Barnacle Goose Session

Adaptive Flyway Management Programme for the Russia Barnacle Goose population

Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/6.14 ***EGMP Secretariat & Data Centre***

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New Sections AFMP

- Changes highlighted in green
- Revision of the document in the Task Force (version circulated in April)
- Main sections added /updated:
    - 1. Introduction (updates on table 1 and table 2)
    - 2. FRR values for the three management units (Chapter 2, table 4)
    - 3. Workplans developed by the Task Force (Annex 1)
    - 4. Analysis of Box 1 (Annex 2)
    - 5. Update and progress on the impact models (Annex 4)

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FRVs for the Russia/Germany & Netherlands population of Barnacle Goose

Table 3. Breeding FRP values for the three management units

Country	Breeding FRP (in pairs)	Notes	Wintering FRP (in individuals based on Koffijberg *et al.*, 2020)
Russia	112,927	Calculated as 380,000/2.78 – (FRPs MU2 & MU3)	
MU1 total	***112,927***		***n.a.***
Denmark	2,000	FRP reported by the government	
Estonia	89	National BD Art. 12 report[6]	
Finland	7,000	FRP reported by the government	
Norway	n.a.	It is not recognised by the government as a naturally occurring breeding species.	
Sweden	2,900	FRP reported by the government	41
MU2 total	***11,989***		***n.a.***
Belgium	n.a.	It is not recognised by the government as a naturally occurring breeding species.	555
Germany	775	Source: National BD Art. 12 report[7]	83,471
Netherlands	11,000	FRP reported by the government	284,686
MU3 total	***11,775***		
Population total	***136,691***		***380,000***

Table 4. FRR values for the three management units

Country	Breeding FRR (in km²)	Non-breeding FRR (in km²)	Notes
Russia	95,000	Not provided	The breeding FRR is estimated based on EBBA2 (50 x 50 km grid). The non-breeding FRR for moulting and staging areas is still to be estimated.
MU1 total	***95,000***	***Incomplete***	
Denmark	1,800	36,700	FRRs reported by the government. However, these are distribution areas and not range.
Estonia	1,500	Not provided	Source: Distribution area in national BD Art. 12 report[2]
Finland	48,500	Not provided	According to Finland, it is not feasible to assess the non-breeding FRR for passage birds because it is highly variable.
Norway	introduced	n.a.	It is not recognised as a naturally occurring breeding species by the government.
Sweden	87,500	13,900	FRRs reported by the government.
MU2 total	***139,300***	***Incomplete***	
Belgium	introduced	25,500	It is not recognised as a naturally occurring breeding species by the government. The non-breeding FRRs reported by the government
Germany	4,228	Not provided	Source: Distribution area in national BD Art. 12 report[5]
Netherlands	37,621	38,011	FRRs reported by the government
MU3 total	***41,489***	***Incomplete***	
Population total	***227,889***	***Incomplete***	

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Annual workplans

				Activities carried out by				
Cross-cutting action	Actions from the ISSMP	Priority	Timescale	Population/MU specific Task Force	Ad hoc cross cutting TF	Data Centre & Modelling Consortium	Belgium	Denmark
	1.1 Provide adequate protection and management to key sites of international importance under Article 4(1) of the Birds Directive in the EU and other relevant instruments in other Range States throughout the range of the populations and maintain them in good ecological status	Essential	Short / Rolling					
	1.2 Promote goose-based eco-tourism at selected key sites	Medium	Medium					
	2.1 Take key sites for geese into account in land use planning and growing of sensitive crops[1]	High	Immediate / Rolling					
	2.2. Provide accommodation areas to reduce risks and conflicts at sensitive areas through e.g. subsidies[2]	Medium	Medium/ Rolling					
	2.3 Apply scaring and/or land management techniques to reduce the attractiveness of sensitive areas to geese, monitoring the implications of such local displacement for conflicts at wider scale[3]	High	Short / Rolling					
	3.1. Reduce risk posed by goose migration to air safety through operational measures such as radar surveillance[4]	High	Short / Rolling					
x	3.2 Establish an internationally coordinated programme to assess agricultural damage including monitoring and assessment protocols	High	Short					
	3.3 Liaise with farmers affected by goose damages to reduce agricultural conflicts	High	Short / Rolling					
	4.1 If necessary and if there is no other satisfactory solution, apply lethal population control under derogations according to the provisions of the Birds Directive, the Bern Convention and AEWA, for preventing serious damage to crops	Essential	Short					
	4.2 Assess periodically, and report to the AEWA EGM IWG, the cumulative impact of derogations (as well as hunting in Range States in which derogation is not required) on the development of the population, the likelihood of serious damage to agriculture and risk to air safety and to other flora and fauna (including the Arctic ecosystems), and the non-lethal measures taken to	Essential	Short					

Box 1

- The International Single Species Management Plans (ISSMP) envisages the use of more detailed analysis of data on **damage to agriculture** and **risk to air safety and to other flora and fauna** as set out in Box 1
- In 2020,
  - all range states responded to a questionnaire covering **damage to agriculture and risk to other flora and fauna.**
  - a questionnaire regarding **air safety** was treated separately by direct contact to the relevant national air safety organisations.
- In 2021,
  - a final report should be submitted and presented at the IWG6 as the final steps in the project
  - The document aims at reporting the obtained information in a transparent way, providing a baseline for the future work.

Overview of provided information

Table 1. *Overview of provided information by each range state. The information in the upper row refers to the numbers in Box 1. ia &iia refer to agricultural damages, ib & iib to damages to other flora and fauna, iv-b to breeding and iv-w to winter.*

Country	ia	ib	iia	iib	iii	iv-b	iv-w	SPAii-iii
BE	X			X	X	X	X	
DE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
DK		X			X	X	X	X
FI	X		X	X	X	X	X	
NL	X		X			X	X	
NO	X		X		X	X	X	
SE	X				X		X	X

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Summary

- The Barnacle Goose Russia/Germany & Netherlands population is significantly increasing on the long-term and short-term.
- There are limited knowledge and data on the actual costs in most ranges states but increasing costs correlated to the number of Barnacle Geese during winter in the Netherlands.
- Due to a high variation between the views from the different range states, there is high degree of uncertainty towards what methods that have an effect and only very limited conclusions can be drawn at this stage.
- To increase the understanding, range states will need to discuss and prioritize research projects and to conduct focused and coordinated studies.
- There is a need for a coordinated derogation with a consistent approach at MU level flyway level.

Summary – air safety

- Barnacle goose was one of the goose species most frequently reported to have been involved in birdstrikes.
- Many airports expect an increase in problems associated with the presence of geese in the future.
- Airports situated along the migration route of the population more often experience problems with barnacle geese.

Lessons learned – all populations

- The box 1 analysis is extremely complex with a lot of different questions and items
- The replies reflected that it was complicated for the responders to reply to all items and/or that a large part of the items was not managed in the range states
- Most range states replied as much as possible, however, the manegement is clearly different between range states and the format of the replies varied considerably, which made the analyses difficult
- The report include a lot of results and if the range states allow each reply to be made public available, it may be used for more detailed analyses by others

Coordination among Range States regarding derogation shooting and legal hunting.