



Pink-footed Goose Session

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EGMP PINK-FOOTED GOOSE TASK FORCE AND DRAFT WORKPLAN FOR 2020/2021

Main activities 2019-2020

- Review of annual PfG Monitoring and Harvest Assessment Reports
- Initiative to improve international exchange regarding hunting organisation and hunters' contribution to data collection
- Technical discussions regarding potential biases in demographic variables and monitoring programs
- Recommendation on the population target: spring or autumn estimate?



Recommendation on the population target (spring or autumn?)

Approaching the population target

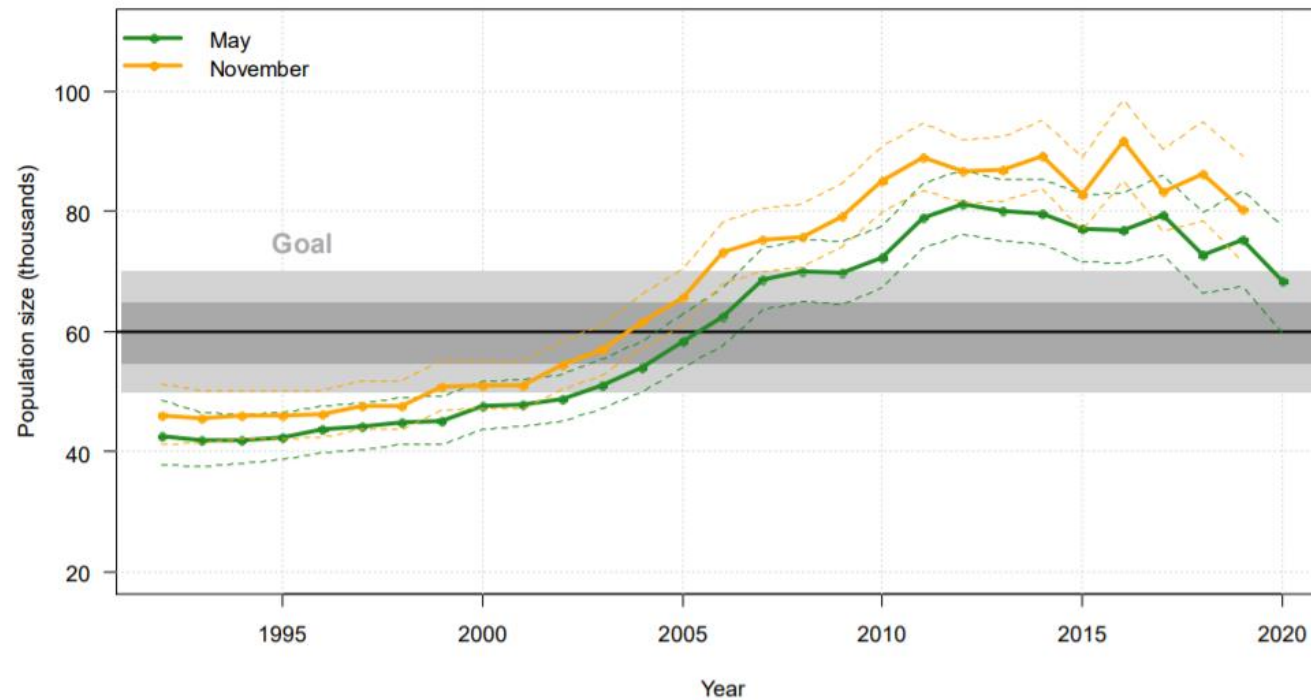


Figure 3. IPM-based estimates of abundance of Svalbard Pink-footed Geese in May and November, relative to the goal of 60,000. The dark grey band defines near-complete stakeholder satisfaction with population sizes, while the light grey band exhibits $\geq \frac{1}{2}$ of maximum satisfaction (see Figure 1). 95% credible intervals are indicated by the dashed lines.

The PFG TF recommends using the spring population estimate as the 60,000 population target

- The ISSMP was established to address management issues which specifically occur in spring, namely damage to crops in Norway and pre-breeding tundra degradation in Svalbard; hence the target was mainly set to mitigate these problems and was agreed by the International Working Group as a tolerable level.
- Since the implementation of the ISSMP, the target has been accepted as the spring estimate by the Norwegian farmers and authorities dealing with the agricultural conflict.
- Choosing spring estimates will provide a bigger buffer from an ecological perspective.
- Autumn estimates appear to be more variable and biased than spring estimates.
- Choosing spring estimates will allow for better and more constant hunting opportunities, which will, in turn, contribute to the reduction of conflict with farmers because hunting gives a revenue to landowners and is seen as a mitigating action.



Implications

- The optimal harvest strategy will use the spring population estimate as the target.
- If the present population decline continues, reductions in harvest in Denmark and Norway can soon become a reality.
- This will potentially lead to fluctuations in annual harvest regulations, e.g. turning January hunting in Denmark on or off.
- It needs to be discussed further which population estimate to use in the international conservation reportings (Wetlands International, Ramsar, EU reporting etc) which have previously been based on the autumn/mid-winter counts. To be consistent in these reportings, it is recommended to keep using the autumn population estimates generated by the EGMP process.



Workplan 2020-2021 (1)

Agreed at online TF meeting, 11 June 2020

The TF will:

- Continue as internal reviewers of annual PfG Monitoring and Harvest Assessment Reports
- Continue initiative to improve international exchange regarding hunting organisation and hunters' contribution to data collection via wing collection of shot geese
- Continue technical discussions regarding potential biases in demographic variables and monitoring programs, and analysis of critical components in the monitoring program (in collaboration with the Data Centre)
- **Propose a plan for the assessment to be used for the revision of the ISSMP in 2022**

Workplan 2020-2021 (2)

Planning ahead for the revision of the ISSMP in 2022.

Possible aspects to be included in evaluation report:

- Tundra degradation assessment
- Agricultural damage assessment
- Assessment of other ISSMP indicators (recreational values, crippling)
- Population target assessment, including a Multi-criterion Decision Analysis
- Assessment of the range of the PfG population: how to deal with the new Swedish/Finnish/Russian group?
- Assessment of habitat restoration activities outside the breeding grounds
- Evaluation of existing monitoring program and proposal for future tailoring monitoring and assessment protocols
- Stakeholder satisfaction with the ISSMP process



Workplan 2020-2021 (3)

Agreed at online TF meeting, 11 June 2020

Planning ahead for the revision of the ISSMP in 2022.

Proposal for process:

- The PfG TF, Data Centre and EGMP Secretariat prepare a proposal for the organization, outline and a time plan for an assessment process (autumn 2020)
- The IWG endorses the outline and time plan (autumn 2020)
- The PfG TF and Data Centre start compiling the agreed data for assessment (winter 2020/2021)
- The PfG TF reports on progress of compilation at IWG6 (June 2021)
- The PfG TF and Data Centre finalize the assessment (winter 2021/2022)
- The PfG ISSMP achievements are presented and revision is discussed and decided at IWG7 (June 2022)