

**AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM**



**6<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE  
AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT  
INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP**



*21-23 June 2021, Online conference format*

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**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BARNACLE GOOSE TASK FORCE  
FOR RUSSIA/GERMANY & NETHERLANDS POPULATION  
AND DRAFT WORKPLAN FOR 2021/2022**

*Prepared by Ms Wilmar Remmelts, Coordinator of the Barnacle Goose Task Force for Russia/Germany & Netherlands Population,*

*with contributions from the members of the Barnacle Goose Task Force*

## **Introduction**

At the 5<sup>th</sup> 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 two Task Forces – one for the Russia/Germany & Netherlands population and one for the E. Greenland, Svalbard & SW Scotland population of the Barnacle Goose.

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 ToR for the BG Task Force can be found [here](#).

The BG TF for the Russia/Germany & Netherlands population is coordinated by Ms Wilmar Rimmelts from the Netherlands. The BG TF has started operating as of October 2020.

## **1. Status of the Task Force Membership**

The full list of members is presented in Annex 1.

Currently, the Task Force has 21 members representing 8 countries, the European Commission, and 4 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 the establishment of the BG TF, four meetings have been held in 2020 and 2021, as well as a joint meeting together with the Greylag Goose TF on cross-cutting matters.

1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the BG TF on 5 October 2020

2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the BG TF on 27 November 2020

3<sup>rd</sup> Joint Meeting of the BG and GG TF on 5 February 2021

4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BG TF on 18 March 2021

5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BG TF on 22 April 2021

## **3. Report of key activities and outcomes**

- **Workplan**

- The BG Task Force has worked on developing the workplan for the Task Force itself, as well as the national workplans for each individual country. These workplans were discussed, cross-cutting activities were identified, and the final table has been included in Annex 1 of the BG AFMP (Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/6.14).

- It is foreseen that the BG Task Force will keep this workplan up to date, monitor and report on the progress of the activities.
- **Favourable Reference Values (FRVs)**
  - On several occasions, the status of the FRV-process was discussed as a stand-alone agenda item, providing Range States the opportunity to raise any outstanding issues or questions.
- **Data and monitoring needs**
  - Planning of summer surveys in Scandinavia (GG MU1 and BG MU2)

The Data Centre is planning to work with the Range States to identify the habitats where geese can be counted and estimate the national populations by stratified sampling. A rough plan and budget have been prepared while the funds for the project are yet to be secured. The work on the project will be conducted in the upcoming spring and summer months.
- **Thematic webinars for cross-cutting issues**
  - Together with the other EGMP Task Forces, the BG TF has agreed on the value of exchanging information through thematic webinars and to contribute to the organisation and implementation of these webinars.
- **Role of Communication**
  - The BG TF discussed and clarified its role, the role of the members and the opportunities for communication. Particularly the responsibility of each TF member to communicate the work of the EGMP on a national level.
- **Revision of documents submitted to EGM IWG6**
  - To further increase the transparency in the process, the BG TF members have received and reviewed early drafts of the following documents, submitted to the EGM IWG6:
    - Early draft AFMP
    - Regular updates and results of the work on Box 1
    - Population Status and Assessment report
    - New format and process for EGMP National Reporting

#### 4. Recommendations

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

1. Provision of German midwinter counts in January from 2017 onwards (now 4 years missing in the current assessment).
2. Expansion of summer counts in July in Germany (notably Schleswig-Holstein), to achieve full coverage of MU3.
3. 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 extent (not possible at all with only one figure per year), for the IPM.

## 5. Draft Workplan 2021/2022

Table 1. Draft Workplan for 2021/2022 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  |
| <b>4.2</b> 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           | Ingunn Tombre: The Norwegian authorities do not assess the breeding population in the Oslofjord area "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 - possibly be added to the agenda for a TF meeting (once FRVs are submitted by the end of the year 2020) |
| 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   | Not a priority, but can 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 within 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 2021

| Country/Organisation   | Representative                      | Affiliation   |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| Belgium  | Floris Verhaeghe                    | Nature and Forest Agency  |
|  | Frank Huysentruyt                   | Research institute for Nature & Forest (INBO)<br>Flemish government           |
| Denmark/EGMP Data Centre   | Jesper Madsen                       | Aarhus University   |
| Denmark/CIC - International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation | Iben Hove Sørensen                  | Danish Hunter 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<br>Nature Unit                            |
| Finland  | Esko Hyvärinen                      | Ministry of the Environment   |
|  | 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  | Wilmar Remmelts<br>(TF Coordinator) | Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality                              |
|  | Kees Koffijberg                     | Sovon Vogelonderzoek Nederland  |
|  | Teresa Kalverboer                   | Province of Seeland   |
|  | Gerben Mensink                      | Province of Friesland   |
| 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 | Roar Lundby          | Consultant                  |
| Wetlands International   | Szabolcs Nagy        | Senior Advisor              |
| EGMP Data Centre         | Gitte Høj Jensen     | Aarhus University           |
|                          | Henning Heldbjerg    | Aarhus University           |
| UNEP/AEWA Secretariat    | Eva Meyers           | EGMP Coordinator            |
|                          | Shenay Huseynova     | Consultant                  |