



Goose Management Group

GMG 6th Meeting

Hamburg, 26 February 2013

FINAL DRAFT MINUTES

1. Opening

Document: GMG 2013-6.1 Draft Agenda

The chair, Mr Hilbrand Sinnema, welcomed the participants and opened the meeting on 26 February 2013 at 11:00 hours. A list of participants is in **Annex 1**.

The agenda was **adopted** without amendments and is in **Annex 2**.

2. Adoption of the Minutes GMG-5

Document: GMG-5 Final Draft Minutes

The meeting adopted the final draft minutes of the GMG-5 meeting, Hamburg, of 06 December 2012. The final draft minutes of GMG-5 have been distributed by email of 18 December 2012. The final draft minutes are also available on the WSF website www.waddensea-forum.org.

3. Announcements

Jesper Madsen reported about the pink footed goose management plan, which has been agreed by the countries Norway, Denmark, The Netherlands and Belgium recently. The objective of the plan was to maintain the population in the long term at around 60,000 individuals (80,000 today) in such a way that the population is not threatened but will not increase dramatically. This target was based on current scientific evaluations. The adaptive management concept meant that the goose population were continuously scientifically monitored and evaluated to enable adjustment according to needs.

A report about the management plan would be sent to the secretariat for distribution.

John Frikke informed that the Danish National Park management plan 2013-2019 has been adopted. Further, an application has been sent to the UNESCO to inscribe the Danish Wadden Sea on the World Heritage List.

Jan Kieckbusch introduced and distributed a report about geese and swans in Schleswig-Holstein.

4. Inventory of information

Documents: GMG 2013-6.4.1 Inventory Wadden Sea Region

As an introduction to the discussion about the inventory, Meinte Engelmoer gave a presentation about the Dutch agreement on goose management. The agreement was signed by 19 organisations, including the 12 provinces, on 6 December 2012. The plan aims at a balance between a natural goose population size and associated damage on farm land.

The management plan focuses on acceptable population numbers, reduction of damages and compensation for farmers. The management plan was distributed in Dutch prior to the meeting. A German version will be provided by Mr Kohl within the coming weeks.

The presentation with main details will be part of the final draft minutes as an **Annex**.

The meeting recalled the discussion about problems with geese in the regions. The occurring conflicts were seen as very divers and would appear when environmental schemes were not in place. Still, the information should be integrated in the inventory within the coming month. The regional representatives **agreed** to take the lead in amending the inventory of information.

It was further **agreed** to place the inventory as an **Annex** in the goose management report, which will focus on the main objectives and recommendations.

5. Draft work plan

Document: GMG 2013-6.5.1 draft work plan

According to the defined priorities and sub-priorities, the meeting went into a discussion about aims and targets. Due to the limited time, some targets were exemplarily carried out. In the following, the outcome is given in headlines.

Policy development:

- Shared responsibility for the accommodation of migratory geese (politicians, society and stakeholders); WSR as one entity to accommodate geese in defined go-areas (regional solutions are only beneficial for short periods of time);
- Balanced goose populations;
- Awareness rising of problems and conflicts with geese;
- Common framework and coordinated management;
- Compensation on EU level (aim in the long run).

Communication and awareness:

This priority will only be divided into communication and awareness but not split up in target groups.

- Communicate the shared responsibility;
- Common understanding;
- Awareness rising of problems and conflicts with geese.

Measures:

- Brent geese, Barnacles and White fronted geese as target species;
- Bird protected areas, Natura 2000 sites defined as go-areas, 1000-3000ha;
- 5-year contracts, but flexibly used;
- Laser guns and acoustic measures as scaring methods;
- When scaring, take meadow birds into account;
- Vulnerable crops need special focus.

Knowledge:

- Guidelines for suitable areas for geese;
- Implementation of a GIS to provide information;
- Definition of carrying capacity;
- Availability of reliable updated information about population status and regional distribution.

In order to proceed, the secretariat will elaborate a draft work plan with targets and recommendations within the coming weeks. For this, the members of the GMG will be contacted to contribute to the elaboration. The draft will be discussed and improved at the next meeting.

An outline of the goose management report will be drawn up to be forwarded to the Wadden Sea Board meeting at the end of June as preliminary information of the report.

6. Draft recommendations

The recommendations as part of the trilateral goose management scheme were not discussed in detail. It was common sense that the recommendations would be the most essential part of the final report to give advice and management proposals to the national governments. The elaboration of recommendations will be an emphasis of the next GMG meeting in June.

7. Any other business

No other business discussed.

8. Next meeting

The meeting agreed to hold the GMG-7 meeting on **18 June 2013** in Bremen and the GMG-8 meeting on **19 September 2013** in Hamburg.

9. Closing

The chair thanked all participants for their contributions and closed the meeting at 15:30 on 26 February 2013.

ANNEX 2

Goose Management Group

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Hamburg, 26 February 2013

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

- Agenda item 1. Opening**
- Agenda item 2. Adoption of the Minutes GMG-5**
- Agenda item 3. Announcements**
- Agenda item 4. Inventory of information**
- Agenda item 5. Draft work plan**
- Agenda item 6. Draft recommendations**
- Agenda item 7. Any other business**
- Agenda item 8. Next meeting**
- Agenda item 9. Closing**