

Atlantic Population (AP) Canada Goose Status Report -July 16, 2021

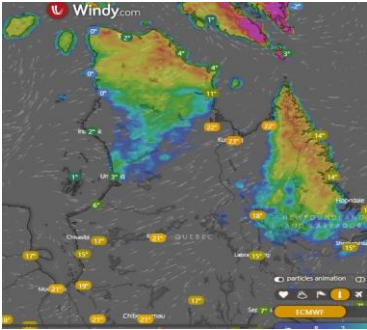
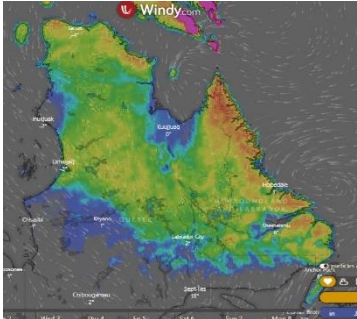
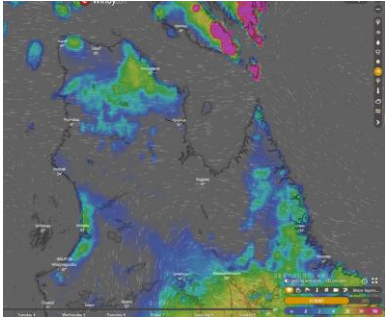
COVID-19 human health concerns forced the closure of the international border between Canada and the United States. This closure, and other COVID-related conflicts forced the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Canadian Wildlife Service to cancel the 2020 and 2021 Atlantic Population (AP) Canada Goose Breeding Pair Survey and pre-season banding operations. This data gap is a concern to biologists but population models utilizing existing and historic data effectively bridge any short-term information gaps borne of the pandemic.

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 2021 was 38°F. This is above the long-term average (34°F); above last year's 30.5°F May temperature; and well above 2018's abnormally low (23°F) May temperature. The maps below depict the snow cover on the Ungava Peninsula in late May from 2019-2021.

A scientifically-sound model used the average May temperature and June snowfall data to predict an **average** AP gosling production year for 2021. This is encouraging news for the AP goose population after several years of below-average or poor production. Although season length and bag-limits for the upcoming 2021-2022 hunting year are already set, the U.S. and Canadian Wildlife Service staff will meet with the Atlantic Flyway Council in August, 2021 to develop proposals for the 2022-2023 season. Those proposals will be reviewed and offered for comment during MD DNR's normal public review process that will begin in February, 2022 with final seasons submitted to the USFWS by mid-April, 2022.

		
<p>Snow and Ice Cover Map for the Ungava Peninsula, PQ, May 31, 2021 (gray color = snow free areas Red/orange = deeper snow)</p> <p>*photo from Windyweather.com</p>	<p>Snow and Ice Cover Map for the Ungava Peninsula, PQ, May 30, 2020 (gray color = snow free areas red/orange = deeper snow)</p> <p>*photo from Windyweather.com</p>	<p>Snow and Ice Cover Map for the Ungava Peninsula, PQ, May 31, 2019 (gray color = snow free areas red/orange = deeper snow)</p> <p>*photo from Windyweather.com</p>