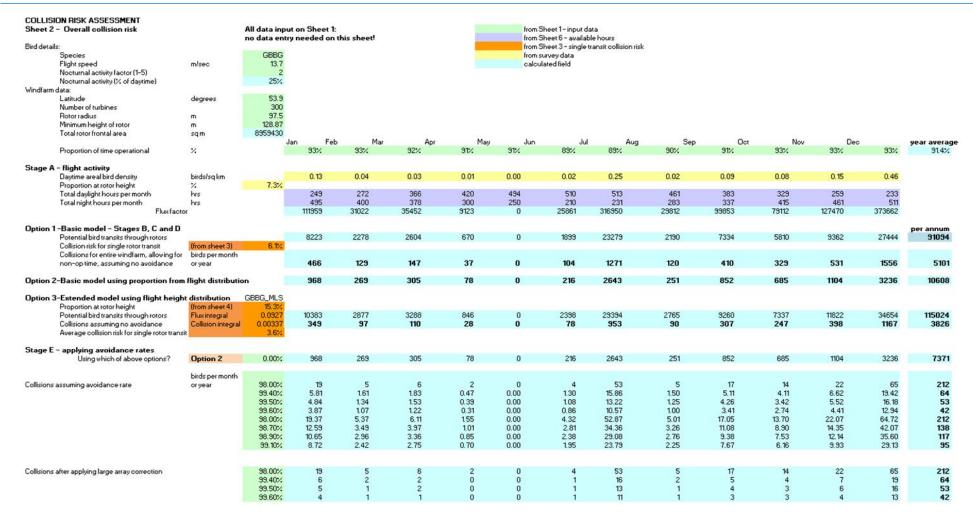


Figure 1.15: Overall collision risk spreadsheet from the Band (2012) CRM for great black-backed gull using the Applicant's interpretation of Natural England's position (using mean estimates for density and flight height distribution and a nocturnal activity of 2)







### Collision risk models - Applicant's position

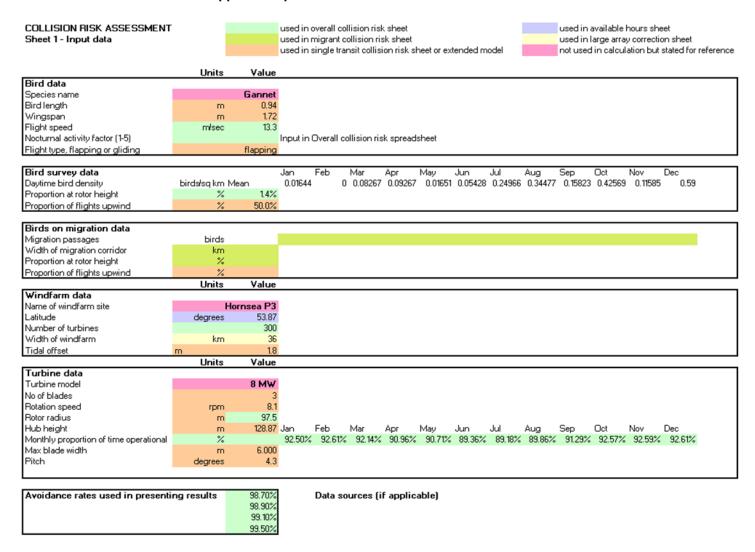


Figure 1.16: Input data spreadsheet from the Band (2012) CRM for gannet using the Applicant's position (using mean estimates for density and PCH)







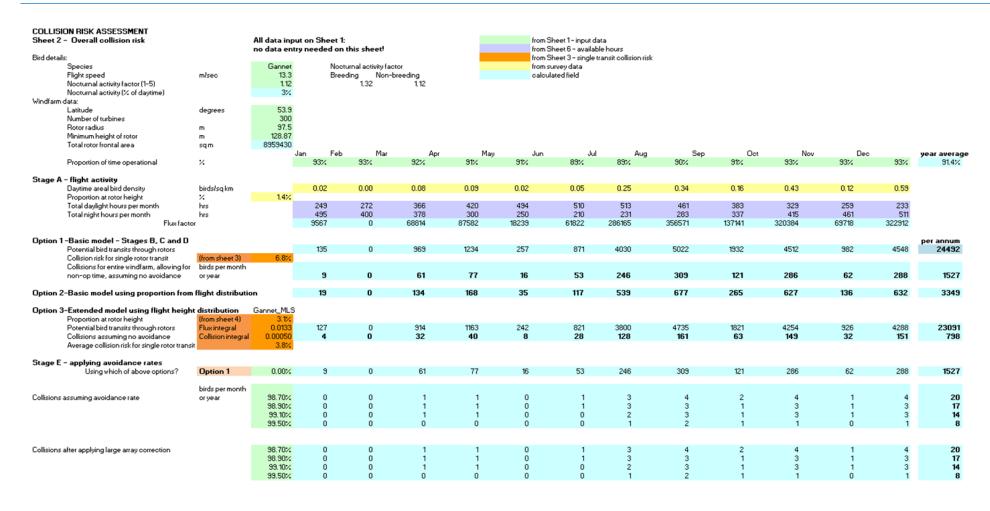


Figure 1.17: Overall collision risk spreadsheet from the Band (2012) CRM for gannet using the Applicant's position (using mean estimates for density and PCH)





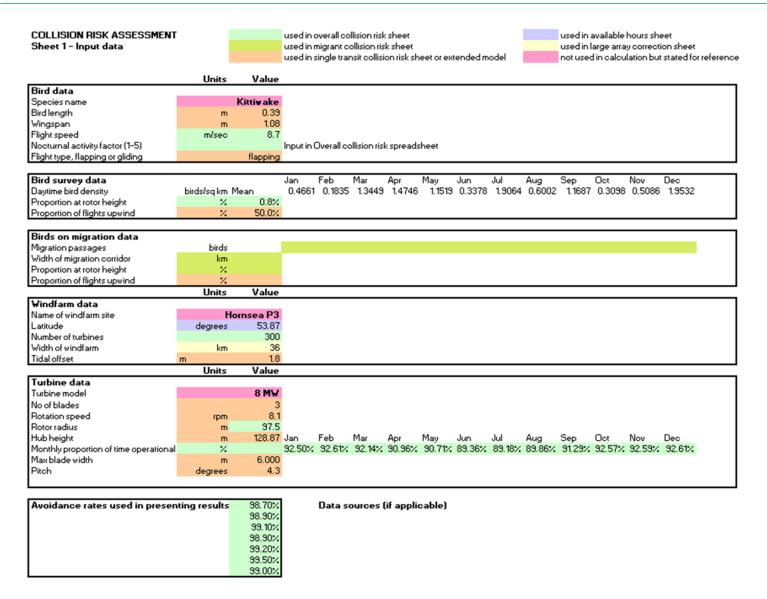


Figure 1.18: Input data spreadsheet from the Band (2012) CRM for kittiwake using the Applicant's position (using mean estimates for density and PCH)







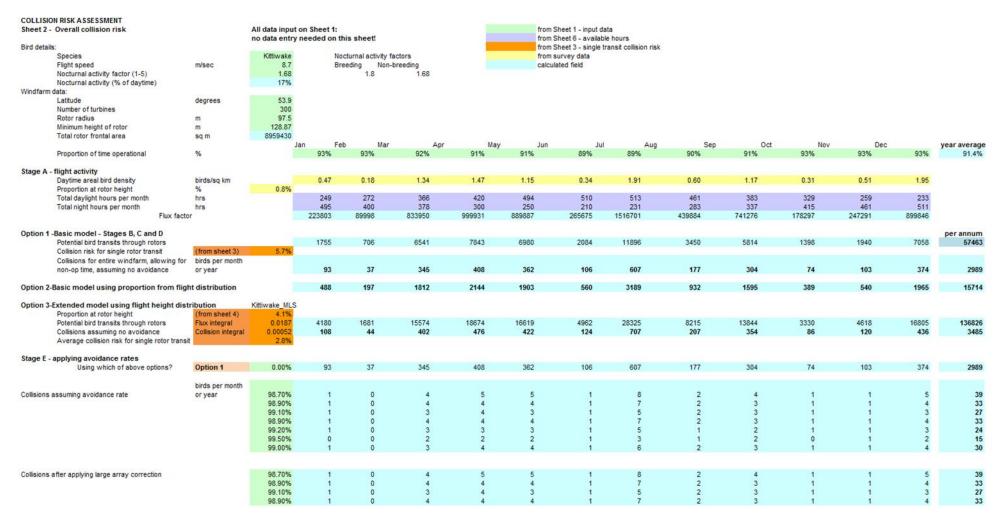


Figure 1.19: Overall collision risk spreadsheet from the Band (2012) CRM for kittiwake using the Applicant's position (using mean estimates for density and PCH)





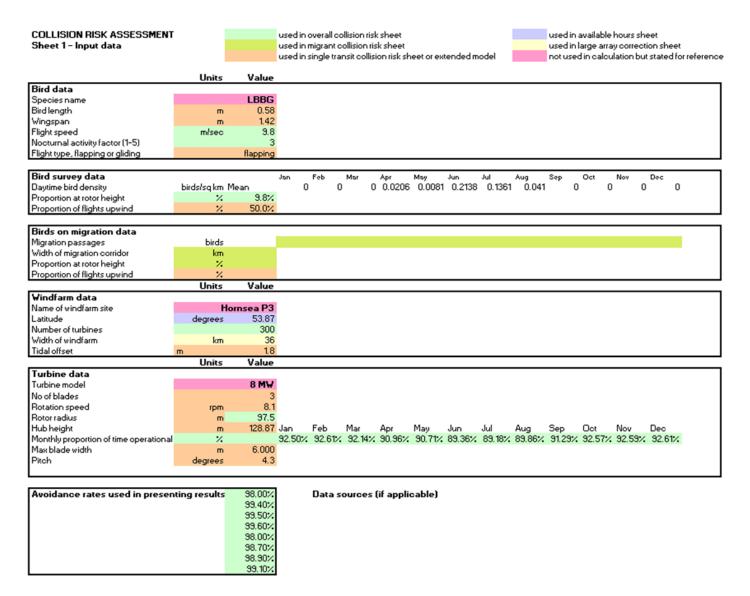


Figure 1.20: Input data spreadsheet from the Band (2012) CRM for lesser black-backed gull using the Applicant's position (using mean estimates for density and PCH)







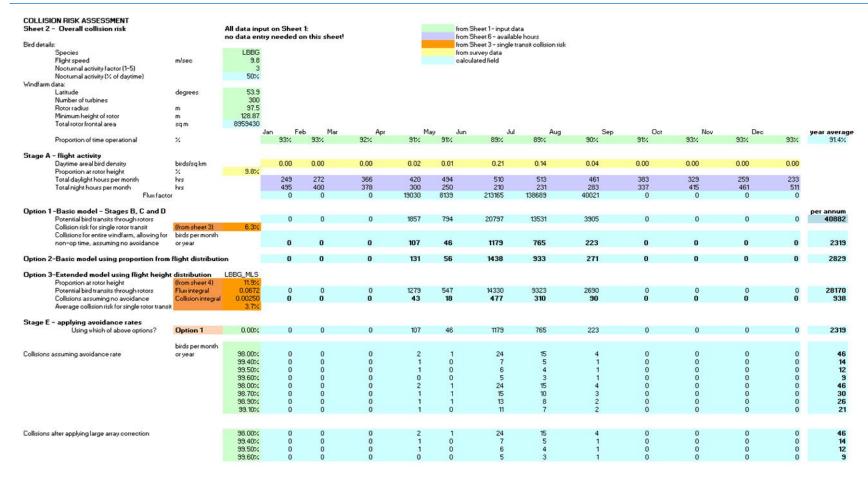


Figure 1.21: Overall collision risk spreadsheet from the Band (2012) CRM for lesser black-backed gull using the Applicant's position (using mean estimates for density and PCH)





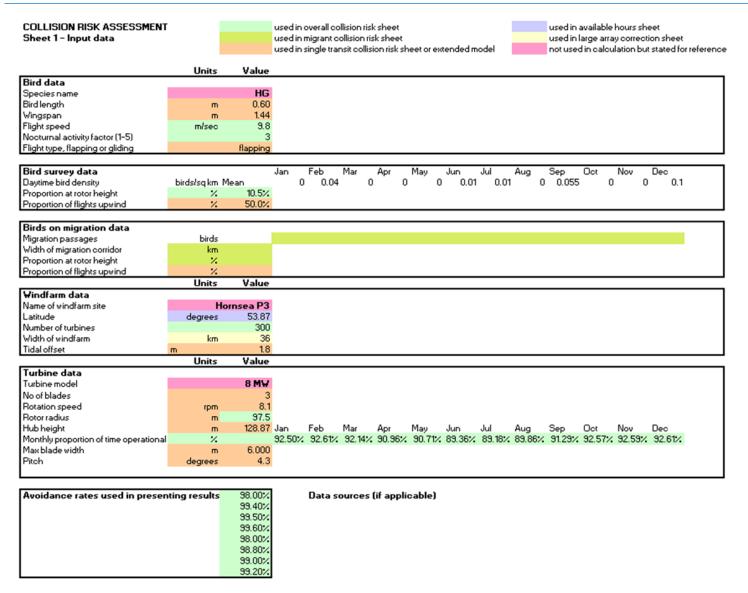


Figure 1.22: Input data spreadsheet from the Band (2012) CRM for herring gull using the Applicant's position (using mean estimates for density and PCH)







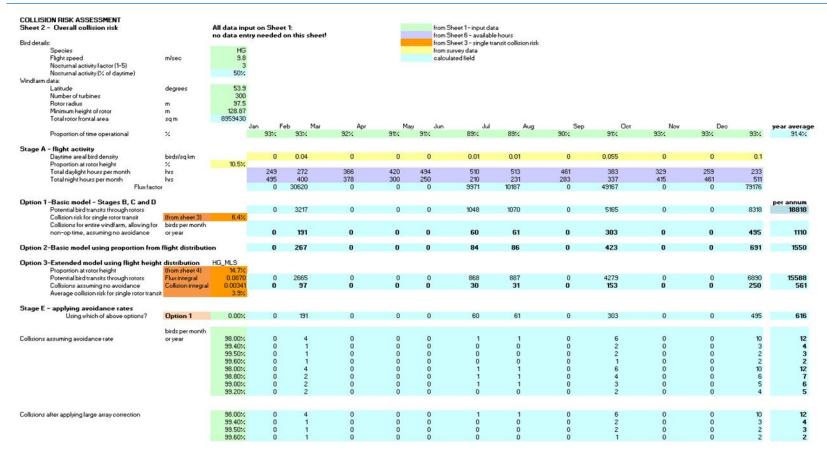


Figure 1.23: Overall collision risk spreadsheet from the Band (2012) CRM for herring gull using the Applicant's position (using mean estimates for density and PCH)





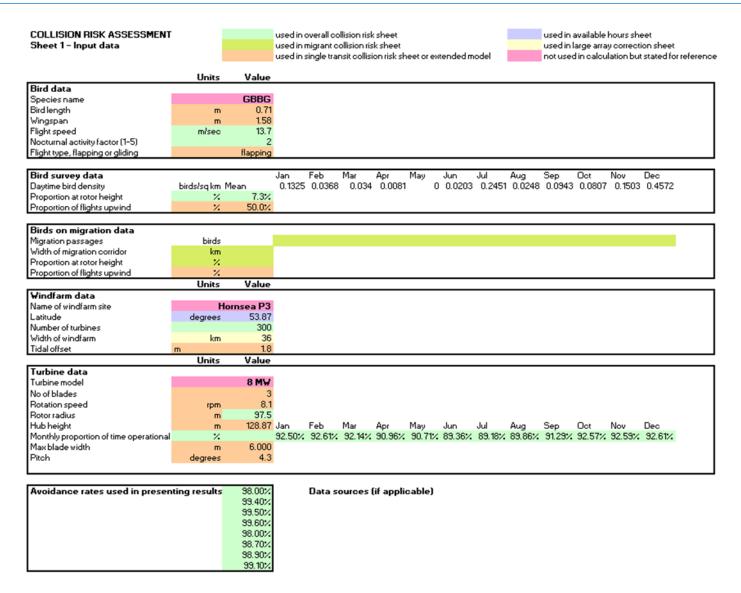


Figure 1.24: Input data spreadsheet from the Band (2012) CRM for great black-backed gull using the Applicant's position (using mean estimates for density and PCH)







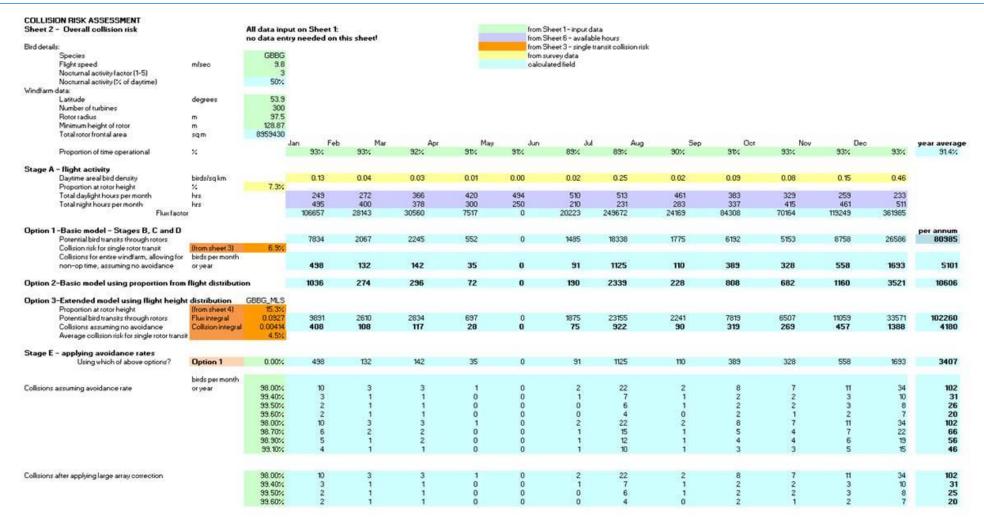


Figure 1.25: Overall collision risk spreadsheet from the Band (2012) CRM for great black-backed gull using the Applicant's position (using mean estimates for density and PCH)



