

# Urge Welsh Government to ban shooting of white-fronted geese

## About white-fronted geese

White-fronted geese are amongst the rarest wintering geese populations in the UK, and make remarkable journeys for such large birds. Each autumn the globally endangered Greenland white-fronted geese leave their breeding grounds in the distant tundras of west Greenland to migrate across ice caps and oceans to spend the winter in the British Isles, including here in Wales. Their commoner cousins, European white-fronted geese, carry out a similar journey migrating all the way from Siberia.

Greenland white-fronted geese are now almost extinct in Wales, with just a handful wintering on the internationally protected Dyfi estuary, while European white-fronted geese have also seen sharp declines.

## How you can help

Please respond to the Welsh Government consultation and urge them to **adopt option 1, a total ban** on shooting white-fronted geese in Wales at all times of year.

Here are some points you might want to include in your message:

- Only a total ban on shooting white-fronted geese across Wales at all times of year can ensure that they are fully protected and not mistakenly shot.
- The Greenland white-fronted goose is now under threat of extinction in Wales and so the Welsh Government has a legal and moral responsibility to ban any shooting of them.
- European white-fronted geese have also seen sharp declines in the UK in recent years and so require the same protection.
- The Well-being of Future Generations Act is about to come into force, which calls for a resilient Wales, with a biodiverse natural environment. Ensuring a biodiverse natural environment means saving species like white-fronted geese by giving them full protection, not relying on a voluntary ban.

The consultation will close on **7 March 2016**. You can email your responses to:

[natureconservation@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:natureconservation@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

Or write to:

Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Branch, Welsh Government, Rhodfa Padarn, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, SY23 3UR

If you've taken action to save these threatened birds then please help us monitor the progress of the campaign by emailing or posting a copy of your letter to Matthew Ford, Policy Advocate, at [campaigns.wales@rspb.org.uk](mailto:campaigns.wales@rspb.org.uk) or RSPB Cymru, Wales Headquarters, Castlebridge 3, 5-19 Cowbridge Road East, Cardiff, CF11 9AB.

**Thank you for joining us to make a difference and speak up for nature.**