

EGMP Briefing Note

Major discussion points and decisions to be taken at EGM IWG10 (17-19 June 2025)



Pink-footed Geese by Trond Øigarden

EGMP general issues

- Agreement on the EGMP budget and costed Programme of Work for 2026
- Discussion of plans for celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the EGMP in 2026
- Date and Venue of the next EGM IWG meeting

Pink-footed Goose

Agreement on a harvest quota for the Pink-footed Goose

Following the uncertain population size estimate presented at IWG8 in 2023, the Data Centre committed to investigate potential biases in the biannual counts by exploring the use of GPS-tagged birds to estimate detection probabilities. The updated Integrated Population Model (IPM) for Pink-footed Goose now accounts for these biases. Following the May 2024 estimate of 87,598 (75,263 – 101,044) birds, the population grew to an estimated 98,192 (83,108 – 114,511) birds in November 2024. The estimate of the May 2025 population size is 78,749 (63,873 – 96,605), and the suggested harvest quota for the 2025/2026 hunting season is the realistic maximum of 20,000 individuals. For comparison, the realised harvest averaged 9,838 (sd = 449) during the last three years. The recommended harvest quotas for Norway and Denmark this year are thus 6,000 and 14,000, respectively.

Update on the Pink-footed Goose International Single Species Management Plan (ISSMP) Evaluation and Revision process

The Pink-footed Goose Task Force (PfG TF) has been actively engaged in providing input to the evaluation and revision of the ISSMP. Following EGM IWG9, the ISSMP's evaluation report was finalised and its recommendations were approved by the AEWA Technical and Standing Committees. The PfG ISSMP revision workshop was held in Norway on 7-9 October 2024. Based on discussions at the workshop, a draft revised ISSMP, including proposed Favourable Reference Values and a proposal for a population target, has been circulated to the workshop participants. After further consultations with the AEWA Technical Committee and Range State governments and consideration by the Standing Committee, the intention is to submit the revised ISSMP for adoption by the 9th session of the AEWA Meeting of the Parties (AEWA MOP9) in autumn 2025.

Taiga Bean Goose

Agreement on a harvest quota for the Taiga Bean Goose – Finland and NW Russia/Sweden, Denmark and Germany population

No formal assessment is provided in the EGMP Population Status and Offtake Assessment Report 2025 ([Doc. AEWA/AGMIWG/10.9/Rev.3](#)). While in the past years the IPM has generally been successful at mediating all data sources to provide biologically reasonable and robust estimates of population status, it was not possible to provide such estimates this year - potentially due to unknown changes in the spatial and temporal distribution of birds. However, March counts have been relatively stable in recent years, and the population is likely well above the median recovery target of 70,000. A conservative recommendation is to maintain harvest below 3,000 to avoid causing the population to decline.

Update on the Taiga Bean Goose International Single Species Management Plan (ISSAP) Evaluation and Revision process

Following the decisions taken by AEWA MOP8 in 2022, the former Management Units (Western MU, Central MU, Eastern 1 & 2 MUs) were redefined as separate populations, with Eastern 2 MU currently being listed as a different subspecies (although this is anticipated to be amended at AEWA MOP9). The ten-year lifespan of the Taiga Bean Goose ISSAP is ending in 2025. An evaluation of the ISSAP's results and implementation performance was initiated by the AEWA Secretariat and the Taiga Bean Goose Task Force in 2024. The evaluation report was finalised in early 2025 and its recommendation that the ISSAP undergo a full revision was approved by the AEWA Technical and Standing Committees. The evaluation report has also provided useful information for the contents of the revised plan. The ISSAP revision workshop was organised by the AEWA Secretariat and held in Bonn and online on 1-3 April 2025. Considerable progress has subsequently been made towards compiling a first full draft (which will soon be consulted with workshop participants) and towards defining Favourable Reference Values for the Finland and NW Russia/Sweden, Denmark and Germany population. Following additional rounds of consultation with the AEWA Technical Committee and Range State governments and consideration by the Standing Committee, it is anticipated that the revised ISSAP will be submitted to AEWA MOP9 for adoption in autumn 2025.

Greylag Goose (NW/SW European Population)

Population status and offtake assessment

Despite considerable improvements in data availability and technical progress over the past few years, it has still not been possible to move from the information-gap decision model at population level to a dynamic and model-based management at MU level. As no unique level and distribution of offtake will meet MU population targets, there is still a need for a discussion and agreement of protocol regarding how levels and distribution of offtake can/should be evaluated in terms of cost, feasibility and legal mandates.

In 2022, a post-breeding population of 540,115 individuals in MU1, resulting in an estimated ~132,000 breeding pairs, and a post-breeding population of 748,110 individuals in MU2, equivalent to ~180,000 breeding pairs, indicate that both MUs are well above the set targets of 70,000 and 80,000 breeding pairs, respectively. In January 2024, the wintering population was estimated at 932,910 individuals, indicating an increasing population well above the target of approximately 545,000 individuals in winter. With a reported offtake of at least 425,393 Greylag Geese in 2023/2024, we continue to suspect that the reported offtake is biased high, and Range States are encouraged to investigate this bias further.

Recommendations for future monitoring

In [Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/9.10](#) (Estimating Greylag Goose breeding population size and productivity), the Data Centre provided a set of recommendations for future monitoring of the Greylag Goose. At IWG9, the EGM IWG took note of the recommendations, yet no implementation of changes to the national monitoring programmes has been reported to the Data Centre.

Range States of MU1 are thus encouraged to explore further options for carrying out annual post-breeding counts in August, while also introducing regular age counts. Furthermore, Range States are encouraged to continue investigating migratory movements (including moult migration) and estimating count bias by use of GPS-tagged individuals. Range States of MU2 are encouraged to keep providing updated and regular data on population size and offtake, paying attention to existing gaps in the available data.

The Greylag Goose Task Force supports these recommendations for future monitoring, and, in the meantime, recommends that all Range States focus on offtake strategies that minimize the need for breeding-season derogation (those with high winter offtake).

Barnacle Goose (Russia/Germany and Netherlands population)

Population Status and Offtake Assessment

The EGMP Population Status and Assessment Report 2025 ([Doc. AEWA/AGMIWG/10.9/Rev.3](#)) provides an assessment of the population status of the three management units (MUs) in the Russia/Germany and Netherlands population of Barnacle Goose for the period 2005/06-2023/24. Data from field counts and estimates from the IPM both indicate an estimated flyway population size of about 1.6 million individuals in January 2024, which is equivalent to four times the Favourable Reference Population size (FRP). Hence, after being stable at a level of around 1.4 million individuals, the flyway population size seems to have increased again in the past two seasons despite reports on losses caused by outbreaks of avian influenza. Converted into breeding pairs, numbers in the Russian MU1 are well beyond the FRP (and also the 200% threshold level) whereas the Baltic MU2-population has now dropped below the threshold of 200% of the FRP (calling for coordination if significant levels of offtake under derogation is likely to affect the local breeding populations in Denmark, Finland or Sweden). In the North Sea MU3-population, number of breeding pairs has increased (or recovered) lately and is now above the FRP, but numbers are still below the 200% threshold, thus triggering the need for coordination of derogation in Germany and the Netherlands. Gaps in monitoring effort mainly exist in the summer period.

Barnacle Goose (East Greenland/Scotland and Ireland population)

Population Status and Offtake Assessment

After a peak flyway population of 80,000 in 2006 and 2012, abundance declined to an estimated 62,438 (52,845 – 72,986) birds in March 2025. For much of the period of record, abundance on Islay exceeded that in all other wintering areas, but that pattern has been reversed since 2018. The total harvest rate of adults has increased over the period of record, from around 0.01 to a peak of 0.05 (0.04 – 0.07) in 2017. Thereafter, harvest rate declined to 0.03 (0.02 – 0.04) in 2024. Annual survival rate of adults (including both harvest and natural mortality) declined at the same time harvest rates were increasing, suggesting that harvest may have contributed to the decline in flyway abundance, although poorer than average reproduction could also have played a role.

Coordination of offtake

Currently, there is a 4% probability that the March 2025 population was below the FRP of 54,000. Tight coordination of offtake between Iceland and Scotland is thus still required to ensure the population does not fall below the FRP. In 2024/2025, the

estimated harvest in Iceland was 2,686 (1,824 – 3,789) individuals, and the estimated harvest in Scotland was 58 (2 – 319) individuals. If the current level of offtake is maintained, there is an 8% probability that the population will fall below the FRP by 2026.

Assessment of AFMP indicators

The Adaptive Flyway Management Programmes (AFMPs) for the NW/SW population of Greylag Goose, the Russia/Germany and Netherlands population of Barnacle Goose and the East Greenland/Scotland and Ireland population of Barnacle Goose will be evaluated in 2026, including the first assessment of indicators for measuring the progress towards achieving the fundamental objectives of the respective International Single Species Management Plans. The EGM IWG is invited to approve the proposed protocol for the assessment of AFMP indicators ([Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/10.20](#)) and support the gathering and transmission of the necessary information to the EGMP Data Centre by 31 December 2025.