



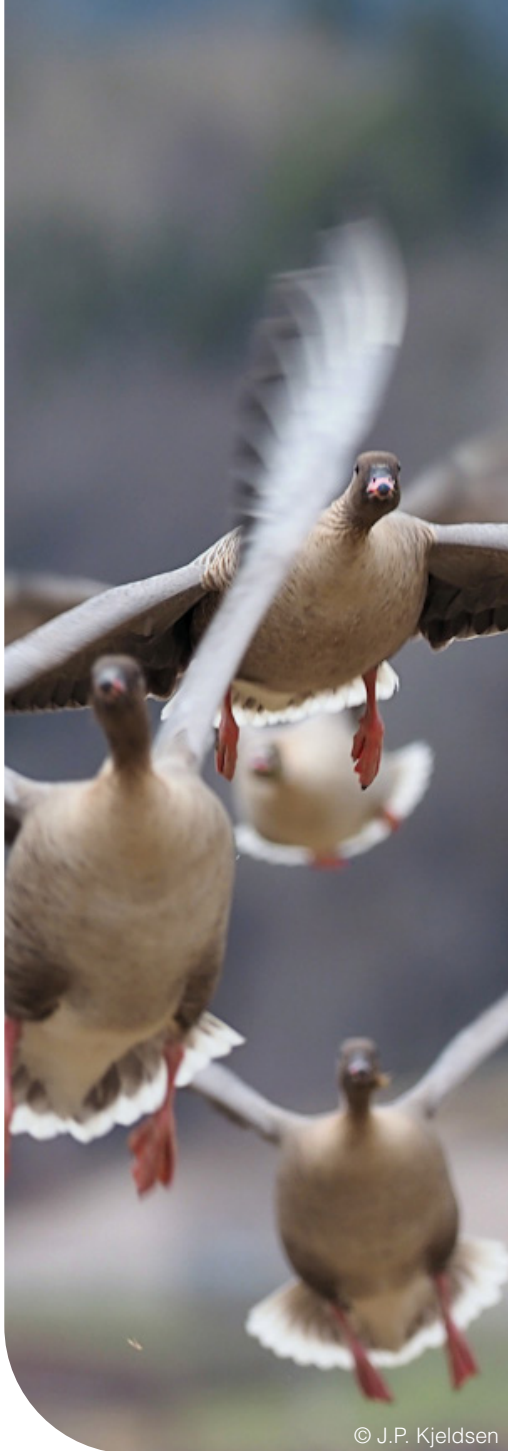
AEWA European Goose
Management Platform

Briefing Note

Population status and management recommendations

2022





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Background

The EGMP Population Status and Offtake Assessment Report provides the status, offtake assessment and management recommendations for the goose populations managed under the EGMP. The information covers aspects related to population status, survival, productivity, as well as assessment of the cumulative impact of derogation and legal hunting and, for some populations, management recommendations.

This briefing note provides the main results and management guidance and/or recommendation.

Status of the Svalbard Population of Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)

The May 2022 population estimate was 71,393 (59,753 – 86,621), which is lower than the May 2021 estimate of 79,122 (60,785 – 91,169). Population size has been relatively stable since implementation of the adaptive harvest management program in 2013. Harvests and harvest rates were increasing prior to the implementation of the adaptive harvest management program in 2013, but have been somewhat stable since. In 2021, the estimated post-breeding proportion of young was a near-record-low of 0.15 (0.13 – 0.16), following only 2 days above freezing in May in Svalbard. The recommended harvest quota for the 2022/2023 hunting season, based on the estimated population size and 11 days above freezing in Svalbard in May 2022, is 19,400. Using an agreed upon allocation of the total quota, harvest quotas for Norway and Denmark this year would be 5,820 and 13,580, respectively.

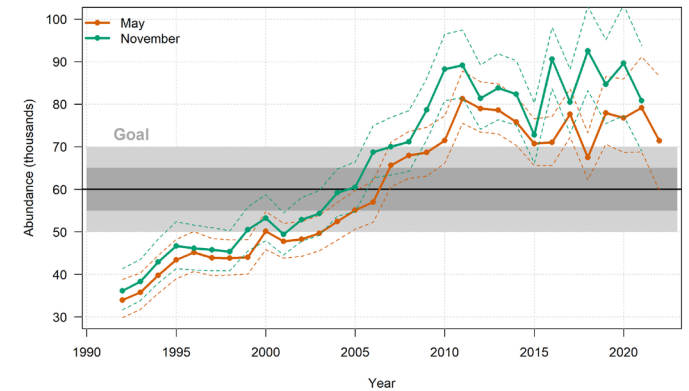


Figure 1. Estimates of abundance of Svalbard Pink-footed Geese in May and November, relative to the goal of 60,000 (95% credible intervals are indicated by the dashed lines). The dark grey band centered on the goal defines near-complete stakeholder satisfaction with population sizes, while the light grey band exhibits $\geq 1/2$ of maximum satisfaction.

Management decisions for the Svalbard population of Pink-footed Goose from EGM IWG7 in 2022

The EGM IWG agreed on a harvest quota of 19,400 individuals for 2022-2023 (5,820 for Norway and 13,580 for Denmark).

Status of the Taiga Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis fabalis*)

There are four recognized Management Units for Taiga Bean Geese: Western, Central, and Eastern 1 and Eastern 2. For the Western MU, the population counts gave a total of 2,186 birds in January 2022¹. This is remarkably higher than in the preceding winters, but still far below the short-term target of 4,000 individuals. For the two Eastern MUs, there is no information concerning population status beyond that which was reported last year. For the Central MU, the March 2022 population estimate was 66,472 (59,976 – 71,654), which is similar to the March 2021 estimate of 64,877 (60,142 – 69,396). If the interim harvest strategy were followed, the total allowable harvest during the 2022/2023 season would be 2,000 (1,913 – 2,089) and the country-specific allocations of this harvest are: Finland – 1,160 (1,094 – 1,227); Sweden – 600 (553 – 648); and Denmark – 240 (210 – 271).

Management decisions for Taiga Bean Goose from EGM IWG7 in 2022

Range States agreed on a harvest quota for Central MU of 3,000 individuals (Finland – 1,740; Sweden – 900; Denmark – 360) for the 2022-2023 hunting season. The higher quota (3000 vs 2000) was adopted to provide for additional hunting opportunity while allowing for some additional growth in the population. The Range States confirmed the standing recommendation of no hunting for the Western MU.

¹ In accordance with the decisions of the 8th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA (MOP8) held in Budapest, Hungary in September 2022, the Western, Central and Eastern 1&2 Management Units of Taiga Bean Goose are now each regarded as individual populations ([AEWA/MOP8/Res.8.2](#))

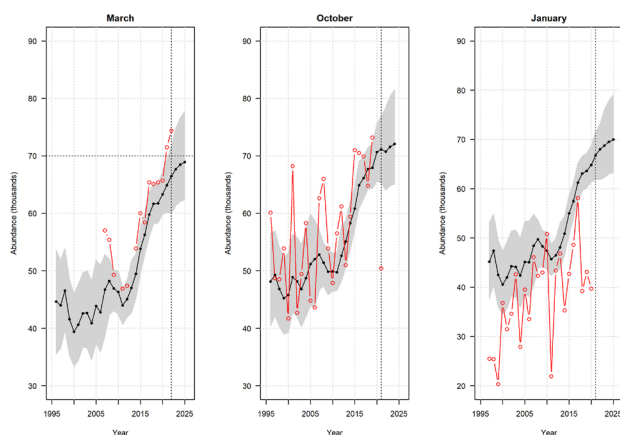


Figure 2. Estimates of population size (in black, with 95% credible intervals in gray) based on an IPM for Taiga Bean Geese in the Central Management Unit. Raw counts are in red. The vertical, dashed lines represent the last year of data. Future abundances were projected based on the interim harvest strategy intended to reach the median population target of 70,000 by March 2025. The horizontal line at 70,000 in the left panel represents the median population target.



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Status of NW/SW European Population of Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*)

Until 2023, Greylag Geese are managed to achieve an annual finite growth rate between 0.96 – 1.00 using mid-winter population counts. Using IWC imputed values a growth rate of 0.994 (0.963-1.025) was achieved including estimates from Spain, and 1.014 (1.002-1.026) when excluding estimates from Spain. Given the large uncertainty in the estimates from Spain, it is difficult to make a firm conclusion on the population trend. In total, a minimum of about 383,000 Greylag Geese were reported killed in 2020. From 2023 onwards, we will move to a dynamic and model-based management of the population, after a number of preconditions have been fulfilled in relation to offtake data, summer counts, and development of a flyway decision model.

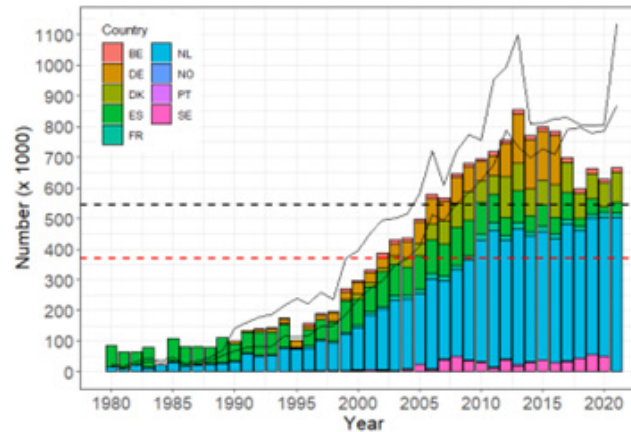


Figure 3. Development of the size (individuals) of the NW/SW European mid-winter population of Greylag Geese at a country level based on EGMP counts (bars) and at the population level based on IWC imputed values including (upper black line) and excluding (lower blackline) imputed values from Spain. EGMP count data is missing from Germany from 2017-2021 and Portugal from 2018-2021, and no count was performed in Sweden in 2021. IWC imputed values are available from 1980-2021. The dashed black line represents the target for the wintering population, and the red dashed line represents the FRP.

Management decisions for NW/SW European population of Greylag Goose from EGM IWG7 in 2022

No decisions on management actions were made, as the first assessment will take place in 2023. However, the EGM IWG acknowledged the requirements for the planned move to the model-based management of the population in 2023.



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Status of the Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) – Russia/Germany and Netherlands population

In 2022 the first full offtake assessment of all management units (MUs) in the Russia/Germany and Netherlands population was performed for the period 2005/06-2020/21. The estimated flyway population size is about 1.4 million individuals in midwinter 2020/21, thus 3.7 times the FRP. Converted into breeding pairs, Russian MU1 and Baltic MU2 are beyond the 200% threshold level set above the FRP, and for the North Sea MU3, numbers are below this

200% threshold, and approaching the FRP. Thus, the results indicate that a reduction in derogations is needed in MU3, which under the current derogation rate will decline in the next years and fall below the FRP. MU1 and MU2 are still above the 200% threshold set in the AFMP and their future developments give no concern for similar management adaptations as suggested for the MU3-North Sea population.

Management decisions for Russia/Germany and Netherlands population of Barnacle Goose from EGM IWG7 in 2022

The EGM IWG agreed that coordination of offtake will take place on a case-by-case basis for populations and management units that drop below the 200% threshold (as stated in the AFMP). Should a population or MU drop below this threshold, the role of the EGMP will be to facilitate dialogue, as appropriate and necessary, among the Range States. For MU3 it was decided that a trilateral discussion on how to coordinate offtake will take place between the Netherlands and German Federal States of Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein. The outcomes of will be communicated to the EGM IWG.

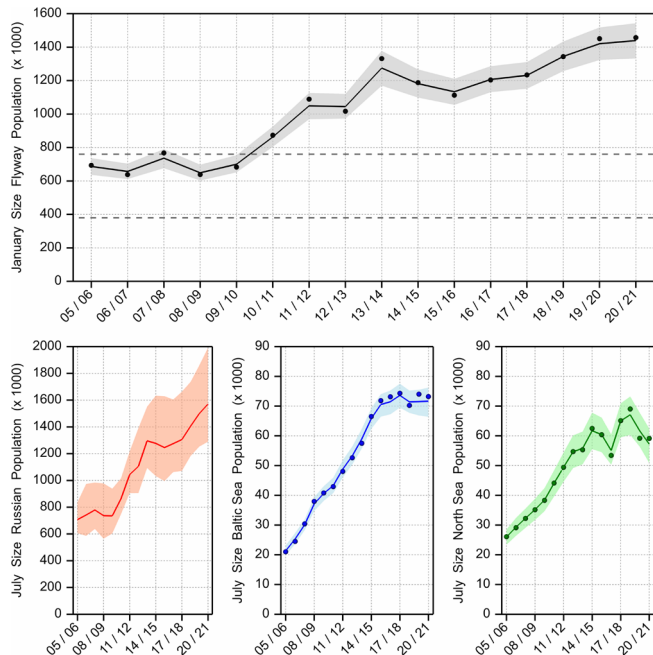
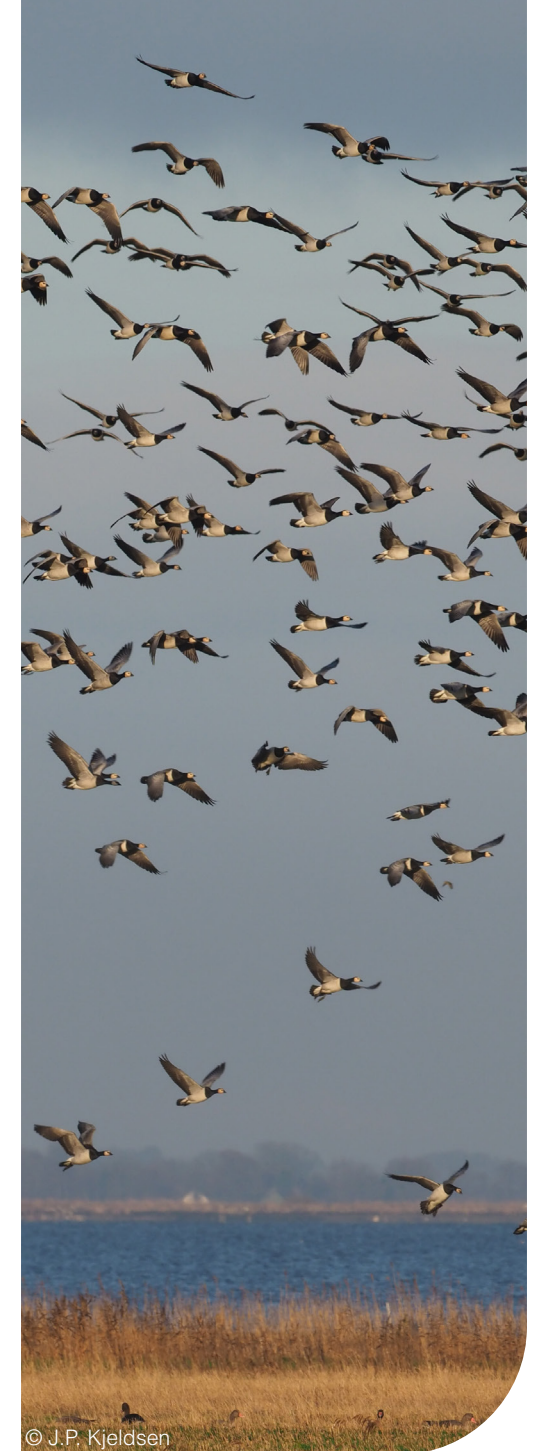


Figure 4. Top panel: January total flyway population counts (dots), posterior means (solid line), 95% intervals (shaded area) and FRP as well as the 200% of the FRP (dashed line). Bottom panels: July population sizes of the three MU-populations along with posterior means and 95% intervals. Left in red MU1, centre in blue MU2, right in green MU3. Note the different scale on the y-axes. Note that July counts of the Russian population are not available and are estimated as latent variables within the IPM framework.



Status of Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) – Greenland/Scotland and Ireland population

The first offtake assessment of the Greenland/Scotland and Ireland population will take place in 2023. Thus, for 2022 only an update on the raw data is available. In 2022, population size is only available from winter counts on Islay, the most important wintering site in the UK, where 28,759 birds were counted in March (flyway census of performed every third year; next in 2023). A total of 4,550 Barnacle Geese were killed in Scotland and Iceland. Derogation shooting was suspended on 1/2/22 on Islay as the result of an avian influenza outbreak.

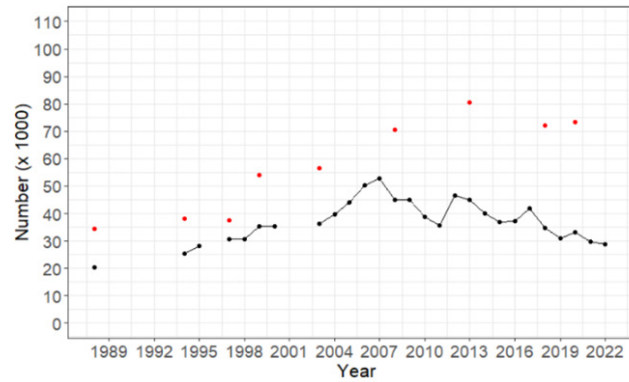


Figure 5. Development of the population size of the E. Greenland/Scotland & Ireland Barnacle Goose, Winter (filled red) with additional annual winter counts from Islay from, the most important wintering site in the UK (black line) (WWT).

Management decisions for Greenland/Scotland and Ireland population of Barnacle Goose from EGM IWG7 in 2022

No decisions on management actions were taken at this meeting, as the next assessment informing decisions will take place in 2023 at EGM IWG8. However, the the Task Force will organise a meeting to discuss the impact of avian influenza on the population, as well as how to coordinate offtake. Population size in spring 2022 is estimated as 64,000 individuals, which is below the 200% threshold of the FRP (FRP=54,000, and 200% FRP=108,000)..



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