

AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM



**5th MEETING OF THE
AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT
INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP**



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**SETTING FAVOURABLE REFERENCE VALUES FOR THE
SVALBARD/SW SCOTLAND POPULATION OF BARNACLE GOOSE**

Introduction

A proposal has been developed for setting the Favourable Reference Values for the Svalbard/SW Scotland population of Barnacle Goose following the approaches described in document AEWA/EGMIWG/Inf.5.11¹. Both Range States, Norway and the UK, have agreed to the proposed Favourable Reference Population and provided distribution information. This is summarised in Table 1.

Table 1. Information on distribution of the Svalbard/SW Scotland population of the Barnacle Goose.

Country	bFRP (pairs)	bFRR (km ²)	bFRH (Y/N)	nbFRP	nbFRR (km ²)	nbFRH (Y/N)
Svalbard	9,000	18,600	Y	25,000	9,700	Y
Norway (mainland)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	25,000	4,100	Y
UK	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	25,000	2,100	Y
Svalbard population total	9,000	18,600	1/0	25,000	15,900	3/0

Keys:

- bFRP: Favourable Reference Population in the breeding season
- bFRR: Favourable Reference Range in the breeding season
- bFRH: Favourable Reference Habitat in the breeding season
- nbFRP: Favourable Reference Population in the non-breeding season
- nbFRR: Favourable Reference Range in the non-breeding season
- nbFRH: Favourable Reference Habitat in the non-breeding season

¹https://egmp.aewa.info/sites/default/files/meeting_files/information_documents/AEWA_EGM_IWG5_Inf_5_11_FRVs_BG.pdf

1. Favourable Reference Population

The Favourable Reference Population has been defined as 25,000 wintering individuals based on the Agreement Value and increasing it to the 25,000 individuals threshold, which is the upper threshold for small populations that would trigger listing it in Category 2 of Column A in Table 1 of Annex 3 of AEWA. Considering the low mortality rate and the narrow migration corridor for the species, the same Favourable Reference Population values were used also for the moulting and staging areas on Svalbard and mainland Norway respectively.

The Favourable Reference Population for Svalbard in the breeding season is set as 9,000 potential breeding pairs based on backcalculating from the wintering numbers using a factor of 2.78 derived from demographic monitoring data (Black, Prop, & Larsson, 2014).

2. Favourable Reference Range

The Favourable Reference Ranges (FRR) for both the breeding and non-breeding seasons are set based on information collected from the Range States through Annex 2 of document AEWA/EGMIWG/Inf.5.12. The FRR for the breeding season is set at 18,600 km². The FRR for the non-breeding season in Svalbard and the Bear Island includes pre-breeding, moulting and post-breeding areas with a area of distribution of 9,700 km². The extent of staging areas used during spring migration in mainland Norway is 4,100 km². The extent of the wintering grounds in the UK is 2,100 km².

For Svalbard, both breeding and non-breeding distributions were determined based on the GOOSMAP (Tombre *et al.*, 2012). For the Bear Island information was provided by Hallvard Strøm for both the breeding and non-breeding season. For the staging areas on mainland Norway distribution information was provided by Ingunn Tombre and Paul Shimmings. For the wintering areas in the UK, information was provided by Larry Griffin and Jessica Shaw.

3. Favourable Reference Habitat

All countries and territories has assessed that there is sufficient habitat to support the population at the level of the Favourable Reference Population.

References

Black, J. M., Prop, J., & Larsson, K. (2014). *The barnacle goose*: Bloomsbury Publishing.

Tombre, I. M., Madsen, J., Clausen, P., Prop, J., & Hanssen, F. (2012). GOOSEMAP: Site-specific information for geese occurring on Svalbard. Retrieved from https://goosemap.nina.no/goosemap_eng/