

AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM



**11th MEETING OF THE
AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT
INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP**
16-18 June 2026, Skövde, Sweden



**REPORT ON THE COORDINATION OF OFFTAKE OF MANAGEMENT UNIT 3 OF THE
RUSSIA (BR) POPULATION OF THE BARNACLE GOOSE IN 2025/2026**

Prepared and submitted to the AEWA Secretariat by the Netherlands based on the decision of the 9th Meeting of the European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG9)

Summary:

The results from the Integrated Population Model in 2025 indicated that the summer population estimate of Management Unit 3 of the Russia (br) population of the Barnacle Goose was below the 200% threshold of the Favourable Reference Population. This finding triggered the request for coordination of offtake under derogation. This report provides an overview of the measures taken to coordinate the offtake.

Action requested from the EGM IWG:

The EGM IWG is requested to take note of the report and provide advice, as necessary.

Background

Within the framework of the Adaptive Flyway Management Programme (AFMP) for the Russia (br) population of the Barnacle Goose, it was agreed that monitoring of the population and coordination of offtake under derogations and hunting should be implemented as a precautionary measure when population size in individual Management Units (MUs), or in the population as a whole, falls below 200% of the Favourable Reference Population (FRP). Compliance with this threshold is evaluated through the results of the annual population status assessment, using an Integrated Population Model (IPM). A protocol to guide this coordination has been discussed within the Task Force for the Russia (br) population of the Barnacle Goose (see document [AEWA/EGMIWG7.14](#)). So far, it has only been applied in MU3. During EGM IWG9 in 2024 (see the [EGM IWG9 Decisions Table](#)), it was decided that the Netherlands and Germany, as the Range States subject to coordination within MU3, should prepare a written document describing the coordination arrangements prior to the subsequent meeting of the EGM IWG. Coordination does not apply to Belgium, which is also part of MU3, as Belgium considers the summer population occurring within its territory to be non-naturally occurring. The section below describes how the coordination was implemented in spring 2026, based on population assessments using data up to 2025.

Coordination of Offtake under Derogation in 2025/2026

The results from the IPM indicate that the summer population estimate of MU3 is below the 200% threshold. This finding triggered the request for coordination of offtake under derogation. Hence, after having the newest results from the IPM, in April 2026, the administrations of the two relevant German federal states, Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein, were requested to give an update on their derogation efforts. This request was sent to the Lower Saxony Ministry for the Environment, Energy, Building and Climate Protection in Hannover (H. Düttmann) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Areas, European Affairs and Consumer Protection in Kiel (H. Schwedt).

The Ministry in Lower Saxony responded that currently no derogations are granted or planned in the near future. As per 1 August 2024, the Ministry in Schleswig-Holstein has expanded the period that derogations in Schleswig-Holstein for Barnacle Geese are granted, now covering the period from 1 October – 28 February, as a measure to prevent serious damage to crops¹. It is likely that in this time of the year these extended derogations will mainly affect migratory birds from MU1 (Russia breeders) and to some extent also MU2 (Baltic breeders), which are present from October onwards and leave in April-May. Hence, it is assumed that local breeding populations, belonging to MU3 (North Sea subpopulation) are not affected by derogation offtake in Schleswig-Holstein. In the Netherlands, a routine is in place to coordinate offtake among the provinces, aiming to avoid that the breeding population will fall below FRP. Besides, goose management in Schleswig-Holstein also includes clutch management of the local breeding populations. Even if the impact of clutch management is generally thought to be low, it cannot be excluded that the local breeding populations might be impacted in case the majority of the population is covered by clutch management (at the level of Germany, numbers of breeding birds have shown increases over the past 5 years). Nevertheless, it is recommended to monitor this measure carefully and report to EGM IWG annually the number of clutches affected and what part of the presumed breeding population this affects (latest data will be included in the *EGMP Population Status and Assessment Report 2026 - AEWA/EGMIWG/11.12*). Clutch management in an Annex 1 species such as Barnacle Goose is also subject to the EU derogation regulations and reporting obligations.

¹ The announcement on the change in the derogation period is available at the following link: https://www.schleswig-holstein.de/DE/landesregierung/ministerien-behoerden/IX/presse/PI/2024/III/240729_landesjagdzeitenverordnung_gaense.