

**AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM**



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

*21-23 June 2022, Helsinki, Finland*



**DRAFT EGMP BRIEFING NOTE**

**TAIGA BEAN GOOSE**

*(Anser fabalis fabalis)*

*Produced by EGMP Taiga Bean Goose Task Force*



## Species Specific: Taiga Bean Goose



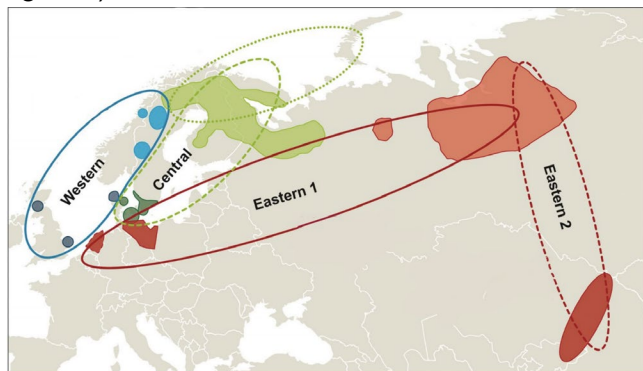
**Class:** Aves  
**Order:** Anseriformes  
**Family:** Anatidae  
**Binomial name:**  
*Anser fabalis fabalis*

©Taiga Bean Geese by Markus Varesvuo



**Figure 2:** Breeding area of Taiga Bean Goose in Russia.

**Range and Habitat:** Western Taiga Bean Geese *Anser fabalis fabalis* breed discontinuously in the boreal zone from Fennoscandia to Western Siberia and winter in north-west Europe and Central Asia (see fig.1&2).



**Figure 1:** Map of the distribution of the Western Taiga Bean Goose, showing the four defined management units (MUs: Western, Central, Eastern1 and Eastern2), based on the relative discrete breeding and wintering areas used by individuals. The green dotted line indicates linkages between breeding areas in northern Fennoscandia and known moulting areas in Novaya Zemlya and the Kola Peninsula.

**Threats and Status:** Western Taiga Bean Geese are one of the few goose populations in the Western Palearctic that has declined; the wintering population size, estimated at 100,000 birds in the mid-1990s, decreased to 63,000 by 2009, while some elements of the population have started to recover since 2015, due to international co-operation and management.

The identified key threats that caused the decline

- Hunting, illegal harvest (mainly due to the misidentification of species) and human disturbance around breeding sites are all classified as high level threats.
- Forestry, predation (including the eggs, gosling and adults), and infrastructure development are all medium scale threats which face Taiga Bean Geese.
- Other threats that impact Western Taiga Bean Geese include habitat degradation, lead poisoning from shot residue, oil pollution in wetlands, and climate change (by influencing the use of staging and wintering areas).



# EGMP BRIEFING NOTE



AEWA European Goose  
Management Platform

## Species Specific: Taiga Bean Goose

### Action Plan: An

International Single Species Action Plan [ISSAP] for the Western Taiga Bean Goose was adopted in 2015. The long-term goals of the plan are to restore and maintain the population at a favourable conservation status of 165,000 – 190,000 birds in total, 5,000 – 10,000 individuals in Western, 60,000 – 80,000 individuals in Central and 100,000 individuals in Eastern 1 & 2 sub-populations, with stable or increasing trends. The key objectives identified for the plan to achieve these goals and the actions required to achieve these, are shown below.

### Key outcomes to date:

- Overall, the Western Taiga Bean Goose is currently showing recovery under the AEWA EGMP process.
- Continued protection for the Western MU has resulted in a stabilised, but still critically small, population size.
- Adoption of an Adaptive Harvest Management program for the Central MU, based on an annual population monitoring assessment cycle to support Integrated Population Modelling that provides management decisions on sustainable harvest. As a result, the Central Management Unit population size increased to approach 70,000 individuals in March 2021.

- Identification that the Eastern 1 MU remains the focus of attention, currently lacking robust monitoring data, although numbers continue to decline.
- Acknowledgement that the Eastern 2 MU remains highly data deficient and requires more research, monitoring and conservation attention.
- Conservation actions and closures of hunting seasons in many regions of Russia on the Eastern and Central Management Units.

**Task Force:** Established June 2017 under the EGM IWG, the Taiga Bean Goose Task Force prepares and coordinates decision papers and background documents, supports coordination of monitoring, modelling and management guidance in the implementation of the plan, and undertakes Management Unit level development work in relation to range states.

### KEY FACTS:

- The Central Management Unit sub-adults and unsuccessful breeders moult in Novaya Zemlya. The migration from breeding grounds to moulting sites can be longer than from wintering sites to breeding grounds.
- Elements of an Adaptive Harvest Management [AHM] program are in place and are guiding the recovery of the Central Management Unit of Taiga Bean Geese.
- This is the most difficult goose species to monitor during the breeding season!

### Key deliverables of the Taiga Bean Goose Task Force and the EGMP Data centre

- Bean Goose Sub-species identification leaflet on at least 4 languages

[https://egmp.aewa.info/sites/default/files/download/population\\_status\\_reports/Taiga\\_and\\_Tundra\\_Bean\\_Goose\\_identification\\_Guide\\_Finnish.pdf](https://egmp.aewa.info/sites/default/files/download/population_status_reports/Taiga_and_Tundra_Bean_Goose_identification_Guide_Finnish.pdf)

- Integrated Population Model for Taiga Bean Goose

[https://egmp.aewa.info/sites/default/files/download/population\\_status\\_reports/egmp\\_final\\_project\\_report\\_tbg\\_complete.pdf](https://egmp.aewa.info/sites/default/files/download/population_status_reports/egmp_final_project_report_tbg_complete.pdf)