

species	data	document	Last updated
Taiga Bean Goose	Hunting bag, derogation, heads and wings	Methodology	16032022

The Taiga Bean Goose of the Central MU is hunted in Denmark, Finland, Latvia and Russia, furthermore it is subject to derogation killing in Sweden and the Netherlands.

### Hunting bag

In **Sweden**, the open hunting season for Bean Geese extends from 1 October until 31 December but is restricted only to the counties of Scania and Blekinge. The Bean Goose harvest is reported on a voluntary basis to the Swedish Association for Hunting and Wildlife Management. Such data originate from defined geographical areas and so are used to extrapolate the levels of reported harvest to unreported areas to generate estimates for entire counties and scaled up nationally (Liljebäck, N. et al., 2021). Data on harvest are made public online (<https://www.viltdata.se/>).

The open season for Bean Goose in Sweden will be closed from the hunting season 2021/2022.

In **Denmark**, there is no national hunting season for Bean Geese but in certain areas, they can be hunted legally from 1 September until 30 November. Hunting has, since 2014, only been allowed in south-east Denmark in the municipalities of Vordingborg, Guldborgsund and Lolland. The spatial restrictions on hunting were initially established to protect Taiga Bean Geese of the Western MU in North Jutland, but later expanded to most of the country to protect Taiga Bean Geese in general. Harvest of Bean Geese is reported by hunters through the mandatory Hunting Bag Statistics (administrated by the National Environmental Agency).

In **Finland**, hunting on Bean Goose was reopened 2017 in a 'Tundra Bean Goose' zone in south-east Finland after a 3-year total moratorium and a 'Taiga Bean Goose' zone was reopened in 2020. Recreational hunting was restricted to October-November (as no derogation shooting was allowed) and there was a mandatory requirement to report the harvest bag. Besides, hunting was open in a restricted area in Lapland, with a hunting season 20-27 August (one week), and with 1 goose/hunter/season quota and a ban on hunting over bait as a limitation. Hunting restrictions were based on national quota, regional historic harvest levels, national considerations in relation to Finnish breeding population and the precautionary principle. Hunting restrictions are evaluated annually and developed based on new data and understanding.

An effective protection of the wintering population of Taiga Bean Goose is in place in **Germany**. Starting April 2020, all hunting on Taiga Bean Geese has been banned in the Federal State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

In **Latvia**, the open hunting season for Bean Geese is from 15 September to 30 November.

In **Russia**, the "official" hunting bag statistics of geese consist of mandatory hunting bag reports. Taiga Bean Geese are protected in some districts and regions covering the Central MU, e.g., Archangelsk District and Karelia Republic (since 2020 in Red book of Karelia). To reduce the accidental shooting of Taiga Bean Geese, as well as protecting other goose species, it has been recommended that the dates of the spring hunting season should be changed to a later period. To greatly improve the conservation of

Taiga Bean Goose, it is also necessary to ban hunting at overnight roosting sites and to change the status of the areas important to geese, currently subject to hunting bans, to that of strictly protected area status.

### **Derogation**

In **Sweden**, derogations ('skydds jakt') are permitted under two different legal instruments and reporting systems (Jensen et al., 2017). Bean Geese can be shot to prevent damage to crops outside the normal open season and permitted areas. Derogation shooting on Bean Goose is to prevent damage on agricultural crops, however only c. 2% of the total compensation for damage on crops is related to Bean Geese (Frank et al., 2019). Derogation shooting is restricted to the regions Blekinge and Scania during 21 April–20 February and only in flocks of at least five birds on unharvested crops (SFS2021-334.pdf (svenskförfattningssamling.se)).

Bean Geese are protected in the **Netherlands** but may be subject to scaring and shooting at local level, with permission from the local statutory authority (filed as derogations).

In **Latvia**, in 2020, shooting of geese to mitigate crop damage was allowed for the first time. Licences for 1,000 geese were issued for the period 15 March–30 May.

### **Collection of heads and wings**

In **Sweden**, during winter 2017/2018 a targeted sampling of shot Bean Geese in Scania was launched, funded by the Swedish Environmental Agency and Swedish Association for Hunting and Wildlife Management (Jensen et al., 2018). Collection of heads from shot bean geese continued in the following years (Heldbjerg et al., 2020) but have now stopped, at least temporarily, partly due to limited funding. Additionally, preliminary results suggests that the large individual variation found in the measurements taken, making definition of subspecies extremely challenging and for a relatively large fraction of samples impossible. At present, collected data and samples from Sweden are included in a joint effort with Finnish and Danish samples to improve the methods used. Collection of heads in Sweden may restart if adequate methods to define subspecies, given the limitations of the sampling campaign, is found.

In **Denmark**, hunters may, on a voluntary basis, submit wings from shot geese to the Danish Wing Survey. These wing samples contribute to the knowledge of the temporal hunting bag variations, as well as knowledge of age ratio. Danish hunters are also invited to submit head samples to enable subspecies identification.

In **Finland**, hunters are invited to send a picture for sub-species identification for estimating the proportion of Taiga Bean Goose.

In **Latvia**, in 2014, a hunting bag study was initiated, in which hunters were asked to submit photo images of the Bean Geese they had shot. The submitted images have enabled a calculation of the proportion of Taiga Bean Geese among the shot and bagged Bean Geese (Kampe-Persson, 2019; Kampe-Persson & Boiko, 2019). From the autumn of 2020, the hunters were asked to submit two photo images

of every bagged goose to the Latvian Hunters' Association, one each of the head and the body (with one wing spread) (Kampe-Persson, 2021). During licenced shooting, it is mandatory to submit one photo image of every bagged goose.