

AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM



**7th MEETING OF THE
AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT
INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP**



21-23 June 2022, Helsinki, Finland

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF BARNACLE GOOSE EAST
GREENLAND/SCOTLAND & IRELAND POPULATION AND THE SVALBARD/SOUTH-
WEST SCOTLAND POPULATION TASK FORCE AND DRAFT WORKPLAN FOR
2022/2023**

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Greenland/Svalbard Barnacle Goose Task Force*

Summary:

This document provides an overview of the status and key activities that the Barnacle Goose Task Force for the East Greenland/Scotland & Ireland population has undertaken since June 2021 until May 2022. In addition, a proposed list of recommendations is included as well as the proposed annual workplan for 2022/2023.

There are no activities reported for the Svalbard/South-West Scotland population, since the AFMP hasn't been developed yet.

Action requested from the EGM IWG:

Take note of the task force report and recommendations and adopt the annual workplan.

Introduction

According to Rule 29 of the European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG) Modus Operandi, the EGM IWG may establish species and/or thematic Task Forces as necessary to deal with the preparation and coordination of decision papers and background documents, as well as to deal with other specific tasks. The EGMP Greenland/Svalbard Barnacle Goose Task Force was established in 2020 following the recommendations of the 5th Meeting of the EGM IWG in June 2020. The first meeting of the task force took place on 7 October 2020.

This document provides an overview of the work that has taken place since the EGM IWG6 and the recommendations and work plan for the implementation of the AEWA International Single Species Management Plan (ISSMP) for the Greenland Barnacle Goose for 2021/2022.

The agreed aims of the Task Force are:

- 1) Assist the EGM IWG in coordinating and catalysing the implementation of the ISSMP for the Barnacle Goose and its corresponding AFMPs for the respective populations under the EGMP;
- 2) Assist the EGM IWG in stimulating and supporting Range States in the implementation of the ISSMP for the Barnacle Goose and its corresponding AFMP for the respective population(s); and
- 3) Monitor and report on the implementation of these activities to the EGM IWG, as appropriate.

1. Status of the Task Force Membership

The task force is made up of Range State representatives and NGOs and is supported by the EGMP Secretariat and Data Centre. New member in 2022 is Kate Layton-Matthews from Norwegian Institute of Nature Research (NINA) working on the barnacle goose impact model.

A full list of Task Force members is detailed in Annex 1.

2. Meetings

Since the previous Task Force Report submitted to EGM IWG6 in June 2021 the Task force has had one meeting, on 29 March 2022.

Task Force members have also contributed to the Agricultural Task Force meetings over the past year and have joined a number of webinars, details of which are listed [here](#).

The Greenland Barnacle Goose population model has also been discussed at the Modelling Consortium.

3. Report of Key Activities and Outcomes

The main work of the Task Force over the past year has been to finalise the Greenland barnacle goose population model and to consider how this will be used to inform the Adaptive Flyway Management Plan for the population. This work is ongoing.

A partnership between NatureScot in the UK and NINA in Norway has been agreed to develop an impact model for barnacle geese and work to develop the model is progressing well. It will address the actions related to assessment of cumulative impact of derogations and likelihood of agricultural damage. If the model is not completed for EGM IWG7, a progress report will be presented at the meeting.

Maintenance of a database on goose damage is more of a long-term task. This will be part of the 6-year cycle review of the AFMP including also other indicators. The Data Centre is developing the protocol in terms of receiving and storing the data. The Data Centre has received updated information on reproduction and wing collection. Data on Greenland BG population is stored on the EGMP database and available for everyone.

Ove Martin Gundersen from Norway has just finalised work on an hour-long video about different shooting techniques – an English version is on the way. This is one of the actions to address maintaining low crippling rates. Scotland deals with this action on the workplan through training of skilled marksmen.

It was concluded that for the most part of the workplan, the work is ongoing.

Beginning in autumn 2021, there was a serious outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza within goose populations in Scotland. The largest impacts were in the Solway area, where 30-40% of the Svalbard barnacle goose population are estimated to have been lost. The figures will be updated in the autumn. Impacts on other goose species in the area have been relatively small.

HPAI was detected in the Greenland barnacle population Ireland in early 2022 and losses were estimated to be between 700 and 900 birds. Following the first reports of HPAI in this population, Scotland suspended derogation shooting on Islay and elsewhere.

HPAI was then recorded in the Greenland barnacle goose population on Islay in February 2022 and losses there are estimated to be around 200 birds. Estimates of total losses are difficult as sick geese were subject to intensive predation by white-tailed eagles.

Full impacts of HPAI on both populations of barnacle geese are unlikely to be known until they return to wintering grounds and counts are completed in autumn 2022.

There are no activities reported for the Svalbard/South-West Scotland population, since the AFMP hasn't been developed yet.

4. Recommendations

The Task Force will follow the agreed Workplan set out in Section 4. The key recommendations of this report are to follow up the IPM for the Greenland population with an IPM for the Svalbard population. There is no agreement to date on who leads the work and how it will be funded. Norway and UK are working on the impact model for the Greenland and Svalbard barnacle goose populations and a report will be submitted for EGM IWG7 in June 2022.

5. Draft Workplan 2022/2023

Table 1. Greenland/Svalbard Barnacle Goose Task Force Workplan for 2022/2023

Type of action	Actions from the ISSMP	Priority	Timescale	Greenland/Svalbard Task Force
	4.2 Assess periodically, and report to the AEWA EGM IWG, the cumulative impact of derogations (as well as hunting in Range States in which derogation is not required) on the development of the population, the likelihood of serious damage to agriculture and risk to air safety and to other flora and fauna (including the Arctic ecosystems), and the non-lethal measures taken to prevent damage/risk, as well as the effectiveness of these. If necessary, coordinate the derogation measures between Range States to avoid risk to the population and to enhance effectiveness of the measures.	Essential	Short	Impact model update / review and preparation of documents going to EGM IWG / providing recommendations
	A.1 Produce and update periodically, spatially explicit population size estimates based on agreed international monitoring	Essential	Short / Rolling	Consultation – Greenland population census due in 2023
	A.2 Maintain an annually updated bag statistics database including geese taken by any means (whether under derogations or, in those Range States in which it is permissible, hunting)	Essential	Ongoing / Rolling	Consultation
	A.3 Maintain a spatially explicit database on goose damage to agriculture, other fauna and flora and fauna and risk to air safety	Essential	Medium / Rolling	Consultation
National	2.2. Provide accommodation areas to reduce risks and conflicts at sensitive areas through e.g. subsidies[2]	Medium	Medium/ Rolling	Information exchange
National	2.3 Apply scaring and/or land management techniques to reduce the attractiveness of sensitive areas to geese, monitoring the implications of such local displacement for conflicts at wider scale[3]	High	Short / Rolling	Information exchange

	3.2 Establish an internationally coordinated programme to assess agricultural damage including monitoring and assessment protocols	High	Short	Consultation
National	3.3 Liaise with farmers affected by goose damages to reduce agricultural conflicts	High	Short / Rolling	Information exchange
	4.3 Improve effectiveness of derogation measures through experimenting with different timing and methods and better understanding the relative efficacy of lethal versus non-lethal scaring techniques	High	Medium	Information exchange - Liaise with other TFs
	4.4 Promote best practices of goose population adjustment including timing to minimize damage and significant disturbance to other species	Medium	Medium / Rolling	Information exchange - Liaise with other TFs
National	4.5 Maintain low crippling rates	High	Medium / Rolling	
	4.6 Improve derogation shooting techniques to further reduce crippling	Medium	Long / Rolling	Information exchange - Liaise with other TFs
	A.4 Collect demographic (mortality, reproduction, differential migration and connectivity) data from an agreed representative sampling framework across the range	High	Short / Rolling	Consultation
	C.1 Develop and implement a communication strategy and plan	Medium	Short / Rolling	Liaise with other TFs -

Annex 1. Members of the Greenland/Svalbard Barnacle Goose Task Force as of 02-05-2022

Rae McKenzie (UK) Task Force Co-ordinator
Svenja Auhage (IS)
Sigurdur Thrainsson (IS)
Sean Kelly (Ire)
Ingunn Tombre (NO)
Kate Layton-Matthews (NO)
Iben Hove Sørensen (DK)
Johan Svalby (SE)
Jessica Shaw (UK)
Richard Hearn (UK – WWT)
Colin Shedden (UK – BASC)
Joseph Van Der Stegen (EU)
Cy Griffin (FACE)
Szabolcs Nagy (Wetlands International)
Eva Meyers (EGMP Secretariat)
Jesper Madsen (EGMP Data Centre)
Gitte Høj Jensen (EGMP Data Centre)