

Project information

Project title

Goosehunt

Year

2011/2012

Project leader

Ingunn Tombre, NINA

Participants

- Ingunn Tombre - Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA)
- Jesper Madsen - Aarhus University
- Einar Eythórsson - NIKU
- Mary S. Wisz - Aarhus University
- Siri Ulfsdatter Sørensen - Norut Alta
- Gitte Høj Jensen - Aarhus University
- Ove Martin Gundersen - NINA

Flagship

Terrestrial - Theme: Adaptive management of ecosystems services

Summary of Results

In GOOSEHUNT we are investigating and demonstrating an adaptive organisation and co-management in a region where farming is challenged by the presence of thousands of geese causing damage to crops. In the project we have evaluated the current hunting practice (summarized in two reports), but are collecting more data in order to continue with the work on 1) developing a spatially explicit model that evaluates how geese use the area under the current hunting regime, 2) Studying the social and economic issues important for the farmers, hunters and authorities in the agriculture-goose conflict, including an organised goose hunt, and assess the motivation by, and feasibility of, the stakeholders entering a system based on voluntary agreements, and 3) Identifying an optimal hunting strategy that maximises the number of geese potentially harvestable through a series of predictive scenario models that take stakeholder interests and goose habitat requirements into account. One project consortium workshop was arranged in Copenhagen in May 2011. Interviews and other fieldwork have been carried out in the period 15. September to late November (still some goose counts in the area at present).

Three central cases relevant for GOOSEHUNT are listed below.

The Egge case

Egge is an area in Steinkjer municipality consisting of seven landowners/farmers that practice a common organisation of goose hunting. The leader of the association has cooperated with GOOSEHUNT since its' pilot seasons in 2008. This is a true adaptive organisation as they adjust the hunting rules and organisation to previous experiences and input data from GOOSEHUNT. The figure below illustrates the increasing bag sizes in the area over the period 2008-2011. One bachelor student has been involved in the project this autumn, and has carried out resource registrations (spilt grain counts in random plots) and goose distribution (dropping counts). Hunt statistics are provided by the leader of the association. Data from this site is also summarised on the a web page <http://home.online.no/~o-jerpst/gas.html>

The Nettet case

There are 43 landowners/farmers in Nettet landowner association in Levanger municipality. They have a long tradition and experience in organizing the goose hunt. This autumn (2011) GOOSEHUNT rented all the hunting rights at Nettet from mid-September. Information letters and hand outs were distributed, as well as signs in the terrain (see picture below). Hence, in 2011 we had our own hunting team and all information needed for our spatial models have been collected by a pre-defined time table for hunting activity (see example from late September/early October below) circulating over three assigned zones (see map). Goose numbers and distribution responded immediately to this organization. The collected data are currently being analysed.

The Skogn/Ekne/Rognland case

Based on previous negative experiences with unserious hunters and "almost-accidents" in the goose hunting period, landowners/farmers in the Skogn/Ekne/Rognland area in Levanger municipality have established a common goose hunting association ("

Innherred grunneierlag for felles forvaltning av gås") with around 100 members at present (the number of members is increasing). The association is organised in close cooperation with GOOSEHUNT, and a web site www.gasejakt.no is established where data from the hunting activity are made available and will be analysed, in parallel to our field registrations (see Figure) and implemented in the modelling exercise during the winter and spring 2011/2012.

Published Results/Planned Publications

Reports

Jensen, Tombre, Eythórsson, Madsen, Søreng & Gundersen. Gåsejakt i Nord-Trøndelag ; resultater fra høsten 2011.

NINA report in prep. – deadline 31. December

Tombre, I. M., Jensen, G. H., Madsen, J., Eythórsson, E. & Gundersen, O. M. 2011. Gåsejakt i Nord-Trøndelag. Resultater fra ulike jaktorganiseringer i 2010. – NINA Report 655, 32 s. ISBN 978-82-426-2237-2.

Earlier report from the project (summarizing the evaluation of the hunting practice)

Tombre, I. M., Madsen, J., Eythórsson, E., Søreng, S. U., Tømmervik, H. & Kristiansen, A. 2009. Jakt på kortnebbgjess i Nord-Trøndelag 2008. En evaluering og forslag til fremtidig forvaltningspraksis. NINA Rapport 431, 36 s. ISBN 978-82-426-1997-6.

Popular/Newsletter

Jensen, G.H. 2011. Jakten på den optimale jakt! www.gasejakt.no

Madsen, J. & Tombre, I.M. 2011. Internasjonal forvaltningsplan for kortnebbgås; – de norske jegere og grunneiere får en viktig rolle og kan få store fordeler, men det krever samarbeid og ansvarlighet! NINA-notat 3 ss, www.gasejakt.no

Tombre, I. M. & Gundersen, O. M. 2011. Gåsejakt på Nesset høsten 2011. Handouts for jaktkortsalsteder, sportsbutikker, etc. 1 s.

Tombre, I. M., Jensen, G.H. & Gundersen, O. M. 2011. Til grunneiere i Nesset grunneierlag. Informasjon om et gåseprosjekt i Nord-Trøndelag. NINA informasjonsnotat, 2 s.

Conferences/Workshops

Tombre I. M. "Kortnebbgås i Nord-Trøndelag: En mulighet for jaktinteresserte, men en utfordring for landbruket..." Naturdatas viltkonferanse 2011: Framtidig forvaltning av storvilt og småvilt. Stjørdal 3. og 4. november 2011.

Tombre, I. M. "GOOSEHUNT – møte i referansegruppen 25.oktober 2011. Hvor er vi etter 10 måneder og hva gjør vi videre; noen resultater, noen erfaringer og innspill fra dere." Fylkesmannens hus Steinkjer 25. oktober 2011.

Gundersen, O.M. & Jensen, G. H. "Gåsejakkurs 2011; kortnebbgås (Anser brachyrhynchus) og grågås (Anser anser). Presentasjon av GOOSEHUNT-prosjektet, internasjonal flywayplan med mer". Gåsejakkurs arrangert av Trondheim Jeger og Fisk, Levanger 7.-9. Oktober 2011.

Tombre, I.M. & Madsen, J. "Svalbardbestanden av kortnebbgås; utfordringer på vårrast, jaktmuligheter om høsten og internasjonale forvaltningsprosesser". Fagsamling Viltforvaltning 2011, Direktoratet for naturforvaltning og Fylkesmenn. Jægtvolden Fjordhotell, 3.-5. mai.

Communicated Results

A. Numerous constructive discussions with farmers and local authority during field work

B. Meetings in the reference group

Two meetings have been arranged in 2011; one in February in Stjørdal and one in October in Steinkjer. At these meetings we presented the concept and work plan for an attainment of acceptance and participation in providing management initiatives which can be scientifically tested. Results in progress were presented and suggestions for adjustments were given by the reference group. Our experiences with the reference group are extremely good; it is very useful for our scientific implementation of plans, as well as giving a broader acceptance for the project in the conflict situation geese/agriculture at a local and regional scale. Several members of the reference group in GOOSEHUNT are also members in the reference group for MIGRAPOP.

C. Internet

Innherred samkommune; orientering om gåsejakt

<http://www.innherred-samkommune.no/tjenester/landbruk/natur/gasejakt/gasejakt.html>

" GOOSEHUNT; Reduksjon av beiteskader forårsaket av migrerende gjess ved hjelp av bestandskontroll."

Informasjon om prosjektet: Statens landbruksforvaltnings nettsider (fra medio mai 2011): www.slf.dep.no/no/fou

"Reduksjon av beiteskader forårsaket av migrerende gjess ved hjelp av bestandskontroll (GOOSEHUNT)"

Nyhets sak hjemmesidene til Grønn forskning i Midt-Norge", 12. april 2011 <http://www.oimat.no/gfmm/210-gaaseforskning-gir-resultater.html>

"Gåseforskning gir resultater" - Nyhetssak NINAs hjemmesider 10/3-2011

"Gåsejakt i Nord-Trøndelag; gode erfaringer med felles jaktorganisering"

<http://www.nina.no/Aktuelt/Artikkel/tabid/945/ArticleId/1200/Gode-erfaringer-med-organisering-av-gasejakten-i-Nord-Trondelag.aspx>

Nyhets sak NIKUs hjemmesider

"Gås i sikte"

http://www.niku.no/no/nordomrade/forskning_i_nord/G%C3%A5s+i+sikte.9UFRjO4N.ips

Interdisciplinary Cooperation

An interdisciplinary approach is vital for this project (see earlier project description). Biological (empirical studies and modeling) and sociological expertise are involved. The project has a holistic approach. We can't see any negative aspects within the project consortium. Most of the members have cooperated for years and developed a cost-effective way of working.

Budget in accordance to results

The funding from the Fram Centre has been used as the planned own funding in the project, which already had external funding from the Research Council and the environmental and agricultural authorities. Without this, the budget would have been in a negative balance. Hence, the Fram Centre funding has been absolutely vital (and acknowledged!) for project implementation.

If Yes

In tandem with GOOSEHUNT a local initiative has established an internet portal for reservation of hunting fields. Payments can be done here, and farmers/landowners may also "block"/open their properties for hunting depending on their interest/wishes. This will, however, only be done in communication with the steering committee of this initiative (see result section) and the project GOOSEHUNT. The web-page shall be self-funding, although some start-up funding has been needed the first year. www.gasejakt.no

Conclusions

a) GOOSEHUNT will enlighten whether hunting is a tool for population control which again will reduce agricultural damage caused by geese in spring. The knowledge produced will support and facilitate sustainable agricultural practices as well as strengthen the interaction between farming, hunters, local society, other stakeholders, management and nature conservation interests. GOOSEHUNT is unique regarding the implementation of biological modelling in a process of developing an adaptive organisation and co-management based on partnership between relevant stakeholders. GOOSEHUNT has an added value through an organised hunting practice (wanted by the farmers). Organised hunting attracts more hunters leading to improved economical conditions (future gains from hunting licences) and, eventually, guidelines for hunting practices can reduce the population size of geese. The environmental authority is closely involved in GOOSEHUNT. The leader of the reference group is the regional game manager of the County Governor, and GOOSEHUNT is a project with direct "user involvement" ("

prosjekt med brukermedvirkning i NFR-programmet Natur og næring"). This ensures the sustainability perspectives and data produced will provide the regional management authorities in Nord-Trøndelag with information directly relevant for the follow-up of the regional management plan for pink-footed geese. At the international level, a process has recently been launched to develop an adaptive flyway management plan for the Svalbard population of pink-footed geese (under the auspices of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement, funded by the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management and coordinated by Dr. Jesper Madsen, Aarhus University). One of the objectives is to ensure that the increased hunting pressure planned in Norway is sustainable and can be managed by international agreements and regulations. This is the first adaptive flyway plan to be implemented in Europe, and our GOOSEHUNT project results and experiences are nested in the flyway plan and are of pivotal importance for the guidance of process.