

# Finnish perspectives on Taiga Bean Goose

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Photo: Tuomas Seimola, Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE)





If I would have to present Finnish perspective on Taiga Bean Goose by just one photo, probably this one would have the most of it.

So, where are all the thousands of geese which cause agricultural damages in other countries?

It is a mystery in Finland. In the summer, on their breeding grounds in the northern Finland, they are secretive. Somewhere there might be a brood of Taiga Bean Goose.... It is mysterious bird, somewhere beyond large almost impassable mires...

Traditionally it has been also highly esteemed game, because of the difficulty of reaching it from large mires.

By waching the mire, you might almost here some geese somewhere beyond the fog.

Photo: Tuomas Seimola, Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE)

**But not so often anymore in the beginning of the 2000's....**

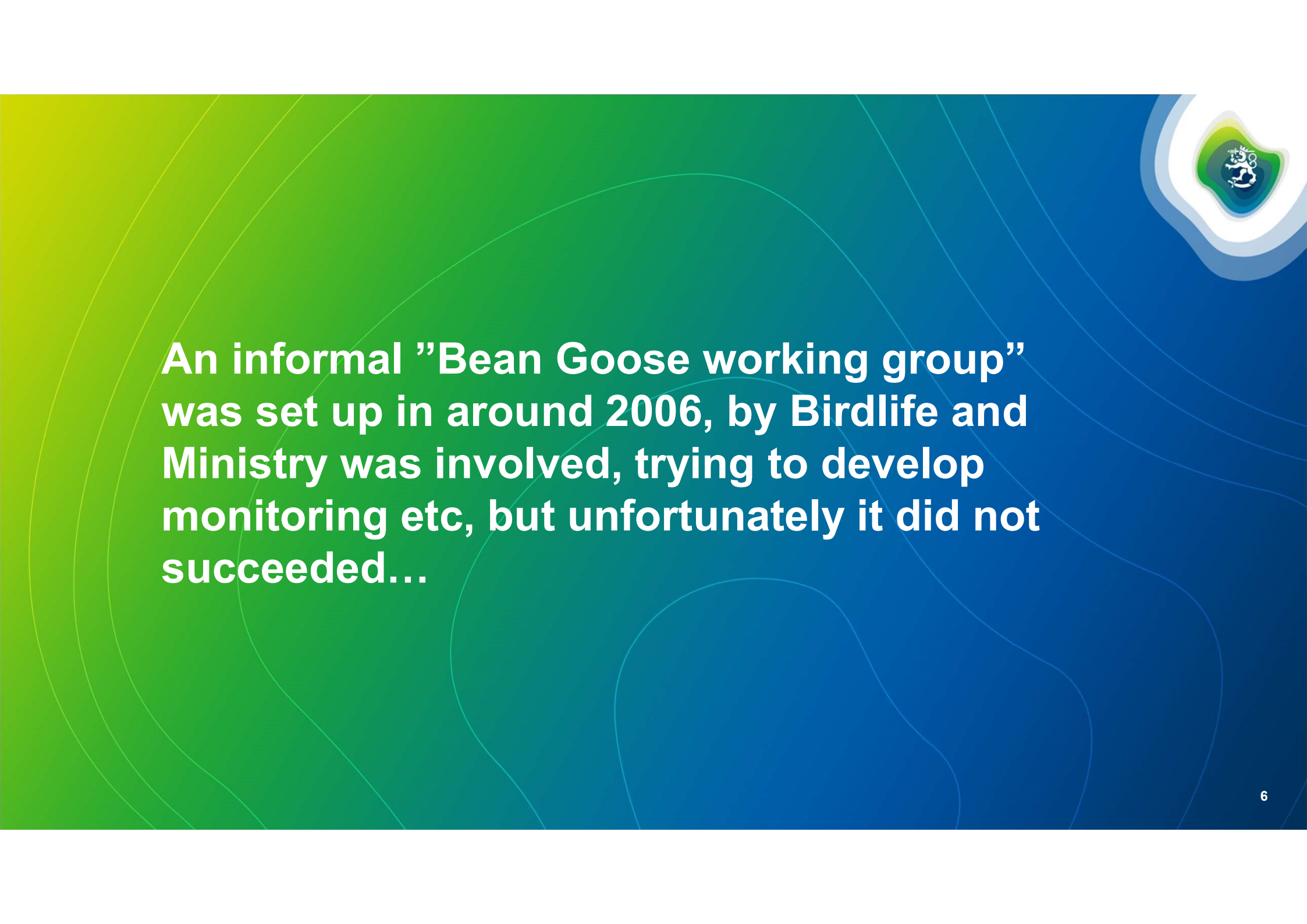


Photo: Tuomas Seimola, Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE)



**In around year 2005, local hunters from Lapland started to worry since geese had been drastically disappeared from some traditional breeding mires.**





**An informal "Bean Goose working group" was set up in around 2006, by Birdlife and Ministry was involved, trying to develop monitoring etc, but unfortunately it did not succeeded...**



**Year by year a growing worry was raised about how much geese were hunted outside of the breeding areas in west-coast of Finland during the autumn migration.**





**In year 2010, a local Game Management Association from Pelkosenniemi, Lapland, proposed a hunting ban of bean goose for it's own area.**

**It was a wake up call.**





**In year 2010, a moratorium was established in Pelkosenniemi, and every other regional Game Management District delayed opening of the hunting season by 10/20 days:  
from 20th August -> 1st/10th September -**

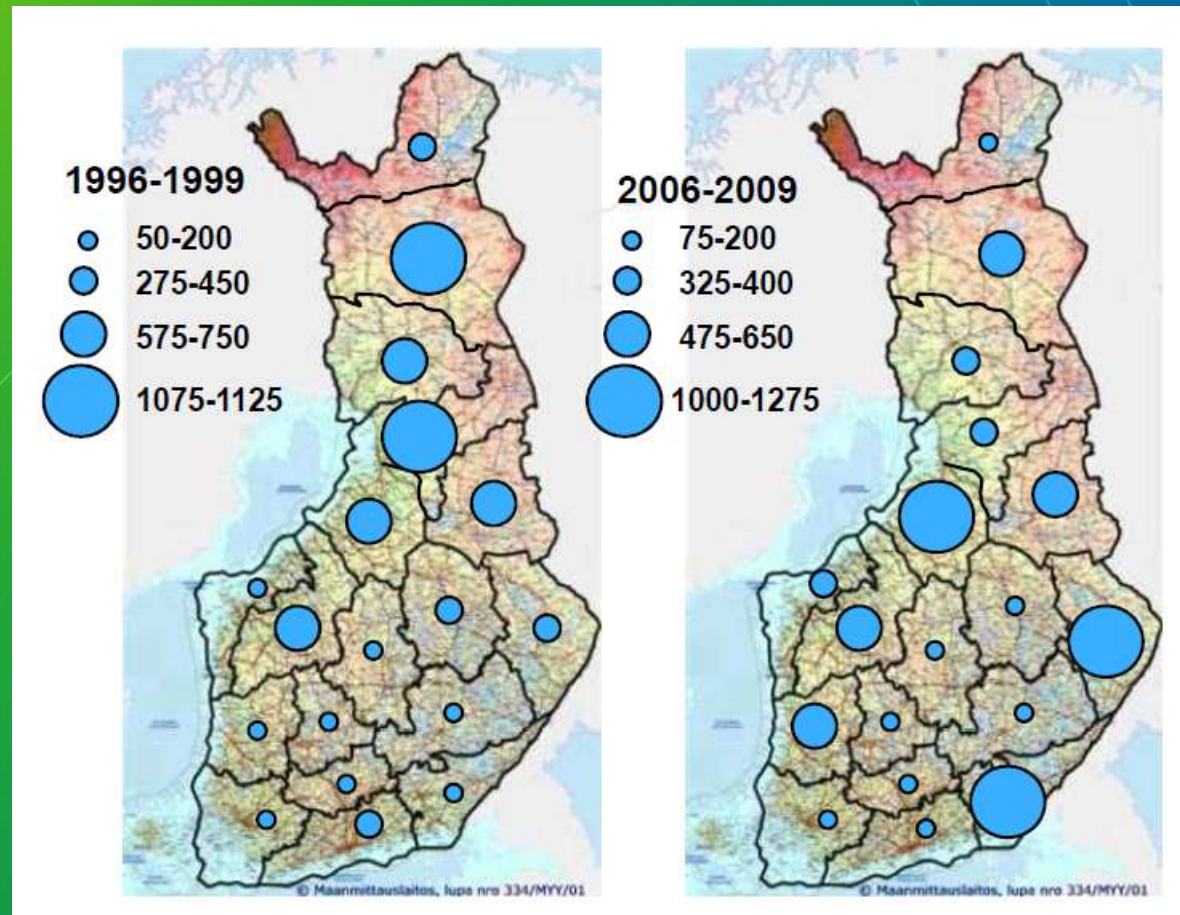


**In year 2011, hunting legislation and administration was reformed.**

- **Regulation of hunting seasons (closing for up to 3 years) was reassigned from Districts to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.**



Hunting changed.

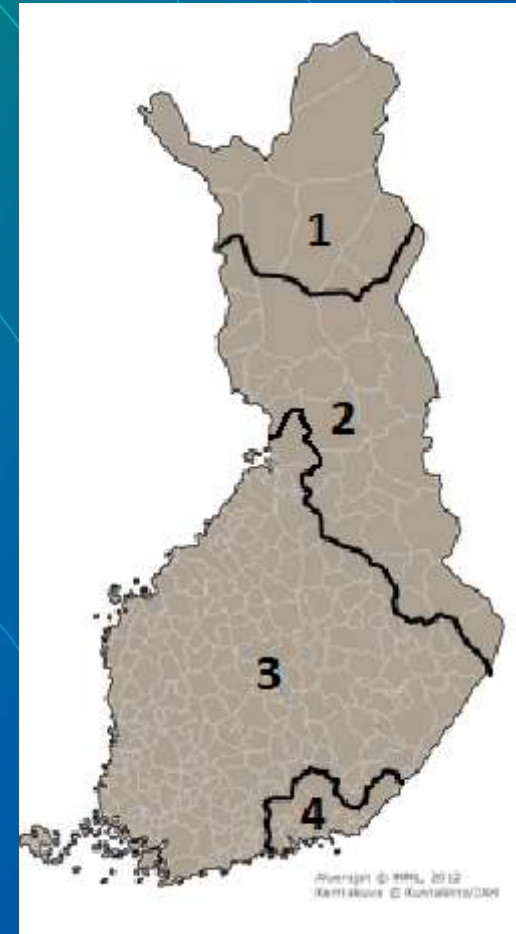


Source: Marjakangas, Arto. 2011. Report on the needs and possibilities to develop international and national management of Bean Goose. State Forest and Park Service. (Hunting Bag Statistics data by Game and Fisheries Research institute)



**In years 2011-2013 hunting seasons were shortened more and more year by year by Ministry of Agriculture and Foresr.**

- Hunting season was delayed more outside of the breeding areas (3)**





**In 2012, Status of the Taiga Bean Goose was  
changed in AEWA**





## **In years 2012-2014**

- **Research project to develop monitoring of breeding population did not succeeded...**
- **Research efforts to find out Taiga/tundra Bean Goose ratio from hunting bag failed in the lack of voluntary samples...**
- **Difficulties in first GPS-taggings**
- **National Management Plan was drafted**





**In years 2014-2016 hunting of Bean Goose was totally banned by (annual) Ministerial Degrees.**



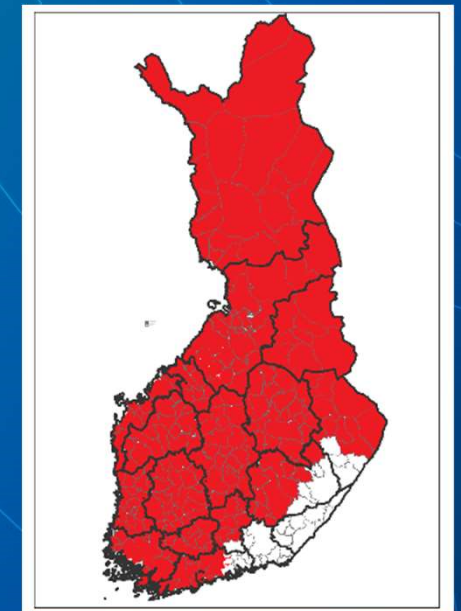
**In year 2017, a substantial reform in Hunting Act:**

**More precise regulation of hunting can be issued by Ministerial Degree, up to 3 years can consist:**

- 1) Areal regulation;**
  - 2) Temporal regulation; (length of the open season)**
  - 3) Sex of hunted animal (female/male);**
  - 4) Quota per hunter; or**
  - 5) Ban on certain hunting devices or methods.**
- Important motivation for reform was to enable Adaptive Harvest Management for Taiga Bean Goose, to not use "blunt" ban to close season totally.**



**In years 2017-2019 hunting was allowed again in October-December on Tundra Bean Goose "migration zone" in the south-eastern Finland.**

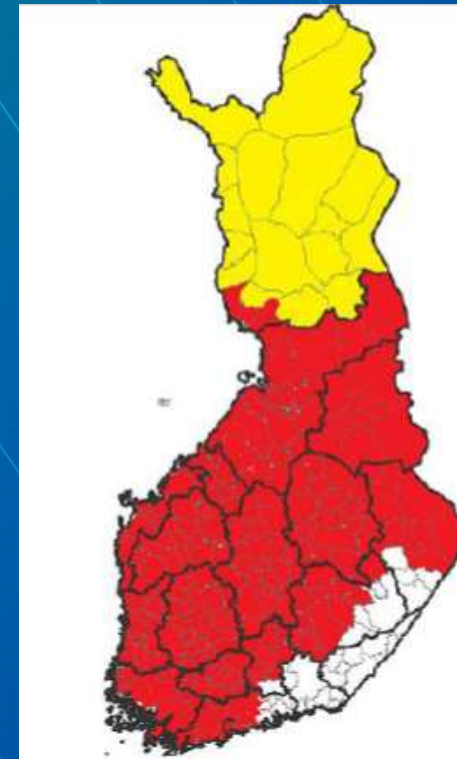




**In 2020-2021 the hunting was allowed again in Breeding areas of Lapland after 6 years of moratorium.**

- **Limited area**
- **Season length limited to 8 days**
- **No hunting over bait**
- **Quota 1 per hunter/year**
- **Mandatory bag reporting**

**As well as in October-November on Tundra Bean Goose "migration zone" in the south-eastern Finland.**





And a helicopter is still flying this June...



Photo: Tuomas Seimola, Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE)

Map of helicopter survey:  
Antti Paasivaara, Natural  
Resources Institute Finland  
(LUKE)

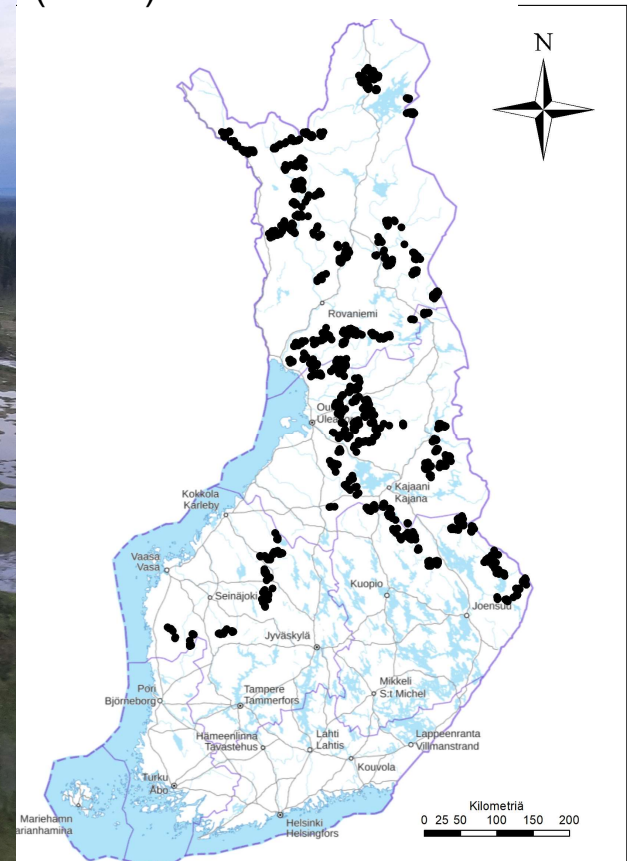






Photo: Tuomas Seimola, Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE)





## **Drafting National Management Plan since 2012...**

- Engageing hunters in regional workshops**
- If any hunting would be possible to allow, seeking to prioritize traditional hunting culture in the Northern breeding mires...**





Photo: Tuomo Turunen, the Taiga Bean Goose "Guys"



**Thanks for All of You for international co-operation!**



Photo: Tuomas Seimola, Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE)