

**ANSWERS TO  
CORRESPONDENTS**

palatable. Gulls cannot be killed solely for eating, only under licence if they are causing a problem at an aerodrome and are a threat to air safety, or if they put public health at risk.

The regular eating of gulls, or indeed any seabird, does not appear to be popular, unless you live on an isolated island where such birds might provide an important source of food.

Only one UK seabird, the gannet, can be killed for food, and then only on the island of Sula Sgeir under a special licence, as the taking and eating of gannets has been a tradition there for centuries.

Gulls do not appear to have been on the menu in places like Iceland or the Faroe islands, and so they may not taste very nice.

Anyone contemplating gourmet gull-tasting should think twice as they may harbour the organisms responsible for salmonella poisoning and botulism as well as possibly carrying dangerous E Coli bacteria.

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**QUESTION: Does anyone regularly eat seagulls?**

**FURTHER** to the earlier answers, in Britain all wild birds are protected by law; only a few species can legally be caught or killed and only some are likely to be