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Barnacle Goose Session

Report and Recommendations of East Greenland/Svalbard Barnacle Goose Task Force
Rae McKenzie

EGM IWG9 * 18-20 June 2024 * Tromsø, Norway



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Report and Recommendations of East Greenland/Svalbard Barnacle Goose Task Force

Task Force Members 2023-24

Rae McKenzie (UK) Task Force Co-ordinator
Svenja Auhage (IS)
Sigurður Þráinsson (IS)
Snorri Sigurðsson (IS)
Sunna Björk Ragnarsdóttir (IS)
Sean Kelly (Ire)
Ingunn Tombre (NO)
Johan Svalby (SE)
Jessica Shaw (UK)

Peter Clark (UK – BASC)
Iva Obretenova (EU)
Cy Griffin (FACE)
Szabolcs Nagy (Wetlands International)
Bruno Pereira Leles (EGMP Secretariat)
Jesper Madsen (EGMP Data Centre)
Iben Hove Sørensen (EGMP Data Centre)
Fred Johnson (EGMP Data Centre)

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- The Task Force has participated in 3 joint meetings of the EGMP Task Forces (19 June 2023, 26 September 2023 and 4 March 2024)
- Task Force members participated in the Goose Monitoring Workshop in Denmark in November 2023
- Data flow and modelling projections meeting 5 March 2024
- Task Force meeting 4 June 2024

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East Greenland Barnacle Goose Census Results

- Total population from February 2023 census was 62,159 birds
 - we believe the decline since the last census is mostly attributable to deaths due to HPAI and low productivity.
- Bag in Scotland has been very low over the past 3 seasons due to HPAI
 - with 613, shot in 2021/22, 58 shot in 2022/23 and 36 shot in 2023/24.
- Bag returns in Iceland also dropped due to HPAI but are now increasing again.
- Breeding success for the Greenland population on Islay last winter was 3.5% indicating a second very poor breeding season in succession.
- We have now run the IPM and the results of that show that the population has declined and is close to FRV of 54,000 wintering individuals with the model estimating that abundance declined to 56,994 (48,616 – 66,230) in March 2024

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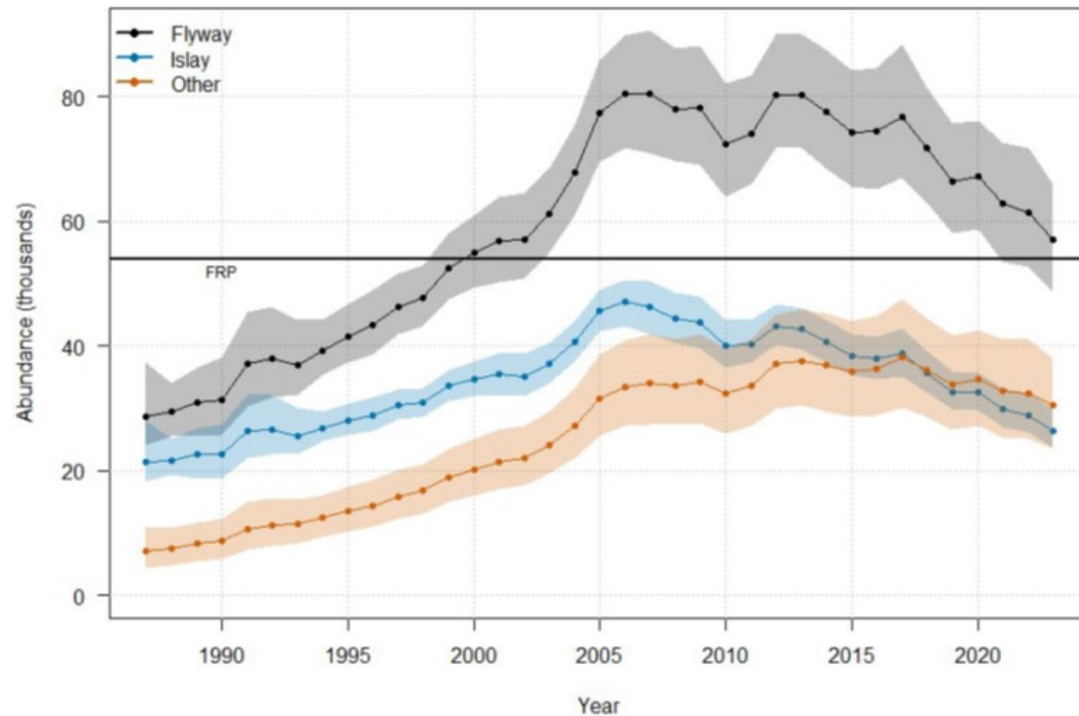
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East Greenland Barnacle Goose

- Population is close to FRV of 54,000 wintering individuals



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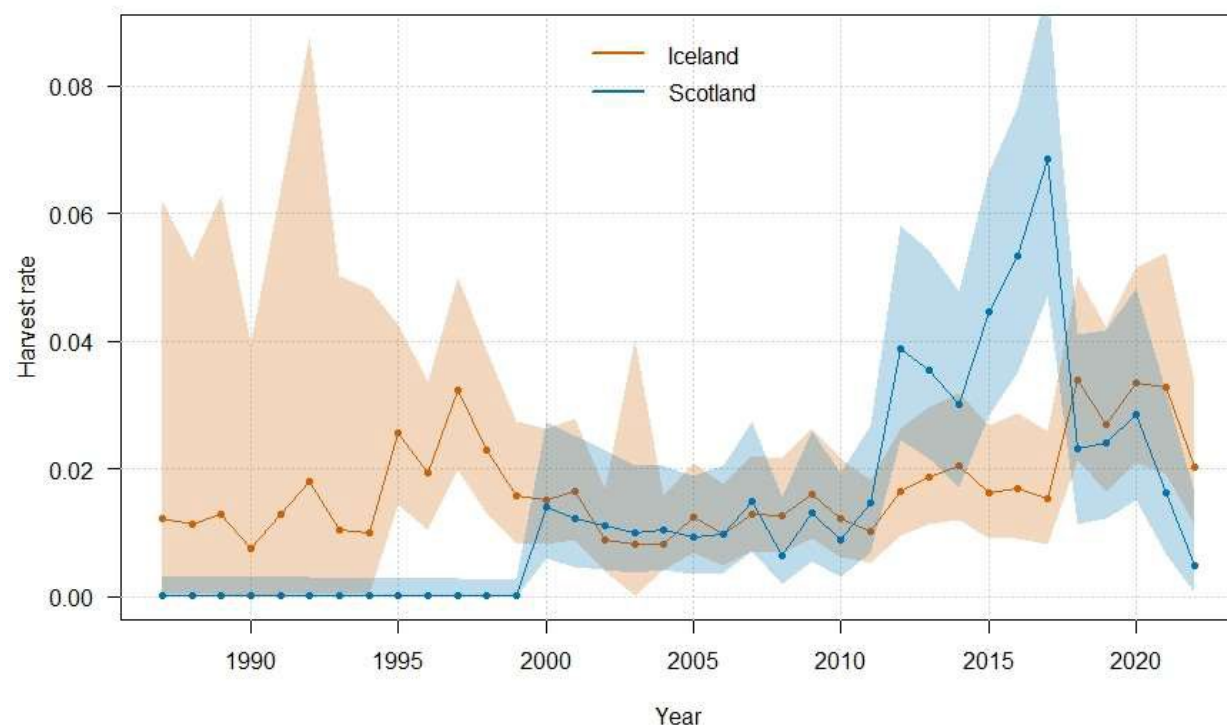


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East Greenland Barnacle Goose



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Svalbard Barnacle Goose

- HPAI in winter 2021/22 reduced the population by around 1/3
- Good breeding seasons over last 2 summers has resulted in the population bouncing back to close to its previous level at over 40,000 birds
- It was agreed by the TF on 17 June that there is no current need for an IPM, but that we should be aware of the population in relation to the FRP

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HPAI update

- Impacts significant on both Greenland and Svalbard barnacle goose populations
- Svalbard population declined by around a third in winter 21/22 but has recovered
- Greenland population declined by around 10,000 over winters 21/22 and 22/23
- No recorded deaths or positive tests in either population in wintering areas in 23/24
- Serology work on both populations in winter 23/24 tested a total of 126 birds and around 60% of these showed antibodies. Work is ongoing to identify HPAI strains.

*Larry Griffin

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Recommendations to IWG:

- Iceland and Scotland implement measures to reduce levels of offtake to as close as possible to zero.
- Iceland and Scotland reach agreement on the maximum level of offtake to be permitted, if any, and the split between the two Range States.
- Such agreement be concluded before the start of Iceland's 2024/2025 hunting season.
- Continue implementation of the work programme set out in the report

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