

**AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM**



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AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT  
INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP**  
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**DRAFT INDICATOR ASSESSMENT FOR THE ADAPTIVE FLYWAY MANAGEMENT  
PROGRAMME FOR THE E GREENLAND (BR) POPULATION OF THE BARNACLE GOOSE  
*BRANTA LEUCOPSIS***

*Compiled by Iben Hove Sørensen & Kees Koffijberg, with input from Range States, the HPAI Contact Group  
and members of the EGMP Greenland/Svalbard Barnacle Goose & Flight Safety Task Forces*

**Summary:**

The Adaptive Flyway Management Programme (AFMP) for the E Greenland (br) population of Barnacle Goose was adopted at the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG6) in 2021. The AFMP has an initial lifespan of 6 years and is then subject to review, with two 6-year cycles being envisioned, encompassing evaluation and adaptation related to, among other things, the state of indicators. The EGM IWG10, in 2025, approved the proposed protocol for the assessment of AFMP indicators as set out in document AEWA/EGMIWG/10.20 and invited Range States to support the gathering and transmission of the necessary information to the EGMP Data Centre. In October 2025, a questionnaire containing the agreed set of questions was sent to the National Government Representatives and National Experts of the EGM IWG. Replies were provided by the Range States and additional reporting was done through the EGMP Greenland/Svalbard Barnacle Goose and Flight Safety Task Forces as well as the EGMP Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Contact Group. This document presents the results of the indicator assessment and recommendations to optimise the indicators for the next 6-year cycle.

**Action requested from the EGM IWG:**

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

## **Introduction**

The AEWA International Single Species Management Plan for the Barnacle Goose (BG ISSMP) (Jensen et al. 2018) was adopted at the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of Parties to AEWA (MOP7) in 2018. Following the adoption of the ISSMP, population-specific Adaptive Flyway Management Programmes (AFMPs) were developed for the E Greenland (br) and the Russia (br) populations of Barnacle Goose (Nagy et al. 2021a, 2021b). The AFMPs were adopted at the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG6) in 2021.

The AFMP has an initial lifespan of 6 years and is then subject to review, with two 6-year cycles being envisioned, encompassing evaluation and adaptation related to, among other things, Favourable Reference Values (FRVs), population models, impact models, the state of indicators and evaluation towards achieving objectives. Upon its adoption, it had been envisioned that the AFMPs would be evaluated and adapted as appropriate in 2026 by the EGM IWG.

This document provides a status of the progress towards achieving the fundamental objectives of the BG ISSMP, focusing on the E Greenland (br) population and based on an assessment of the indicators described in the population-specific AFMP.

Data for the period 2020-2024 or data on the current situation combined with a trend for the period 2020-2025, were reported to the EGMP Data Centre by Range States. This report has been prepared for EGM IWG11 in June 2026 to present the results of the indicator assessment and inform a discussion on optimisation of the indicators for the next 6-year cycle of the AFMP.

## **Methods**

The proposed protocol for evaluating progress towards achieving the fundamental objectives of the BG ISSMP ([Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/10.20](#)) was adopted by the EGM IWG during EGM IWG10 in June 2025. Barring a few exceptions, the protocol described ways to assess each of the indicators listed in the AFMP (Nagy et al. 2021a). For some indicators, such as those related to Fundamental objective II (Minimize agricultural damage and conflicts), proxies are used instead of directly measuring the indicator, as for example damage payments and derogation permits are used to indirectly assess the level of damage and conflict.

In October 2025, a questionnaire containing the agreed set of questions was sent to the National Government Representatives and National Experts of the EGM IWG. Replies were provided directly to the EGMP Data Centre, yet for some indicators additional reporting was done through the EGMP Greenland/Svalbard Barnacle Goose and Flight Safety Task Forces as well as the EGMP HPAI Contact Group. Indicators regarding abundance and derogations were derived from the data provided to the EGMP Data Centre for the annual assessment and status reports. Range States were asked to provide only one coordinated reply to the questionnaire, making use of all relevant expertise available in each country.

To ensure a timely assessment of the indicators, Range States were asked to report on the period 2020-2024 by the end of 2025, although the 6-year cycle of the AFMP also includes 2025 and 2026. Where possible, reporting was done by providing information for each year, and in the remaining cases data on the current situation combined with a trend indication for the period 2020-2025 was reported. Replies were received from Iceland, Ireland and the United Kingdom.

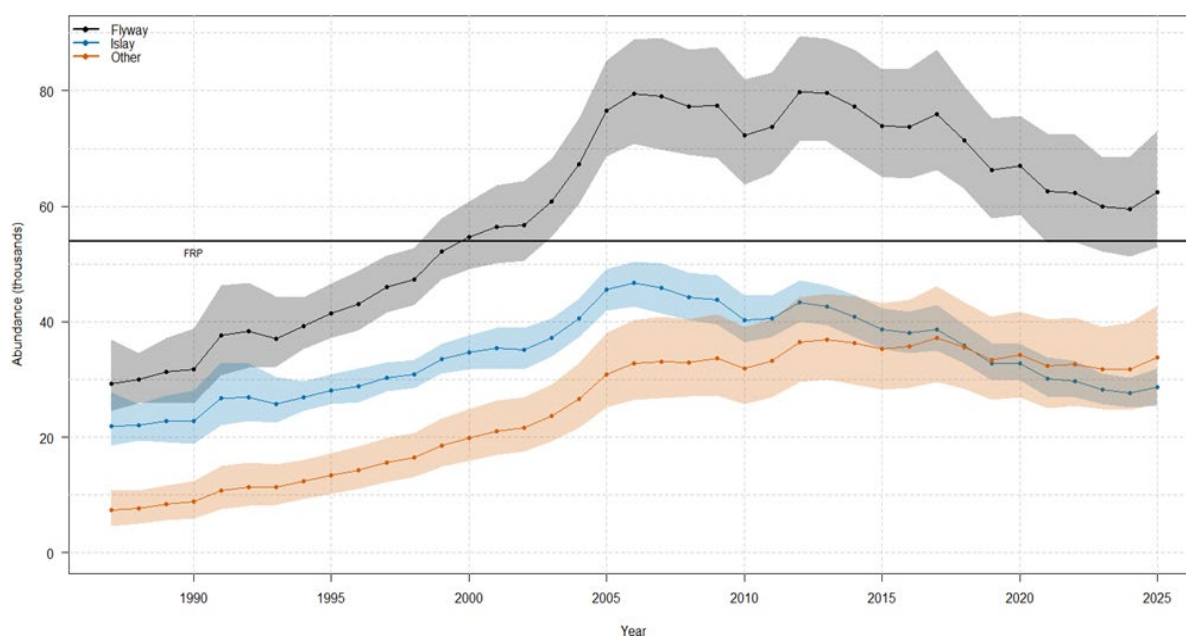
## Results

### Fundamental objective I: Maintain the population at a satisfactory level

#### Indicator I.1: Population size compared to the Favourable Reference Population (FRP)

Updates on the population size, including winter counts from Scotland and Ireland and breeding bird/nest counts from Iceland are submitted annually to the EGMP Data Centre and presented to the EGM IWG in the annual EGMP population status and offtake assessment report (most recently in Sørensen et al. 2025). No additional data was submitted for the assessment of this indicator, as the population size compared to the FRP size is based on an Integrated Population Model (IPM) and included as a standard component of each annual status report (see Fig. 1).

After a peak population of around 80,000 individuals in 2006 and in 2012, posterior IPM-based estimates of flyway abundance declined to 62,438 (52,845 – 72,985) in March 2025 (Fig. 1).



**Figure 1.** Development of the March population size of E Greenland (br) Barnacle Geese as based on the IPM. The black horizontal line indicates the FRP (54,000 birds). Shading represents the 95% credible intervals. From Sørensen et al. 2025.

#### Indicator I.2: Range extent compared to Favourable Reference Range (FRR)

The FRR for the breeding season was set by Iceland at the level of the 2013-2018 reporting period using the range method (DG Environment, 2017, pp. 125-128), whereas the estimated range in Greenland was based on Boertmann & Nielsen (2010). Defining national FRRs for the breeding season is not applicable to Ireland and the United Kingdom as the population does not breed in those Range States.

The breeding range of the Barnacle Goose in Iceland is concentrated in the lowland and coastal areas of south-eastern and southern Iceland, mainly in the municipalities of Hornafjörður (6,309 km<sup>2</sup>) and Skaftárhreppur (6,943 km<sup>2</sup>), with some expansion inland and eastwards in recent years. The FRR is set at 1,000 km<sup>2</sup> which appears to be considerably less than the current range.

In accordance with the AFMP, where an update of the breeding range information in Greenland is proposed to take place only once during the lifetime of the ISSMP (in 2027), no new breeding range estimate is available for Greenland yet. The breeding FRR for Greenland was set at 100,000 km<sup>2</sup>.

## **Fundamental objective II: Minimize agricultural damage and conflicts**

### Indicator II.1: Relative change in damage payments

#### Compensation & subsidies

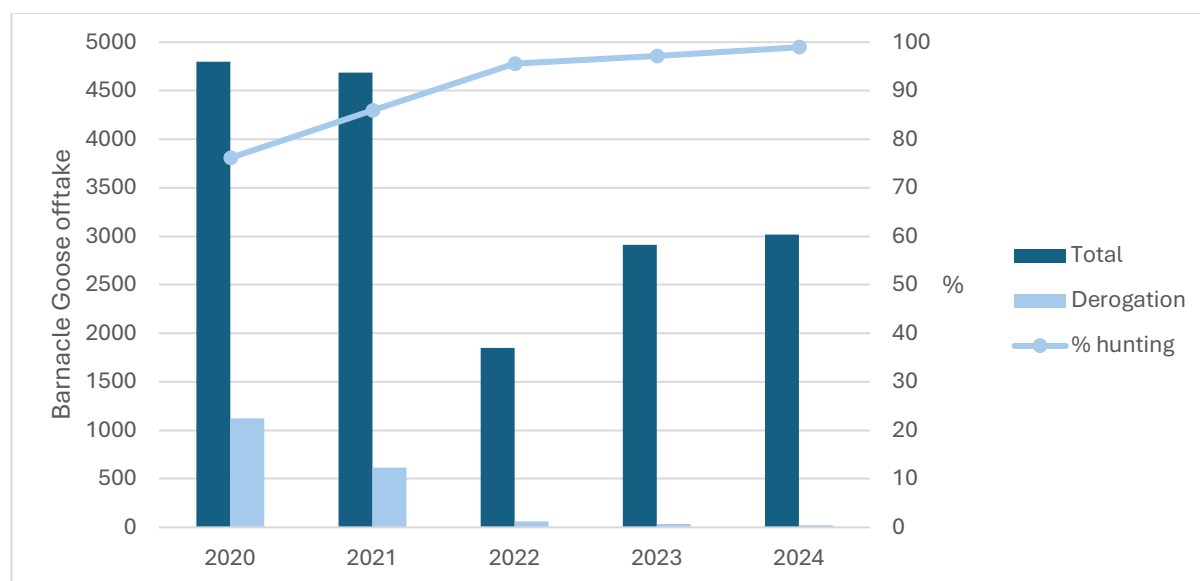
In the UK, where damage payments are constituted by a combination of compensation payments and subsidies, payment rates have remained constant although the overall budget has been reduced in recent years due to fewer geese. Damage experiments conducted on Islay prior to 2020 showed that fewer geese cause less damage, yet no data is available on damage and conflict levels in recent years to confirm that the observed decrease in goose numbers has reduced the conflict.

No compensation schemes exist in Iceland and Ireland. Annual subsidy payments in Iceland are not available as a separate figure, as they are provided in the form of a supplement added to agricultural support payments. The supplement varies between years, and no information is available on the specific amounts. The share of Barnacle Geese in subsidy payments in Iceland is likely to be relatively small, and the amounts paid as damage compensation are limited. No scheme for accommodating geese has been established.

It is not possible to provide a single figure for the total amount of subsidies paid in Ireland. Two main schemes have been established for Barnacle Geese: The National Parks and Wildlife Service Farm Plan Scheme, which is targeted and small-scale, and the Department of Agriculture's "Goose & Swan" measures under the national agri-environmental programme ACRES (using CAP/RDP funds), which is large and broad-scale. Often payments are made towards management for and tolerance of a variety of goose and swan species. It is estimated that there has been no significant change in the total subsidy payments between the assessment period (2020-2024) and the previous period (2015-2019), and the subsidy payments continue as the primary tool for managing lands for geese and minimising conflict.

#### Number of geese killed under derogation

Among the Range States of the E Greenland (br) population of Barnacle Goose, derogation permits may be granted in Ireland and Scotland. All offtake is reported annually by the Range States. Offtake in Ireland has been zero during the assessment period, while there has been tight coordination of offtake between the UK and Iceland in recent years to avoid bringing the population below the FRP. Although this sub-indicator is based on the number of geese killed under derogation, harvest in Iceland is included here as national reports indicate a clear negative correlation between hunting opportunities (harvest quota and length of the open hunting season) and the level of agricultural conflicts. During the years 2020-2024, while overall offtake was reduced markedly, an increasing proportion (ranging between 76% and 99%) were shot in Iceland during the open hunting season (Fig. 2).



**Figure 2.** Total Barnacle Goose offtake and the number of geese killed under derogation (Scotland and Ireland) reported annually by the Range States of the E Greenland (br) population during 2020-2024 (left axis). The majority (ranging between 76% and 99%, right axis) are shot in Iceland during the open hunting season.

### Fundamental objective III: Minimise the risk to public health and air safety

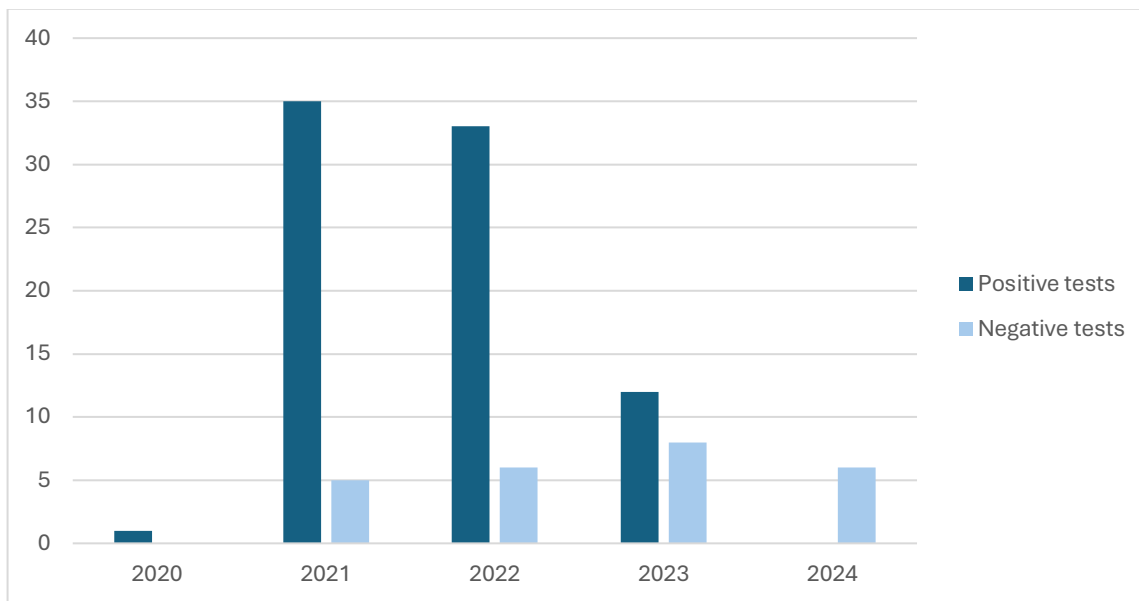
#### Indicator III.1: Risk of zoonotic influenza transmission to the general public

This indicator is assessed by the recorded number of human cases of zoonotic influenza combined with two proxies: The number of tested and infected Barnacle Geese recorded annually (Fig 3.), and the number of cases registered annually in poultry farms (Fig. 4).

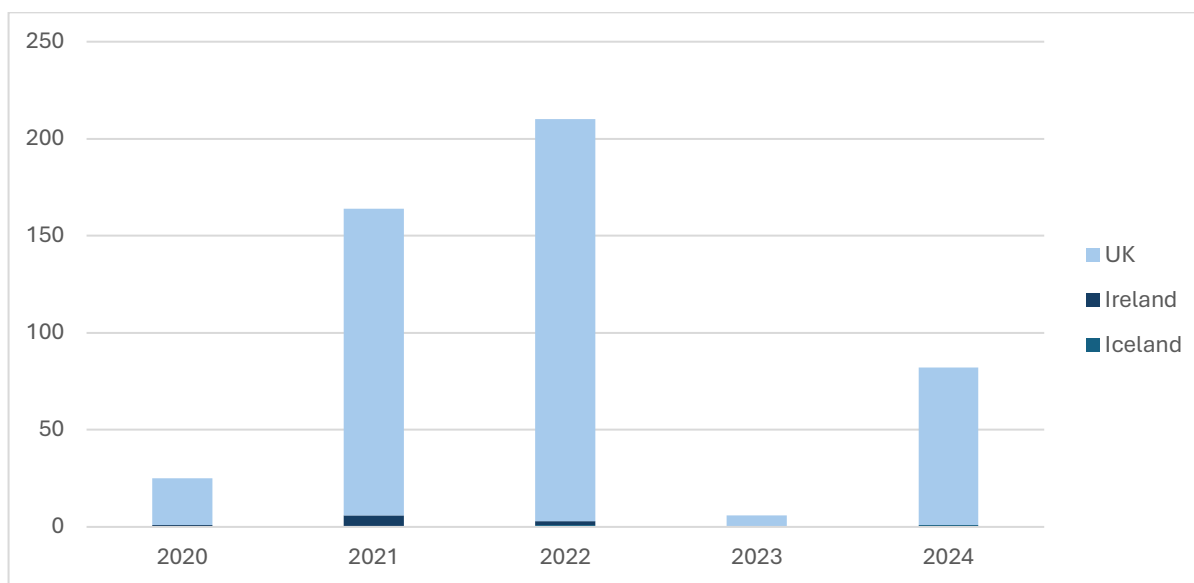
Three human cases of avian influenza were registered in the Range States of the E Greenland (br) population of Barnacle Goose during the period 2020-2024. All were related to captive birds, and all cases were asymptomatic and only discovered through testing after discovering that ill birds handled by humans were indeed infected by avian influenza.

All Range States rely on passive surveillance to monitor the occurrence and spread of avian influenza in wild birds, and to detect potential risks to poultry and other captive birds. Testing is thus mainly done on dead (and in some cases sick) birds. In Iceland, only two Barnacle Geese were tested (in 2022), of which one tested positive. In the UK, 91 Barnacle Geese were tested during 2020-2024, 69 of which tested positive. In Ireland, 13 Barnacle Geese were tested, 11 of which were infected with either H5N8 (1 case in 2020) or H5N1 (10 cases in 2022).

During the period 2020-2024, nine outbreaks among birds in captivity were confirmed in Ireland and two were confirmed in Iceland. In the United Kingdom, a total of 476 outbreaks in poultry farms were registered, with the annual number of outbreaks ranging from 6 (April 2023-March 2024) to 207 (April 2022-March 2023) (Fig. 4). Note that the distribution of the E Greenland (br) Barnacle Goose population only includes Scotland, whereas the reported outbreaks were spread across all of the UK.



**Figure 3.** The number of Barnacle Geese tested for avian influenza during 2020-2024 in Iceland, Ireland & United Kingdom. Test results are given as the number of positive (dark blue) and negative (light blue) tests, respectively.



**Figure 4.** Number of outbreaks of avian influenza recorded among captive birds (poultry) during 2020-2024 in the Range States of the E Greenland (br) population of Barnacle Goose.

Indicator III.2: Number of bird strikes with aircraft caused by Barnacle Goose

No bird strikes caused by Barnacle Geese of the E Greenland (br) population were reported for the period 2020-2024. Iceland further stated that while it is not always possible to identify all birds involved in aircraft collisions, the distribution of Barnacle Geese in Iceland makes it highly unlikely that this species was involved in any incidents.

Indicator III.3: Number of Barnacle Geese passing over commercial airports

No systematic monitoring of the number of geese passing over commercial airports is available from the Range States.

## Fundamental objective IV: Minimise the risk to other flora and fauna

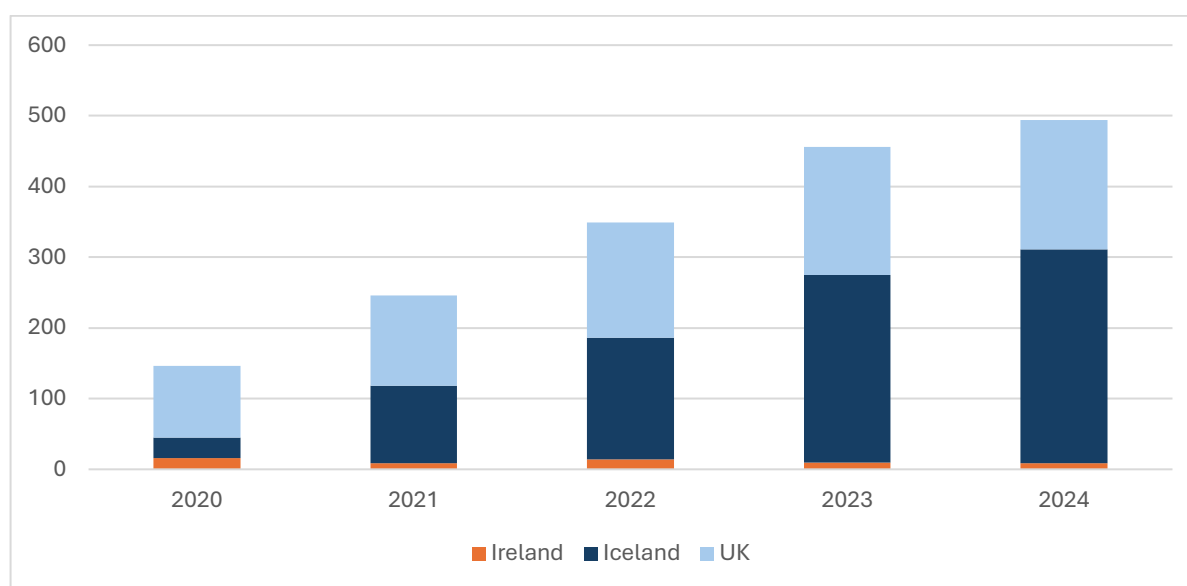
### Indicator IV.1: Area of natural habitat or habitat of threatened species negatively affected by Barnacle Geese

No formal assessment has been made of wide-scale impacts on conservation or management objectives in any of the Range States, and all Range States reported that data on damages to natural habitats caused by Barnacle Geese are not routinely collected. However, the lack of attention drawn by conservation organisations and managers to potential negative effects may indicate that such effects are insignificant or localised. In Scotland, Barnacle Geese are not thought to cause negative impacts, and problems related to habitats are unknown in Ireland. The only point of concern raised was related to conservation objectives in protected areas in Iceland, where grazing pressure may have a negative impact.

## Fundamental objective V: Maximise ecosystem services

### Indicator V.1: Number of people enjoying watching geese

Iceland and the United Kingdom reported the annual number of people reporting Barnacle Goose observations to eBird and BTO's Birdtrack, respectively, whereas Ireland reported the number of records submitted to the National Biodiversity Data Centre. The sources used are not the only ones available, and additional information may be found in other online databases. However, considering the purpose of this report, and since each Range State has submitted data for all years, allowing us to make direct comparisons across years, we have included all data as reported in Fig. 5. As shown here, the number of people watching and reporting geese has increased since 2020.



**Figure 5.** The number of observers (Iceland and the UK) and observations (Ireland) of Barnacle Goose during the period 2020-2024.

## **Fundamental objective VI: Minimise costs of goose management**

### Indicator VI.1 Relative change in cost of goose management

In the Range States of the E Greenland (br) population of Barnacle Goose, no detailed information is available on the number of administrative man-years spent on goose management at local and regional scale.

The UK reports that the effort has remained stable at all levels (local, regional and national) since 2020 and involves man-years equivalent to 3.5 full time positions. Involved in Barnacle Goose management are the Scottish Government and NatureScot, and tasks involve goose management schemes, data collection (goose counts), assessing eligibility for schemes, granting licences, scaring to protect specific crops and participation in EGMP meetings.

A similar amount of time is spent on goose management in Iceland, around 3.5 man-years split between regional (1) and national (2.5) management tasks and involving a total of approximately five staff members at the Natural Science Institute of Iceland (NSII), the South East Iceland Research Center (SEIRC), and the Nature Protection Agency (NPA). NSII coordinates and conducts national monitoring of Barnacle Goose and delivers population data to the EGMP and AEWA. NSII also participates in the Greenland/Svalbard Barnacle Goose Task Force. SEIRC is involved in monitoring activities and ringing programmes, and NPA is responsible for issuing hunting licences, compiling hunting statistics and participating in the Agriculture and Greenland/Svalbard Barnacle Goose Task Forces of the EGMP.

In Ireland, responsibilities for goose management are split between a range of local, regional and national staff. Tasks are limited to a total of 0.5-1 man-years, involving staff at the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and the Department of Agriculture (DAFM). Major tasks at NPWS relate to administering farm plans at key sites and working with landowners. The main tasks at DAFM are related to the administration of national agri-environmental schemes.

## **Discussion**

### **Fundamental objective I: Maintain the population at a satisfactory level**

#### Indicator I.1: Population size compared to the Favourable Reference Population (FRP)

This indicator measures the progress towards maintaining the population size at a satisfactory level, i.e. above the FRP for the E Greenland (br) population of Barnacle Goose. Although the population has shown a significant decline since 2013, probably due to a range of factors (including outbreaks of avian influenza and decreased productivity), the population has stabilised in recent years and is currently unlikely to be below the FRP of 54,000 (Sørensen et al. 2026). Harvest rate has been reduced through tight coordination of offtake between Iceland and Scotland, and an acceptable quota is agreed on annually by the EGM IWG, which serves to further minimise the risk of the population falling below the FRP.

This indicator is of key importance to ensure that the population is maintained at a satisfactory level, and we recommend that it is maintained as it is, forming part of the AFMP as well as the annual reporting.

#### Indicator I.2: Range extent compared to Favourable Reference Range (FRR)

The reports submitted for the indicator assessment revealed that Barnacle Goose in Iceland is currently occupying a range that is most likely larger than the FRR defined in the AFMP. As no new breeding range estimate is available for Greenland, we cannot compare the current breeding range to the FRR.

As this indicator measures the progress towards maintaining the population range at a satisfactory level, and since the available data indicates that the range in Iceland has expanded in recent years, it is tentatively assumed

that there is currently no cause for concern regarding the range extent. However, the scheduled survey of the main breeding range in East Greenland is essential to provide updated information for further evaluation.

Assuming that the essential survey in East Greenland is carried out in 2027, or at least once during the lifetime of the AFMP, our recommendation is to maintain Indicator I.2 as it is. Without information on the main part of the breeding range, information on the breeding range in Iceland will only allow for evaluation of the range development at national level which may be insignificant compared to potential changes in Greenland.

## **Fundamental objective II: Minimise agricultural damage and conflicts**

### Indicator II.1: Relative change in damage payments

This indicator measures the progress towards minimising agricultural damage and conflicts. Due to difficulties in collecting such data directly, we assessed this indicator by exploring changes in compensation payments for crop damages and subsidy payments allowing geese to graze, and in the level of offtake under derogation.

The results presented here are somewhat inconclusive, although it seems reasonable to conclude that there has been no major increase in the national compensation and/or subsidy payments caused by changes in the behaviour or abundance of the E Greenland (br) Barnacle Goose population. This corresponds well with the reported decrease in the population over the last decade, which was expected to result in a reduction of damages and conflicts caused.

However, as several members of the EGMP Task Forces have raised concern that payments are not entirely suitable for evaluating progress in terms of minimising conflicts, we recommend exploring other ways of assessing the level of conflict in the future (across all goose species). We do, however, acknowledge that damage payments, to the extent that they are provided, are a relatively straightforward way to measure damage, and, in the absence of better alternatives, this does provide some information on the level of conflict. Conducting interviews with farmers and other stakeholders has been suggested and may be a relevant method for assessing the level of conflict in the future. Also, studies directly measuring the agricultural damage have been carried out in several Range States and could be expanded to an appropriate scale to reflect the actual level of damage at flyway level. Finally, results from impact assessment modelling (see [Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/Inf.8.15](#)) may assist further in finding ways to link damage and goose abundance. Either way, we propose to keep this indicator, as data for at least some countries will be routinely collected and easy to retrieve.

Regarding the sub-indicator related to the number of geese shot under derogation, our results indicate that this indicator may be meaningful for the E Greenland (br) population of Barnacle Goose, as the number of geese shot under derogation is currently very low, corresponding well to the observed population decline and the reduced or stable conflict level. However, almost all shot birds are killed during the open hunting season in Iceland, and it has become evident in recent years that the size of the local breeding population on Iceland determines the overall offtake level (at least to some degree) and is important for determining the national level of conflict. We thus consider it relevant to include the overall offtake (including hunting) in the assessment of the level of agricultural damage and conflicts.

## **Fundamental objective III: Minimise the risk to public health and air safety**

### Indicator III.1: Risk of zoonotic influenza transmission to the general public

This indicator measures the progress towards the public health component of fundamental objective III by combining information on the number of human cases of avian influenza with information on the risk of

infection from wild birds (the number of geese tested and the number of positive tests) and poultry (number of outbreaks registered in poultry farms).

Human cases of avian influenza have remained rare, and only three were registered in the Range States of the E Greenland (br) population of Barnacle Goose during the period 2020-2024. All were related to captive birds, and a link to wild geese was not established as the source of infection for the captive birds was unidentified.

The number of positive tests taken from wild Barnacle Geese and the number of outbreaks in poultry farms both peaked in 2021 and 2022, which is similar to the pattern identified in the Range States of the NW Europe (br) population of Greylag Goose (see Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG11.5). Mortality from avian influenza hit several bird species hard during those years, and it is not unlikely that the spread of the HPAI accelerated the population decline seen in the E Greenland (br) population of Barnacle Goose during those years.

All Range States rely on passive surveillance to monitor the occurrence and spread of avian influenza in wild birds, thus testing mainly dead (and in some cases sick) birds. The lack of continued active surveillance, for example during capture and ringing of wild geese, prevents us from gaining a deeper understanding of the disease dynamics of the wild population and knowing whether the Barnacle Geese are unusually susceptible to the current strain of the virus or whether the infection spread particularly fast during 2021 and 2022. Certainly, when members of the public are encouraged to report findings of dead wild birds, and only very limited testing of seemingly healthy wild birds is carried out, focus will be on the birds that are badly infected and/or die. This may lead to discoveries of new viral strains and detect new outbreaks, yet passive surveillance is not always timely in terms of understanding the risks posed to poultry, other captive and wild birds, and humans, although monitoring may help prevent disease transmission to those groups.

Even though our focus is on the risk to humans posed by the wild goose populations, we recommend maintaining all three sub-indicators. Outbreaks of avian influenza among captive birds is routinely monitored and serves as an additional measure of the prevalence of the virus along the flyway of the E Greenland (br) population of Barnacle Goose. Monitoring the cause of death in wild migratory geese warns, in turn, of potential spread of the virus once spring or autumn migration sets in. Altogether, these potential sources of infection determine the risk posed to humans. One suggestion for making the first sub-indicator more meaningful in terms of Barnacle Goose management would be to include only those human cases where the source of infection is thought to be through contact with wild Barnacle Geese.

#### Indicator III.2: Number of bird strikes with aircraft caused by Barnacle Goose

This indicator measures the progress towards the air safety component of fundamental objective III. Since no bird strikes were caused by Barnacle Geese in the Range States of the E Greenland (br) population during the period of reporting, we assume that there is currently no cause for elevated concern regarding the risk of airstrikes involving this population of Barnacle Geese. However, as the potential damage caused in the event of a bird strike caused by geese is considerable, we recommend continued monitoring of this indicator to ensure timely actions from the EGMP in case the risk of bird strikes should increase. Monitoring this risk should remain a key activity of the EGMP Flight Safety Task Force.

#### Indicator III.3: Number of Barnacle Geese passing over commercial airports

This indicator also measures the progress towards the air safety component of fundamental objective III, focusing more on the risk than on the actual level of damage. Although attempts were made to gather data on the number of geese passing over commercial airports, neither the Range States nor the Flight Safety Task Force have been able to procure such data.

Since this indicator seems extremely difficult to monitor, we do not find it very useful in terms of measuring progress in the implementation of the BG ISSMP. Our recommendation is to revise this indicator and seek other ways to assess the risk of bird strikes in the future.

## **Fundamental objective IV: Minimise the risk to other flora and fauna**

### Indicator IV.1: Area of natural habitat or habitat of threatened species negatively affected by Barnacle Geese

This indicator measures the progress towards minimising the risk to other flora and fauna and considers only the natural habitats of conservation interest. We asked Range States to report on habitats affected negatively by Barnacle Geese, and to provide further details on any negative effects identified during the reporting period.

As no negative effects were reported for the E Greenland (br) Barnacle Goose population, possibly due to a lack of studies designed to demonstrate such effects, it remains unknown to which extent damage to habitats and threatened species caused by geese are encountered along the flyway of this population. However, we recommend maintaining this indicator in its current form to make sure any future developments are monitored and reported.

## **Fundamental objective V: Maximise ecosystem services**

### Indicator V.1: Number of people enjoying watching geese

This indicator measures the progress towards the cultural/recreational component of maximising ecosystem services. Reports from Iceland, Ireland and the United Kingdom all show an increasing number of observers reporting goose observations to the national databases. This may be caused by a general increase in the use of online bird portals, yet we still consider the increase as an indication that the number of people watching geese has in fact increased. We are aware that not all goose records are submitted to the chosen portals, thus making it difficult to quantify the assessment of this indicator. Through the reports submitted to the EGMP Data Centre on an annual basis, we are aware that many observers take part in population counts and other surveys; these observers are likely reporting through other channels and thus may not be included in the figures presented here.

As the data for assessing this indicator is readily available, and useful for evaluating the interest in watching and reporting geese, we recommend only a minor revision of this indicator: To change the source of information from EuroBirdPortal to the relevant national databases (as used for this assessment).

To focus more on other types of ecosystem services, additional indicators could be considered.

## **Fundamental objective VI: Minimise costs of goose management**

### Indicator VI.1 Relative change in cost of goose management

This indicator measures the progress towards minimising the costs of goose management and is defined by the number of administrative man-years spent on goose management in the Range States. As we have only received an indication of trend from Scotland, where the effort has apparently been stable throughout the period 2020-2024, and tasks seem to be of minor extent in Ireland, we interpret the submitted replies as an indication of a tolerable level of goose management costs. During the period assessed, the population of Barnacle Geese has been stable, or perhaps even declining slightly, so it is plausible that management costs have also remained stable.

We recommend maintaining this indicator as it is and evaluate its relevance during periods of increasing population size (or stabilised at a higher level). If management costs (or efforts) increase greatly with population size, the EGMP should focus on finding ways to alleviate the negative consequences of an increasing population size.

## **Conclusion**

Based on the assessment reported here, we recommend that indicators I.1, III.1, III.2, IV.1, and VI.1 are maintained as they are.

Indicator I.2 should be revised to include only breeding range, unless all Range States commit to providing data on the current wintering range for the next assessment in 2031. However, for this change to be meaningful, a survey of the breeding range in Greenland should be undertaken in 2027 as stated in the AFMP. If this survey is not performed, indicator I.2 should be further revised to consider other aspects of the species' range.

Indicator II.2 should be revised to include harvest in Iceland in addition to the number of birds killed under derogation.

Indicator III.3 should be omitted or revised to ensure an appropriate assessment of the risk of bird strikes involving Barnacle Geese, as – barring records of actual strikes – no data is currently available to support such an assessment.

For Indicator V.1, the source of information should be changed to national databases (online bird portals) instead of EuroBirdPortal. Furthermore, additional indicators for Fundamental Objective V could be considered.

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