

Atlantic Population (AP) Canada Goose Status Report -July 16, 2022

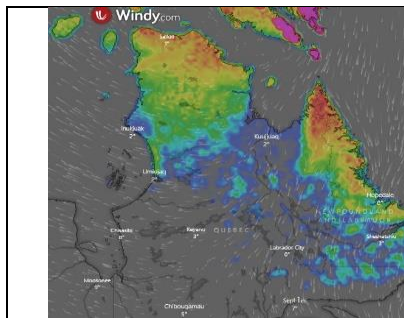
The international border between the U.S. and Canada was open and most travel restrictions related to COVID-19 have been eliminated allowing for travel between the two countries. Accordingly, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) biologists were able to conduct the Atlantic Population (AP) Canada Goose Breeding Pair survey for the first time since 2019 and AP Canada goose banding is scheduled for early August. Data from these monitoring efforts will help inform population models that use both existing and long term data to generate estimates of important metrics used to manage these birds. More detailed information will be available later this year.

Current Outlook for AP Production

AP Canada geese nest mainly on the Ungava Peninsula in northern Quebec. Gosling production is typically greatest when the spring thaw occurs in mid-to-late May. Conversely, a mid-June thaw forecasts lower goose productivity.

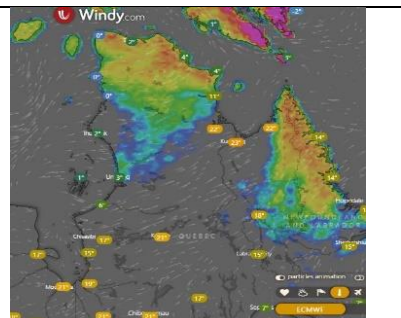
The average May temperature from the eastern Ungava Peninsula (near Kuujuaq, PQ) for May 2022 was 34°F. This is slightly below the long-term average (34.7°F) and below last year's 38°F May temperature, but well above 2018's abnormally low (23°F) May temperature. The maps below depict the snow cover on the Ungava Peninsula in late May during 2021 and 2022.

A model that uses the average May temperature and June snowfall data to predict gosling production forecasts **average** AP gosling production year for 2022. This is the second year in a row with predicted average production and represents encouraging news for the AP goose population after several years of below-average to poor production. Although season length and bag-limits for the upcoming 2022-2023 hunting year are already set, the U.S. and Canadian Wildlife Service staff will meet with the Atlantic Flyway Council in August, 2022 to develop proposals for the 2023-2024 season. Those proposals will be posted and offered for comment during MD DNR's normal public review process that will begin in February, 2023 with final seasons submitted to the USFWS by mid-April, 2023.



Snow and Ice Cover Map for the Ungava Peninsula, PQ, **May 31, 2022** (gray color = snow free areas Red/orange = deeper snow)

[*photo from Windyweather.com](https://www.windy.com)



Snow and Ice Cover Map for the Ungava Peninsula, PQ, **May 31, 2021** (gray color = snow free areas Red/orange = deeper snow)

[*photo from Windyweather.com](https://www.windy.com)