



Pink-footed Goose Session

*PINK-FOOTED GOOSE SVALBARD POPULATION
STATUS REPORT 2019-2020*

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Report prepared by the AEWA European Goose Management Platform Data Centre

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Annual monitoring data

Autumn total c. 82,000

- 78% in Jutland, Denmark
- 16% in Belgium

Spring total c. 63,000

- 89% in Trøndelag, Norway
- 9% in Finland (JM)

Table 1. Results of synchronized counts of Pink-footed Geese in autumn 2019 and spring 2020

Country	Region	Numbers	
		16-17 November 2019	2-3 May 2020
Norway	Trøndelag	440	55,318
	Vesterålen	-	843
	Southern Norway	151	39
	Northern Norway	-	27
Denmark	Jutland	64,317	68
	Eastern Denmark	88	0
Finland	Oulu region	-	5,910
	Elsewhere	-	60
Sweden	Various sites	1,684	648
Germany		NA	-
The Netherlands	Friesland and elsewhere	2,408	-
Belgium	Flanders	12,886	-
TOTAL		81,974	62,913

PfG population status report 2019/2020
AEWA/EGMIWG/5.7

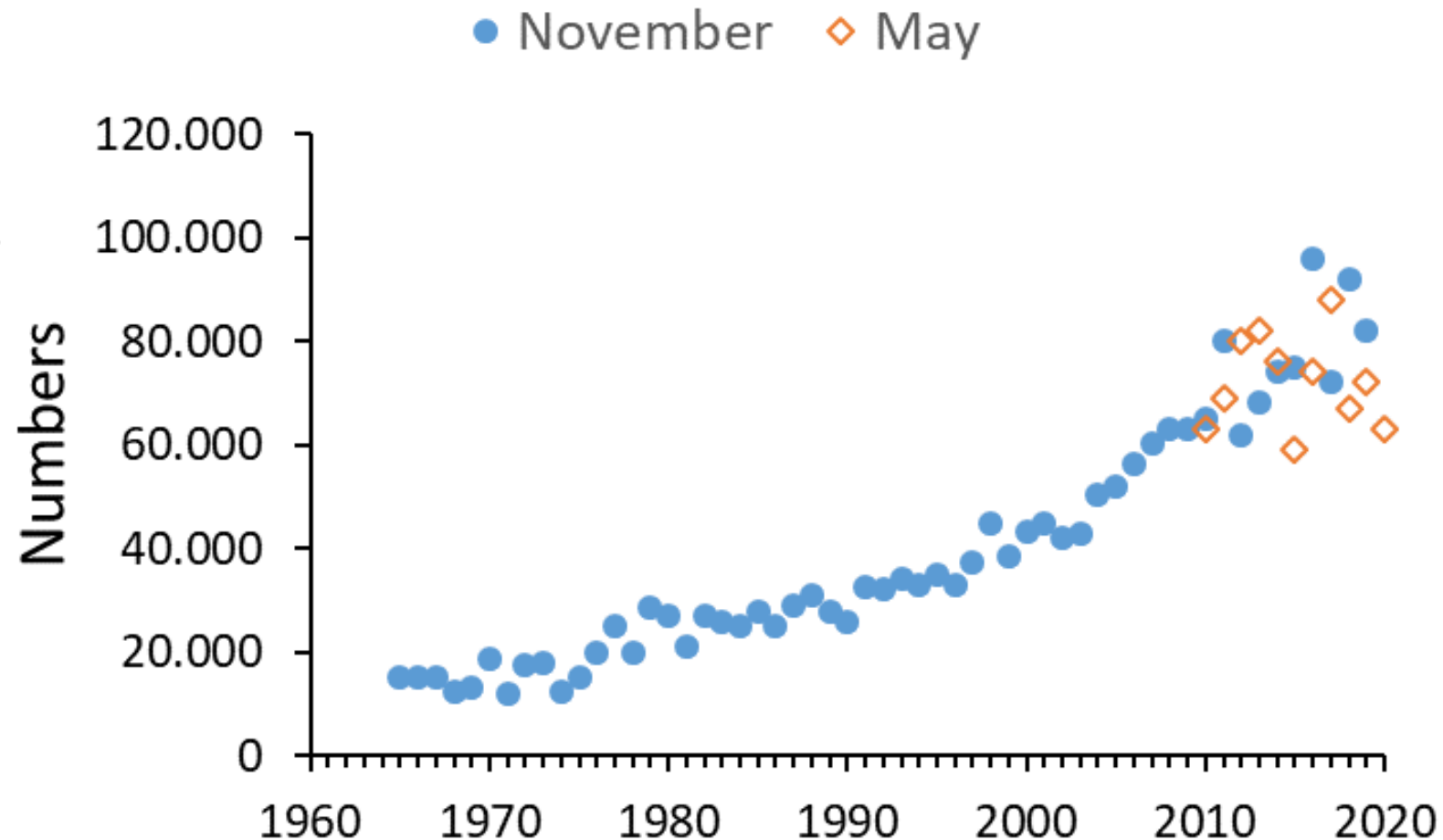
Svalbard population of the Pink-footed Goose - counts

Autumn

- Since 1965/66
- 10,000 less than 2018/2019

Spring

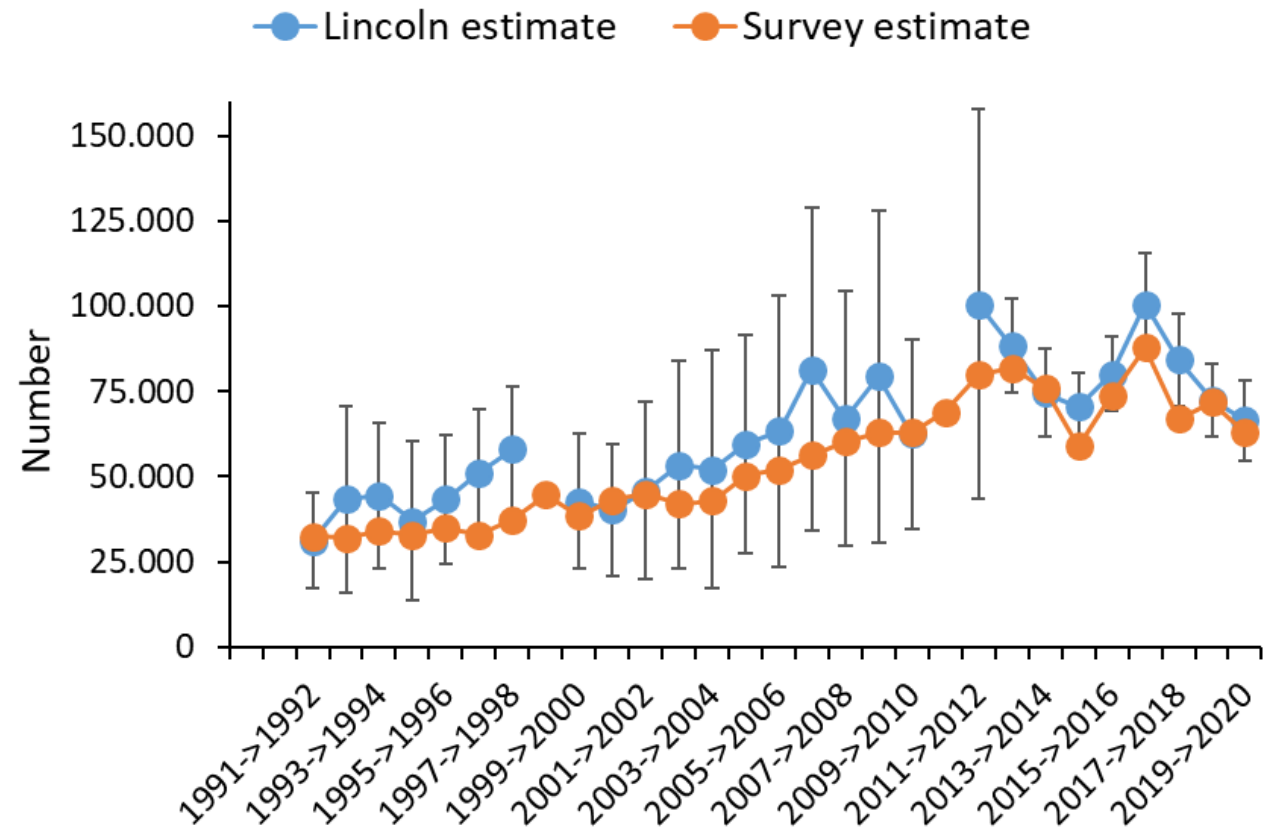
- Since 2010
- 9,000 less than 2019



PfG population status report 2019/2020
AEWA/EGMIWG/5.7

Alternative population estimate: capture-mark-recapture

- Capture-mark-recapture (CMR) approach (Lincoln index) on sightings of geese marked with neckbands
- In May 2020, the estimated population size was c. 66,500 individuals
- Good match between spring counts and CMR estimates since 2012



Alternative population estimate: Integrated population model

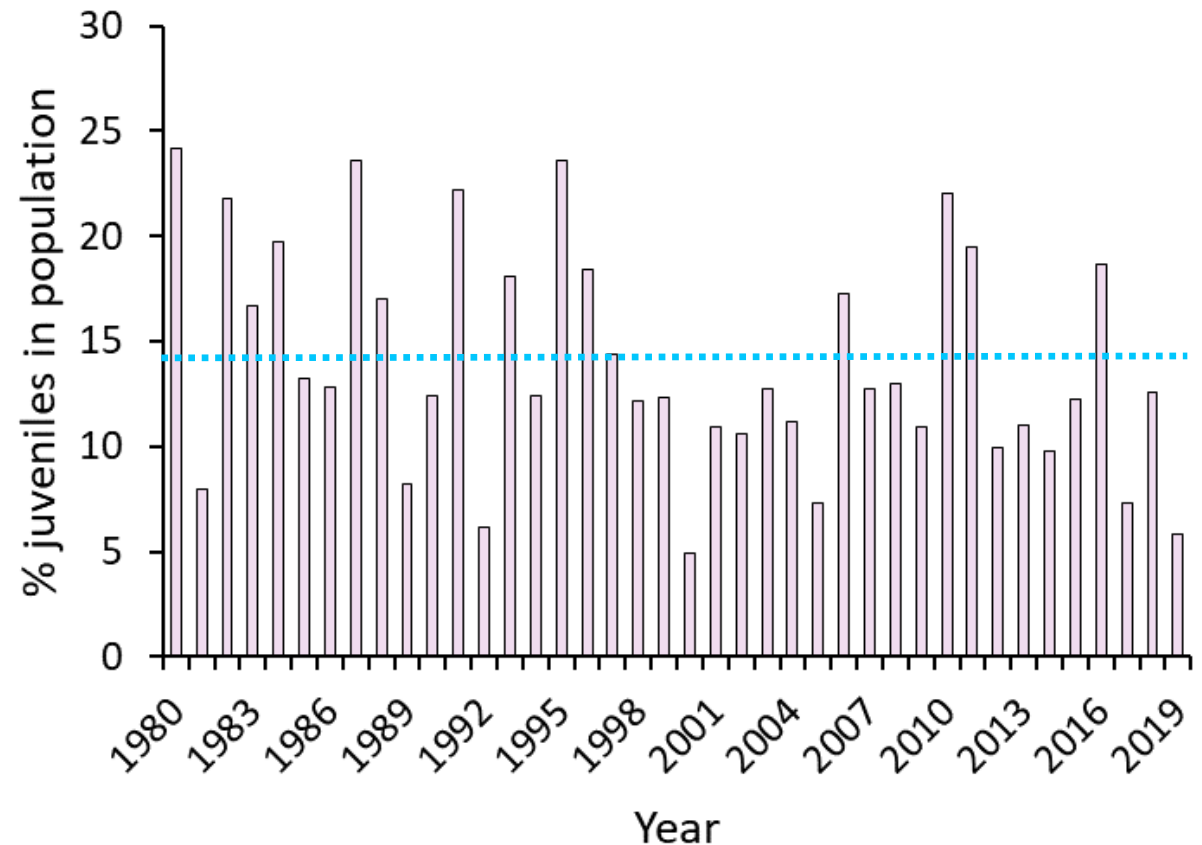
- The population size is estimated at
 - 80,400 in November 2019
 - 68,400 in May 2020
- This is closer to the population target than it has been since 2006
- Details in Harvest Assessment Report

Productivity 2019

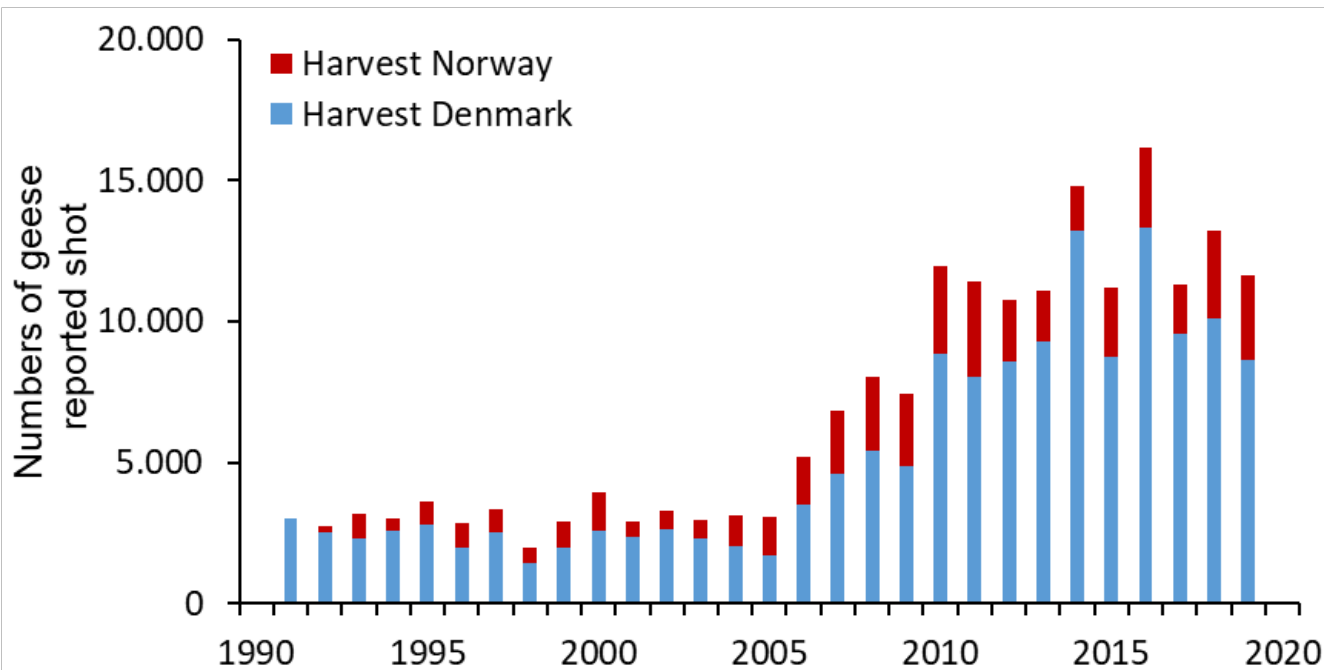
Low production was predicted based on the temperatures in Svalbard May 2019

The weighted estimated proportion of juveniles in autumn 2019:

- 5.9%
- Mean (1980-2019): 14.2%



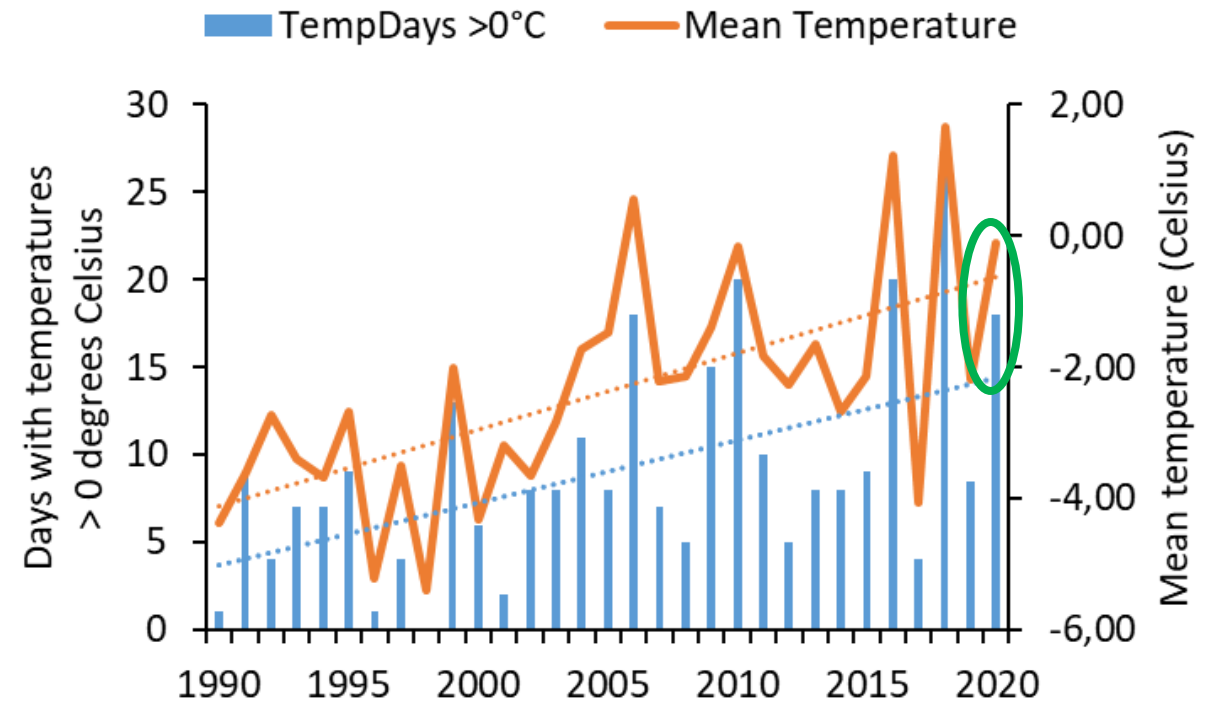
Harvest



- 2019/2020: 11,646 geese harvested geese in Norway and Denmark
- C. 1,500 less shot in DK than in 2018/19,
 - which can be attributed to the population decline
 - and fewer juvenile birds (which are more susceptible to hunting)

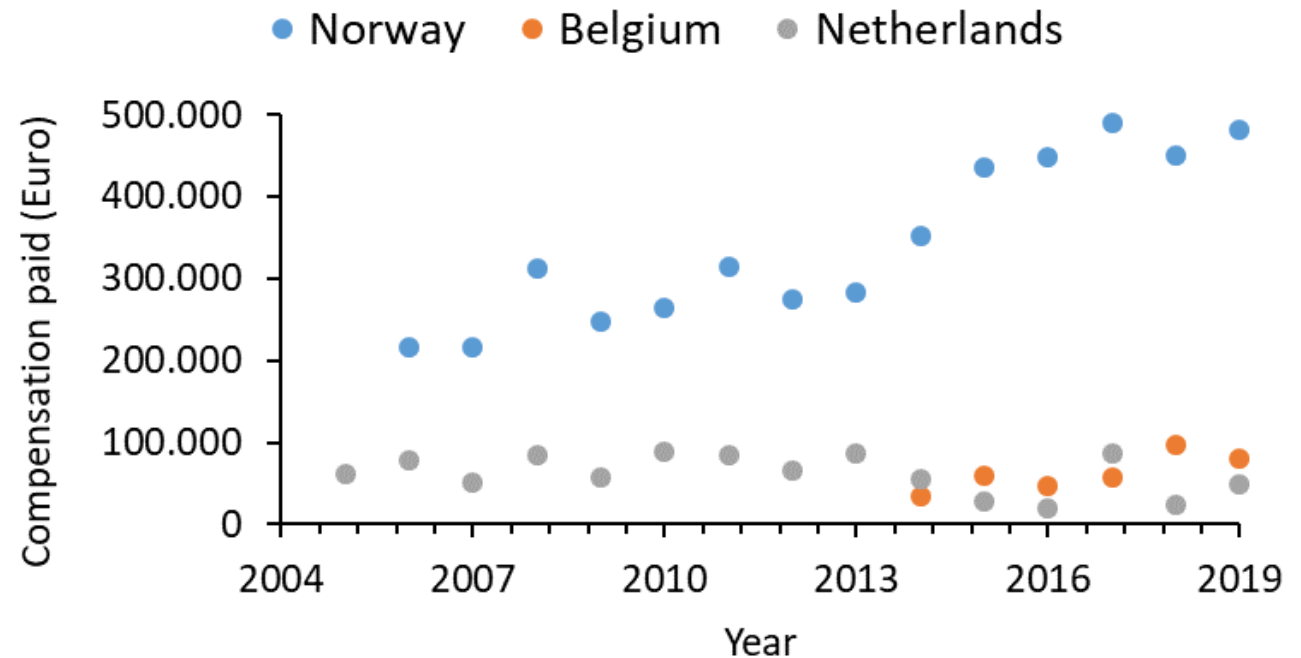
Pre-breeding weather conditions in Svalbard 2020

- We use the weather conditions in May in Svalbard as a predictor of the production of young
- Number of thaw days in May is standard
- Mean May temperature is found to be useful as well
- May 2020 temperatures were above average
- We predict the 2020 breeding success to be high



Agricultural damage caused by Pink-footed Geese

- Expenditures are similar to the previous years. This is in accordance with the stability in the population size



Population trends in Pink-footed Geese

- The number migrating to the Netherlands during autumn has declined in recent years,
- They have extended their stay in Denmark, remaining there throughout the winter.
- In Flanders in Belgium the number has remained more stable but the foraging area increases.
- In spring, the count confirms that Trøndelag in Norway remains the key area for the population, while Vesterålen in North Norway to some extent has lost its importance.
- Oulu in Finland has its own amazing story

Future needs

- It is important to step up the marking and X-raying of geese
- This will provide data on movements, demography, Lincoln estimates of population size as well as crippling rate
- Tracking of Pink-footed Geese by GPS-loggers can assist in detecting new traits in the migration patterns and schedules
- Strengthen wing surveys in Denmark and Norway