



## EG BG Population Status Assessment

*AEWA/EGM-IWG/7.10– Rae McKenzie / Jessica Shaw*

## EG BG Population Status Assessment

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### 1. Range states and management units

- Greenland
- Iceland
- Ireland
- United Kingdom
  
- Single management unit



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### 2. Population FRPs and targets

- The FRP is set at the Agreement Value (i.e. around the year 2000) of 54,000 wintering individuals
- The FRP + 200% threshold is 108,000 wintering individuals
- As an Annex 1 species of the EU Birds Directive, the AFMP does not aim for a target population

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### 3. Management strategies

- AFMP is in place, and aims to prevent the population declining below the defined FRP
- If the population declines below 200% of the FRP, monitoring and offtake are to be coordinated
- Current management strategy on Islay aimed at reducing serious agricultural damage over a 10 year period (2014-2024)

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### 4. Assessment protocol

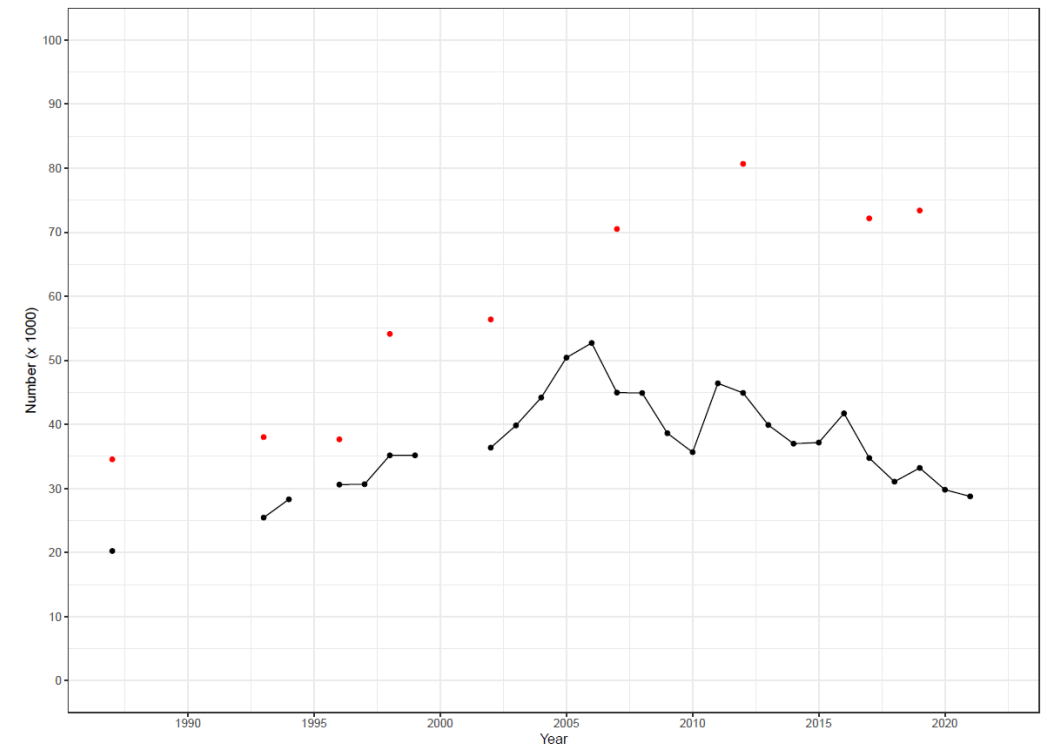
- IPM completed - the first population assessment will take place in 2023
- For 2022, only an update on the raw data is available
- Work on impact model is underway

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### 5. Status

#### 1. Abundance

- Last full census gave 72,000 birds in March 2020, next due in March 2023
- Annual counts on Islay (largest wintering population) over the past 2 years show lowest number of birds since 1994/95 (March 2021 = 29,798, March 2022 = 28,759 birds)
- However, Islay mid-winter counts are higher than they have been for the past 3 years, averaging just under 37,000 birds



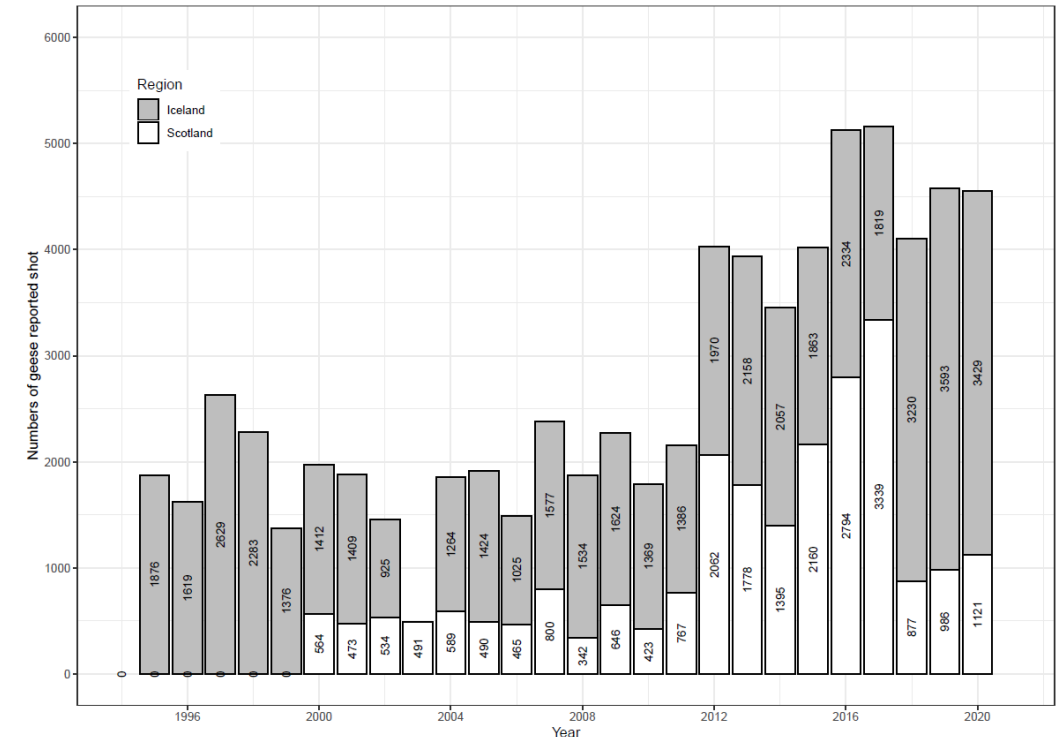
Development of the Spring population size of the E. Greenland/Scotland & Ireland Barnacle Goose, Winter 1987/1988-2019/2020 (filled red) with additional annual winter counts from Islay from 1987/1988-2020/2021, the most important wintering site in the UK (black line) (WWT).

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### 5. Status

#### 2. Mortality and offtake

- Hunting bag in Iceland in 2020-2021 was 3429 birds, and derogation bag in Scotland (Islay) was 1221
- No update on survival or crippling rates
- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) was confirmed in the East Greenland Population in Ireland in January 2022 and on Islay in February 2022
- Derogation shooting on Islay was suspended at the beginning of February 2022
- Estimates of losses to date are c.1000 birds in Islay and 1700 birds in Ireland. No reports of confirmed HPAI losses elsewhere in the wintering range



Development in the harvest of the E. Greenland/Scotland & Ireland Barnacle Goose population in Iceland (hunting) and Scotland (derogation), Winter 1995/1996–2012/2021. Numbers on the bars show the numbers harvested. In Iceland 2003 data was unusable due to „joke-reports“ delivered by hunters while Ptarmigan hunting was temporarily banned

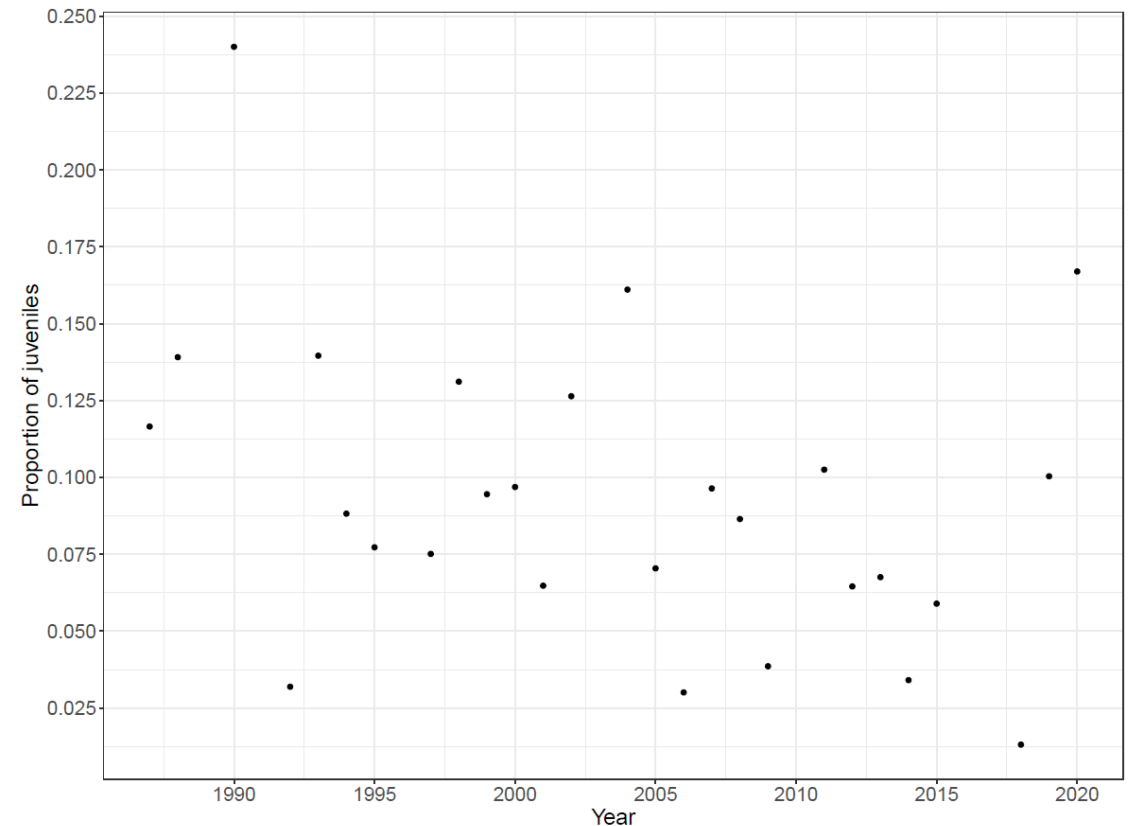


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### 5. Status

#### 3. Reproduction

- Proportion of juveniles on Islay in 2020 was 16.7% - the second highest on record



Annual productivity estimates from Islay based on age counts from November 1st - 17th November.

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### 6. Management guidance

- Estimates from the IPM suggests a population decline, with 65,000 individuals (CI = 55,000-76,000) in 2019
- Estimate therefore below the 200% FRP value (108,000) so Range States should
  - a. Develop a predictive population model (DONE)
  - b. Increase the frequency of full census from 5 to 3 years (DONE)
  - c. Agree on the level of allowable offtake

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### 6. Management guidance

- Outstanding actions:
  - Complete and evaluate the use of the impact model
  - Modeller/assessor must be appointed to update population model and provide estimates
    - Now population below 200% FRP, consider frequency of running run IPM
  - Assessment of cumulative impact and coordination of offtake – due 2023 following the census