



## RBG TF - Report, Recommendations & Draft Workplan 2022/2023

*Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/7.14 – Nick Warmelink*

## 1. Status of the Task Force Membership

- Currently, the Task Force has 25 members representing 8 countries, the European Commission, and 5 nongovernmental organisations.
- New members and new non-governmental organisation:
  - Kate Layton-Matthews – NINA
  - Olav Greivstad – Nordic Hunters' Alliance
  - Nikkie van Grinsven – Wildlife Management Unit Noord-Holland (Netherlands)
  - Sofia Kolkman – Wildlife Management Unit Noord-Holland (Netherlands)
- Said goodbye to the following members:
  - Wilmar Remmelts – Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
  - Roar Lundby – Nordic Hunters' Alliance
  - Henning Heldbjerg – EGMP Data Centre /Aarhus University
  - Esko Hyvärinen – Finnish Ministry of Environment

## 2. Meetings

- Three online meetings:
  - 6th meeting of the BG TF on **26 October** 2021
  - 7th meeting of the BG TF on **25 January** 2022
  - 8th meeting of the BG TF on **25 March** 2022
- Organized by the Secretariat and Data Centre
- Rotating chair person

## 3. Report of key activities and outcomes (1/2)

- RBG Workplan: updating and implementing. Online spreadsheet.
- Adaptive Flyway Management Programme (AFMP)
  - In Denmark, Netherlands, Sweden, Scotland and Norway work was done on impact models to investigate the relations between geese numbers and level of agricultural damage.
  - A dedicated meeting of the International Modelling Consortium on the 10th of March 2022 gave an overview of all projects (an update will be presented during EGM IWG7). Part of the work has already been published.
- Exchange on habitat conservation
  - TF will start to collect examples of successful habitat conservation measures and projects to benefit barnacle geese conservation and management.
  - Habitat conservation measures were also discussed as an alternative way of managing geese



Source: Jasper Madsen

## 3. Report of key activities and outcomes (2/2)

- Monitoring activities:
  - Focus: counts in January, July-August, productivity data and offtake data.
  - January count data-gap Germany covered.
  - Important data-gaps are no productivity data and no summer counts Sweden (for MU2 size estimate)

**Table 1. Overview of available monitoring data in the Russia/Netherlands and Germany Barnacle Goose population.**  
 X data collected at national level/annually, (x) data collected but not annually and/or not at national level, - data currently not collected, \* not relevant range state in this respect.  
<sup>1</sup> note that Germany only submits data once every six years (full dataset up to 2016), and recent years are based on published data only  
<sup>2</sup> Norway is not a EU-country, but applies similar rules when it comes to management for Barnacle Goose

	RU	FI	EE	SE	NO	DK	DE	NL	BE	Remark
January census	*	*	*	X	*	X	X <sup>1</sup>	X	X	
Summer census	-	X	-	-	(x)	(x)	(x)	X	(x)	
Productivity, MU1 and MU2 combined	*	*	*	-	*	-	X	X	-	Autumn, Nov-Dec
Productivity, MU2	*	(x)	-	-	(x)	-	*	*	*	Summer, Jul-Aug
Productivity, MU3	*	*	*	*	*	*	(x)	X	-	Summer, Jul
Offtake, hunting	-	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	In EU-countries only derogations
Offtake, derogations	*	X	X	X	X <sup>2</sup>	X	X	X	X	Mostly annual totals

- Coordination of derogations
  - Outcome of EGM IWG6, “to assure population does not drop below FRP”. A process to respond to reaching FRP threshold, in which EU MSs maintain their rights to make use of derogations. Explored in several sessions but not finalized there.
  - Point of discussion: if/how assessments at flyway level (AEWA/EGMIWG/7.10) can assist countries in national assessments.

## 4. Recommendations

1. Expansion of summer counts, especially in Sweden, to improve population size assessment of MU2.
2. Expansion of productivity data from Sweden and Denmark to achieve a more representative sample for MU2.
3. To allow for an annual intermediate population assessment on the basis of available data for an improved and up-to-date understanding of population developments (in addition to the three-year assessment cycle in which – in contrast – the model itself is also reviewed)
4. Timely provision and monthly\* resolution of derogation data, to assign offtake to Management Units for the IPM.
5. Exploring possibilities how the assessment of the cumulative impact of derogations can support the decision-making process for derogations in the Range States.

\*for being able to determine if the derogation is from before of after January count, not necessarily data per month



# AEWA European Goose Management Platform

## 5. Draft Workplan 2022/2023

21-23 June 2022  
EGM IWG7  
Helsinki, Finland



Actions from the ISSMP	Priority	Timescale	Barnacle Goose Task Force
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	High	Short / Rolling	Exchange of experience (Agri TF also dealing with this)
3.1 Reduce risk posed by goose migration to air safety through operational measures such as radar surveillance	High	Short / Rolling	X
3.2 Establish an internationally coordinated programme to assess agricultural damage including monitoring and assessment protocols	High	Short	Liaise with Agri TF and DC. Agri TF Coordinator update the BG TF, exchange information
3.3 Liaise with farmers affected by goose damages to reduce agricultural conflicts	High	Short / Rolling	X
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 prevent damage/risk, as well as the effectiveness of these. If necessary, coordinate the derogation measures between Range States to avoid risk to the population and to enhance effectiveness of the measures.	Essential	Short	The Norwegian authorities do not consider the breeding population in the Oslofjord area to be "naturally occurring". But some data exist scattered in the few municipalities practicing derogation (based on the Norwegian legislations; not population regulating tool, only for damage prevention). With some effort this information can be collected. Discuss and provide recommendations to EGM IWG on the coordination of derogation measures between Range States.
4.3 Improve effectiveness of derogation measures through experimenting with different timing and methods and better understanding the relative efficacy of lethal versus non-lethal scaring techniques	High	Medium	Exchange / Coordinate
4.4 Promote best practices of goose population adjustment including timing to minimize damage and significant disturbance to other species	Medium	Medium / Rolling	Exchange information and experience. Collate, summarise results (possibly workshop), time + resources needed
4.6 Improve derogation shooting techniques to further reduce crippling	Medium	Long / Rolling	Exchange information and experience. Collate, summarise results (possibly workshop, time + resources needed - ) - liaise with PfG TF and share information
A.1 Produce and update periodically, spatially explicit population size estimates based on agreed international monitoring	Essential	Short / Rolling	Consultation, support governments/national coordinators to deliver data - monitoring plan
A.2 Maintain an annually updated bag statistics database including geese taken by any means (whether under derogations or, in those Range States in which it is permissible, hunting)	Essential	Ongoing / Rolling	Consultation
A.3 Maintain a spatially explicit database on goose damage to agriculture, other fauna and flora and risk to air safety	Essential	Medium / Rolling	Consultation
A.4 Collect demographic (mortality, reproduction, differential migration and connectivity) data from an agreed representative sampling framework across the range	High	Short / Rolling	Consultation
C.1 Develop and implement a communication strategy and plan	Medium	Short / Rolling	Share relevant information
D.1 Develop a specific guidance on the application of Art. 9 of the Birds Directive in the context of the Barnacle Goose Management Plan	Essential	Immediate	EC: If in light of the implementation of derogations, further need for clarification on derogations under art. 9 of the BD is identified, provide additional guidance. Not dealt with in the TF
D.2 For Range States in which hunting is legal, review national legislation in the light of the framework legal guidance document developed under the EGMP	Essential	Immediate	X

## 6. In Conclusion

**Summary:**

This document provides an overview of the status and key activities that the Barnacle Goose Task Force for the Russia/Germany & Netherlands population has undertaken since June 2021 until May 2022. In addition, a proposed list of recommendations is included as well as the proposed annual workplan for 2022/2023.

**Action requested from the EGM IWG:**

Take note of the task force report and recommendations and adopt the annual workplan