

ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF LESSER SNOW GOOSE AND CACKLING GOOSE COMPETITION ON BREEDING ATLANTIC BRANT

Atlantic brant (*Branta bernicla hrota*) (hereafter brant) populations have experienced long-term fluctuations as estimated from Mid-winter waterfowl surveys. However recent population estimates show the brant population may have declined in the last decade. One possible explanation may be competition from increasing numbers of lesser snow geese (*Chen caerulescens caerulescens*) and cackling geese (*Branta hutchinsii*) breeding in the Foxe Basin. We propose to use careful monitoring of behaviors, time budgets, and reproductive success among lesser snow geese, cackling geese, and Atlantic brant at East Bay, Southampton Island, during the 2014 and 2015 breeding seasons. Our objective is to determine if increasing numbers of snow geese and cackling geese cause declines in productivity of Atlantic brant that lead to a lower population size.

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