

AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM



**9th MEETING OF THE
AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT
INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP**



18-20 June 2024, Tromsø, Norway

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BARNACLE GOOSE TASK FORCE
FOR RUSSIA/GERMANY & NETHERLANDS POPULATION FOR 2023/2024 AND
DRAFT WORKPLAN FOR 2024/2025**

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 from June 2023 until May 2024. In addition, a list of recommendations is included as well as the proposed annual workplan for 2024/2025.

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, among 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 23 members representing 8 countries, the European Commission and 4 non-governmental organisations. The full list of Task Force members is presented in Annex 1. Since October 2021, the Task Force has had no Coordinator.

2. Meetings

Since EGM IWG8 in June 2023, the Russia Barnacle Goose Task Force participated in two joint meetings of the EGMP Task Forces on 26 September 2023 and 4 March 2024. A specific meeting of the Task Force was not organised in this period.

3. Report of key activities and outcomes

Workplan

The BG Task Force has further updated the workplan for the Task Force, as well as the [national workplans](#) for each individual country.

Coordination of derogations

During EGM IWG8, the Netherlands and Germany agreed that if significant derogation activities were planned in Germany, there would be coordination in place between the two countries. Otherwise, coordination should mainly take place within the Netherlands, where the national Favourable Reference Population (FRP) has now been distributed across the provinces, and a coordinated process is being implemented. In response to population levels approaching the provincial FRP levels, suspension or significant reduction of derogations has already taken place in some provinces in the Netherlands since EGM IWG7 in 2022.

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 2024/2025 (see section 5);
- To continue ongoing financial support for the Dutch Modelling Consortium, ensuring the provision of population estimates beyond 2025.

5. Draft Workplan 2024/2025

Table 1. Draft Workplan for 2024/2025 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 | Strengthen collaboration with Flight Safety Task Force |
| 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. |

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| 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) - 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 |

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| 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. We plan to publish this guidance by end 2024, which is not specific to the Barnacle goose. A possibility could be however to add an annex specifically on the Barnacle Goose. |
| 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 Russia Barnacle Goose Task Force as of May 2024

| 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/Danish Hunters' Association | Lene Midtgaard | 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 |
| European Commission | Jeremie Crespin | 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 |

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| 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 |
| | Sofia Kolkman | Provincial Wildlife Council of Noord-Holland |
| Norway | Ingunn Tombre | 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 |
| EGMP Data Centre | Iben Høve Sorensen | Aarhus University |
| UNEP/AEWA Secretariat | Bruno Leles | EGMP Coordinator |
| | Shenay Huseynova | EGMP Programme Assistant |