

AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM



**8th MEETING OF THE
AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT
INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP**



20-22 June 2023, Bonn, Germany

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BARNACLE GOOSE TASK FORCE
FOR RUSSIA/GERMANY & NETHERLANDS POPULATION AND DRAFT WORKPLAN
FOR 2023/2024**

Prepared by the EGMP Secretariat and Data Centre

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 2023 until May 2023. 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

1. 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 (Russia BG TF). This report focuses 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](#). Currently, the Task Force has 26 members representing 8 countries, the European Commission and 5 non-governmental organisations. The full list of Task Force members is presented in Annex 1. Since October 2021, the Task Force has no Task Force Coordinator. Meetings have been chaired in a rotating system.

2. Meetings

Since EGM IWG7 in June 2022, no meetings have been held (except a joint meeting of the Task Forces on 2 December 2022).

3. Report of key activities and outcomes

Workplan

The activities from the adopted workplan for the Barnacle Goose can be consulted in the national reporting analysis (doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/8.4).

Coordination of derogations

During EGM IWG7 it was concluded that the current level of BG MU3 required a dialogue between the MU3 Range States. A trilateral exchange on how to coordinate offtake took place both during and after IWG7 between the Netherlands and German Federal States of Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein (and informing Belgium). The outcomes of the negotiations have been communicated to the Barnacle Goose Task Force for Russia/Germany & Netherlands Population. Furthermore, The Goose Task Force under the Association of Provinces in the Netherlands (IPO) is developing coordination arrangements among the Dutch provinces.

4. Recommendations

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

- To designate a Task Force Coordinator as soon as possible;
- To implement activities outlined in the workplan for 2023/2024 (see section 5);

- Confirm that the Dutch Modelling Consortium will do the interim assessment of providing population estimates in 2024 (which is their last year of funding).

5. Draft Workplan 2023/2024

Table 2. Draft Workplan for 2023/2024 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[3]	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[4]	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	Essential	Short	The Norwegian authorities do not consider the breeding population in the Oslofjord area as "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.

States to avoid risk to the population and to enhance effectiveness of the measures.			The EGM IWG agreed that coordination of offtake will take place on a case-by-case basis for populations and Management Units (MUs) that drop below the 200% threshold (as stated in the AFMP). Should a population or MU drop below this threshold, the role of the EGMP will be to facilitate dialogue, as appropriate and necessary, among the 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
4.5 Maintain low crippling rates	High	Medium / Rolling	Exchange information and experience. Investigate BG crippling rates.
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 -) - liase 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 2023

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	Iva Obretenova	Directorate-General for Environment
Finland	Petri Ahlroth	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

Netherlands	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 AEWASecretariat	Eva Meyers	EGMP Coordinator
	Shenay Huseynova	EGMP Programme Assistant