

AEWA Goose Management Process

AEWA covers over 250 species of waterbirds. Of the 81 huntable birds listed under the Birds Directive (Annex II), 50 of these waterbirds are listed under AEWA, comprising of 83 different populations. At the 6th AEWA Meeting of the Parties in November 2015, a decision was made to establish a European Goose Management Platform (EGM) for the conservation, management and sustainable use of goose populations in Europe. Species initially to be covered include the Svalbard population of Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*), Taiga Bean Goose (*Anser f. fabalis*), Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) and Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*).

To develop the action and management plans for these species, consultation with stakeholders at multiple workshops has been crucial. Importantly, these plans take a flyway-level approach and (existing ones) use adaptive harvest management¹, which provides flexibility to make adjustments to management actions, including hunting, based on the collection of robust data.

Taiga Bean Goose Action Plan

The AEWA International Single Species Action Plan (ISSAP) for the Taiga Bean Goose sets an ambitious long-term goal for the recovery of this huntable sub-species. The purpose of the plan for the first 10 years aims at stabilising the population size as a whole in all three management units and subsequently at enabling them to start recovering. In order to achieve these goals, the ISSAP defines an action framework containing three objectives, 12 anticipated results and 17 broad actions (see [action plan](#)). In June 2017, for the first-time, consensus was reached amongst countries in Europe on using adaptive harvest management to enable the species to recover along with a harvest rate of 3% shared between Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Norway.



Svalbard Pink-footed Goose Management Plan

The Svalbard population of the Pink-footed Goose was selected as the first test case for an international species management plan to be developed. Numbers of the Svalbard Pink-footed Goose have increased considerably over the past decades. The continued growth of the Svalbard population is a conservation

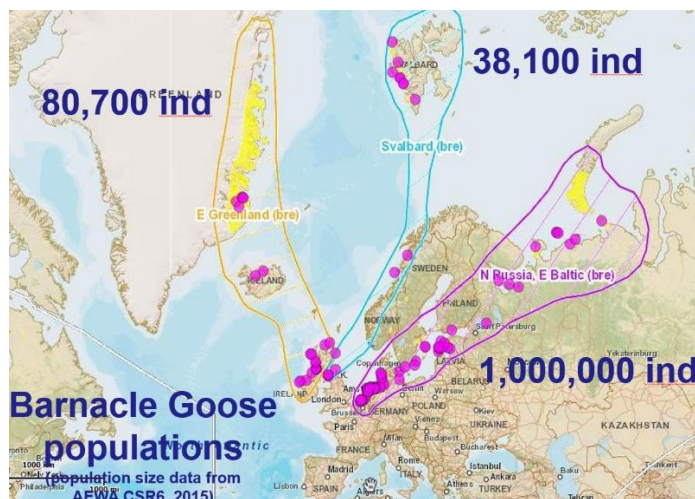
¹ See further the guidance on setting up flyway-level adaptive harvest management in the AEWA [Guidelines on Sustainable Harvest of Migratory Waterbirds](#).

success story, yet its increasing population size, along with other goose species, has progressively brought them into conflict with agricultural interests as well as having other environmental and social implications. The management objective is to maintain a population of 60,000 to avoid human-geese conflicts, by providing sustainable hunting opportunities using adaptive harvest management in Norway and Denmark, where hunting is permitted. Due to an increase in the population size to 88,000, the 2017 harvest quota increased to 36,000 compared to 25,000 in 2016. The harvest rate is subject to change based on agreement by the range states following scientific evaluation and learning as the adaptive process develops (see [management plan](#)).



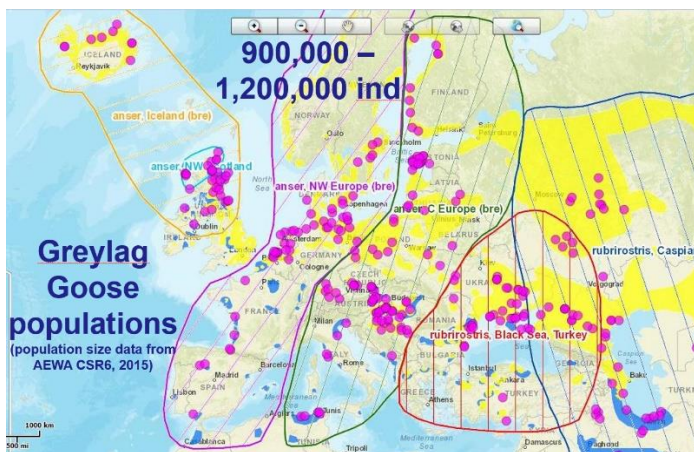
Barnacle Goose Management Plan

In June 2017, there was a [Stakeholder workshop](#) to develop an AEWA International Species Management Plan for the Barnacle Goose (East Greenland/Scotland & Ireland; Svalbard/South-west Scotland; and Russia/North-west Europe populations). The Barnacle goose has seen a remarkable increase of its population and is now creating many conflicts for agriculture, nature conservation and air safety. At the workshop, there was a lot of discussion on managing the Barnacle goose at the flyway level as it is not listed in Annex II (i.e. not huntable) of the Birds Directive. The European Commission stressed that such derogations are workable under the Birds Directive by following certain criteria in the context of an international management plan. In 2018, the working group will reconvene to discuss different kinds of models (population, range, damage to agriculture, etc.), as part of the process of adaptive harvest management. In the meantime, the EGMP Data Centre is preparing the modelling for the management plan.



Graylag Goose Management Plan

In October 2017, governments, stakeholders and experts convened for the first [workshop](#) to develop the Greylag Goose International Single Species Management Plan (ISSMP). After a steep decline of certain geese species (including Greylag and Barnacle) during the 20th century, these species have seen remarkable improvements in recent decades. This is mainly due to changes in agriculture practices with some geese populations now causing considerable conflicts in different parts of their flyways (e.g. [the Netherlands](#)). As well as focusing on harvest, there were also broader discussions on other instruments like damage compensation, mitigation and changing agricultural practices. The European Commission expressed its support for the ISSMP and stressed the need for EU Member States to work with the flexibility offered under the Birds Directive. The draft ISSMP is expected to be submitted to the AEWA Standing Committee (June 2018) and should be launched for implementation in the beginning of 2019.



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