

AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM



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



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**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BARNACLE GOOSE TASK FORCE
FOR RUSSIA/GERMANY & NETHERLANDS POPULATION AND DRAFT WORKPLAN
FOR 2022/2023**

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Netherlands Population,

with contributions from the members of the Barnacle Goose Task Force

Summary:

This document provides an overview of the status and key activities that the Barnacle Goose Task Force for the Russia/Germany & Netherlands 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.

Action requested from the EGM IWG:

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

Introduction

At the 5th Meeting of the European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG5) in June 2020, the Range States agreed on the establishment and Terms of Reference of - amongst others - two Task Forces for the Barnacle Goose – one for the E. Greenland, Svalbard & SW Scotland population and one for the Russia/Germany & Netherlands population. This report focusses on the operations of the Task Force for the latter population.

The role of the Barnacle Goose Task Force (BG TF) is to:

- 1) Assist the EGM IWG in coordinating and catalysing the implementation of the ISSMP for the Barnacle Goose and its corresponding AFMP;
- 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; and
- 3) Monitor and report on the implementation of these activities to the EGM IWG, as appropriate.

The BG TF has been operating since October 2020. The ToR for the BG Task Force can be found [here](#).

The BG TF for the Russia/Germany & Netherlands population has been coordinated by Ms Wilmar Rimmelts from the Netherlands until October 2021. Until a new coordinator is found meetings are chaired in a rotating system.

1. Status of the Task Force Membership

The full list of members is presented in Annex 1.

Currently, the Task Force has 25 members representing 8 countries, the European Commission, and 5 non-governmental organisations.

2. Meetings

The meetings of the BG Task Force were held online (via GoToMeeting online platform) involving the Task Force Coordinator and members, together with the EGMP Secretariat and Data Centre.

Since EGM IWG 6 in June 2021, three meetings of the BG TF have been in 2021 and 2022.

6th meeting of the BG TF on 26 October 2021

7th meeting of the BG TF on 25 January 2022

8th meeting of the BG TF on 25 March 2022

3. Report of key activities and outcomes

- **Workplan**
 - The BG Task Force has worked on further updating and implementing the workplan for the Task Force, as well as the national workplans for each individual country.

- During the EGM IWG6 it was decided that all Task forces changed the format of the Task force work plans to an online excel table that allows for continuous updating by range states. The workplan for the Barnacle Goose can be consulted via [AFMP Annual Workplan structure draft - Google Spreadsheets](#).
- **Adaptive Flyway Management Programme (AFMP)**
 - In several countries (Denmark, Netherlands, Sweden, Scotland and Norway) various institutes have been working on impact models to investigate the relations between numbers of geese and level of agricultural damage. A dedicated meeting of the International Modelling Consortium on the 10th of March 2022 gave an overview of all projects (an update will be presented during EGM IWG7). Part of the work has already been published (e.g. in Sweden, <https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/1365-2664.13457>), but most projects are still running and will continue into 2022-2023.
- **Monitoring activities**
 - Monitoring activities regarding Barnacle Geese focused on counts in January (to assess number at flyway level), counts in July-August (to assess number per management unit), collection of productivity data and offtake data (by numbers killed under derogation). Most of this kind of data has been made available from the network of national coordinators (derogation data also via the Eionet data repository). Table 1 (next page) gives an overview of the data currently available. One of the gaps, regarding data from Germany, has meanwhile been closed as some of the data has been published. Important remaining gaps are data from summer in Sweden to assess size of MU2, absence of productivity data in MU2 and the resolution of derogation data, which often represents a total per year (for IPM purposes preferably on monthly scale).
- **Coordination of derogations**
 - On several occasions the meaning of coordinating derogations was explored, as part of the process to improve the assessment of cumulative impact of derogations in line with ISSMP action 4.2.
 - One of the aspects that was discussed in this context, was if an assessment at flyway level, as foreseen with the IPM in spring 2022 (to be presented during EGM IWG7) could assist individual countries with their national assessment, as countries themselves mainly assess their activities based on expert judgement and not on data analyses. The discussion has not been finalised and will continue during the Face to face Task Force Meetings in June 2022 and the EGM IWG7 (also pending on the results of the IPM, whether numbers in MU2 and 3 will remain below the 200% level of the FRP).
- **Exchange on habitat conservation**
 - During the meetings attention was also given to the topic of habitat conservation. In future, the TF will start to collect examples of successful habitat conservation measures and projects to benefit barnacle geese conservation and management.
 - Habitat conservation measures were also discussed as an alternative way of managing geese. In this light, a presentation was given on Integrated Adaptive Management of Barnacle Geese in Southeast Denmark involving the management of marshlands to accommodate geese, decreasing geese-farmer conflicts.

Table 1. Overview of available monitoring data in the Russia/Netherlands and Germany Barnacle Goose population. X data collected at national level/annually, (x) data collected but not annually and/or not at national level, - data currently not collected, * not relevant range state in this respect.

¹ note that Germany only submits data once every six years (full dataset up to 2016), and recent years are based on published data only

² Norway is not a EU-country, but applies similar rules when it comes to management for Barnacle Goose

	RU	FI	EE	SE	NO	DK	DE	NL	BE	Remark
January census	*	*	*	X	*	X	X ¹	X	X	
Summer census	-	X	-	-	(x)	(x)	(x)	X	(x)	
Productivity, MU1 and MU2 combined	*	*	*	-	*	-	X	X	-	Autumn, Nov-Dec
Productivity, MU2	*	(x)	-	-	(x)	-	*	*	*	Summer, Jul-Aug
Productivity, MU3	*	*	*	*	*	*	(x)	X	-	Summer, Jul
Offtake, hunting	-	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	In EU-countries only derogations
Offtake, derogations	*	X	X	X	X ²	X	X	X	X	Mostly annual totals

4. Recommendations

The BG TF would like to recommend the following to the EGM IWG:

1. Expansion of summer counts, especially in Sweden, to improve population size assessment of MU2.
2. Expansion of productivity data from Sweden and Denmark to achieve a more representative sample for MU2.
3. To allow for an annual intermediate population assessment on the basis of available data for an improved and up-to-date understanding of population developments, in addition to the official three-year assessment cycle in which – in contrast – the model itself is also reviewed.
4. Preferably timely provision and monthly resolution of derogation data, in order to be able to assign offtake to the respective Management Units, at least to some, for the IPM.
5. Exploring possibilities how the assessment of the cumulative impact of derogations can support the decision-making process for derogations in the Range States.

... additional recommendations might be added in a later stage, based on the population status assessment and/or other reports that will be submitted to the meeting ...

5. Draft Workplan 2022/2023

Table 2. Draft Workplan for 2022/2023 of the Barnacle Goose Task Force for Russia/Germany & Netherlands Population

Actions from the ISSMP	Priority	Timescale	Barnacle Goose Task Force
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	High	Short / Rolling	Exchange of experience (Agri TF also dealing with this)
3.1. Reduce risk posed by goose migration to air safety through operational measures such as radar surveillance]	High	Short / Rolling	X
3.2 Establish an internationally coordinated programme to assess agricultural damage including monitoring and assessment protocols	High	Short	Liaise with Agri TF and DC. Agri TF Coordinator update the BG TF, exchange information
3.3 Liaise with farmers affected by goose damages to reduce agricultural conflicts	High	Short / Rolling	X
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	The Norwegian authorities do not consider the breeding population in the Oslofjord area to be "naturally occurring". But some data exist scattered in the few municipalities practicing derogation (based on the Norwegian legislations; not population regulating tool, only for damage prevention). With some effort this information can be collected. Discuss and provide recommendations to EGM IWG on the coordination of derogation measures between Range States.
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	Exchange / Coordinate
4.4 Promote best practices of goose population adjustment including timing to minimize damage and significant disturbance to other species	Medium	Medium / Rolling	Exchange information and experience. Collate, summarise results (possibly workshop, time + resources needed)
4.6 Improve derogation shooting techniques to further reduce crippling	Medium	Long / Rolling	Exchange information and experience. Collate, summarise results (possibly workshop, time + resources needed -) - liaise with PFG TF and share information

A.1 Produce and update periodically, spatially explicit population size estimates based on agreed international monitoring	Essential	Short / Rolling	Consultation, support governments/national coordinators to deliver data - monitoring plan
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
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	Share relevant information
D.1 Develop a specific guidance on the application of Art. 9 of the Birds Directive in the context of the Barnacle Goose Management Plan	Essential	Immediate	EC: If in light of the implementation of derogations, further need for clarification on derogations under art. 9 of the BD is identified, provide additional guidance. Not dealt with in the TF
D.2 For Range States in which hunting is legal, review national legislation in the light of the framework legal guidance document developed under the EGMP	Essential	Immediate	X

Annex 1. Members of the Barnacle Goose Task Force as of May 2022

Country	Representative	Affiliation
Belgium	Floris Verhaeghe	Nature and Forest Agency
	Frank Huysentruyt	Research institute for Nature & Forest (INBO) Flemish government
Denmark/EGMP Data Centre	Jesper Madsen	Aarhus University
Denmark/CIC – International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation	Iben Hove Sørensen	Danish Hunters' Association
Denmark	Søren Egelund Rasmussen	Danish Environmental Protection Agency
Estonia	Ivar Ojaste	Estonian University of Agriculture
European Commission	Joseph van der Stegen	Directorate-General for Environment Nature Unit
Finland	Nina Mikander	Ministry of the Environment
	Markku Mikkola-Roos	Finnish Environment Institute
Germany	Markus Nipkow	Lower Saxony Water Management, Coastal Defence and Nature Conservation Agency
Netherlands	Nick Warmelink	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
	Kees Koffijberg	Sovon Vogelonderzoek Nederland
	Gerben Mensink	Province of Fryslân
	Teresa Kalverboer	Province of Zeeland
Norway	Ingunn Tombre	NINA
	Kate Layton-Matthews	NINA
Sweden	Per Risberg	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
Birdlife International	Christine Verscheure	Natuurpunt
FACE	Cy Griffin	Senior Conservation Manager
Nordic Hunters' Alliance	Olav Greivstad	Consultant
Wetlands International	Szabolcs Nagy	Senior Advisor
Wildlife Management Unit Noord-Holland (Netherlands)	Nikkie van Grinsven	Ecologist
	Sofia Kolkman	Project Manager
EGMP Data Centre	Gitte Høj Jensen	Aarhus University
UNEP AEWAS Secretariat	Eva Meyers	EGMP Coordinator