



Roseate Tern Migration

Roseate Terns nest on islands of the North and Irish Seas. They arrive to breed in early May and nest in special nest boxes that simulate crevices!

Rockabill Island

Coquet Island

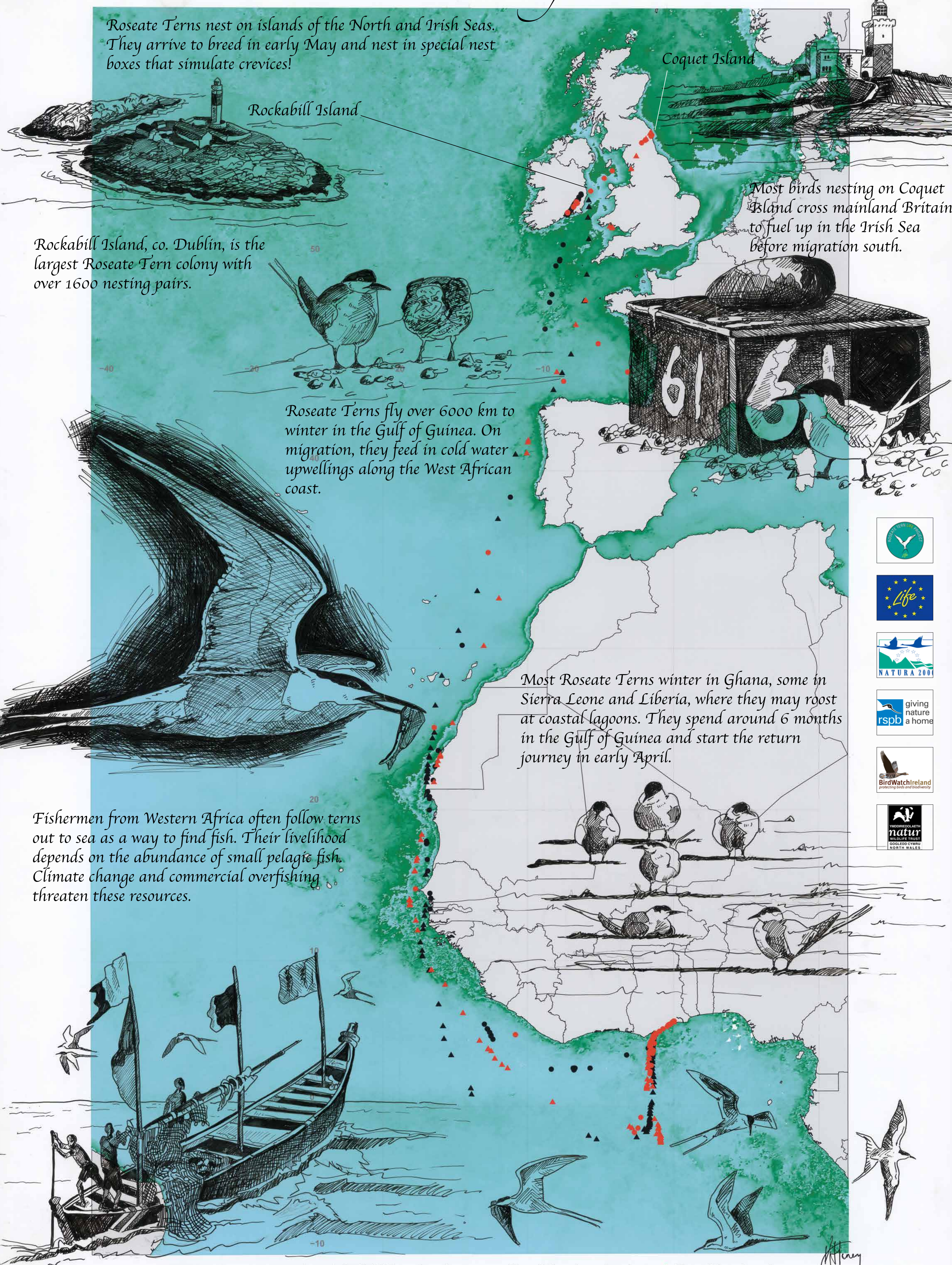
Most birds nesting on Coquet Island cross mainland Britain to fuel up in the Irish Sea before migration south.

Rockabill Island, co. Dublin, is the largest Roseate Tern colony with over 1600 nesting pairs.

Roseate Terns fly over 6000 km to winter in the Gulf of Guinea. On migration, they feed in cold water upwellings along the West African coast.

Most Roseate Terns winter in Ghana, some in Sierra Leone and Liberia, where they may roost at coastal lagoons. They spend around 6 months in the Gulf of Guinea and start the return journey in early April.

Fishermen from Western Africa often follow terns out to sea as a way to find fish. Their livelihood depends on the abundance of small pelagic fish. Climate change and commercial overfishing threaten these resources.



● Rockabill Roseate- outward ▲ Rockabill Roseate- return ● Coquet Roseate- outward ▲ Coquet Roseate- return

