

# Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) – 2009-2012 version

Available for download from [http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key\\_ris\\_index.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key_ris_index.htm).

*Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX.22 of the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005).*

## Notes for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.
2. Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 7, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B). A 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Handbook, incorporating these amendments, is in preparation and will be available in 2006.
3. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

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### 1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

Miljøfaglig Utredning AS commissioned by Norwegian  
Directorate for Nature Management, Tungasletta 2, 7485  
Trondheim  
Tlf +47 73580500  
Fax: +47 73580501  
E-mail: [postmottak@dirnat.no](mailto:postmottak@dirnat.no)

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

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### 2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

August 2012

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### 3. Country:

Norway

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### 4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Harøya Wetlands System: Lyngholman  
(International No. 806, National No. 19)

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### 5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:

This RIS is for (tick one box only):

- a) Designation of a new Ramsar site ☐; or  
b) Updated information on an existing Ramsar site ☒

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### 6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:

#### a) Site boundary and area

The Ramsar site boundary and site area are unchanged: ☐

or

If the site boundary has changed:

- i) the boundary has been delineated more accurately ☒; or

- i) the boundary has been extended ☐; or
- iii) the boundary has been restricted\*\* ☐

and/or

**If the site area has changed:**

- i) the area has been measured more accurately ☐; or
- ii) the area has been extended ☐; or
- iii) the area has been reduced\*\* ☐

\*\* Important note: If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

**b) Describe briefly any major changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site:**

None

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**7. Map of site:**

Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps, including digital maps.

**a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:**

- i) a hard copy (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): ☒;
- ii) an electronic format (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) ☒;
- iii) a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables ☐;

**b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:**

e.g. the boundary is the same as an existing protected area (nature reserve, national park etc.), or follows a catchment boundary, or follows a geopolitical boundary such as a local government jurisdiction, follows physical boundaries such as roads, follows the shoreline of a waterbody, etc.

The boundary is the same as for the Lyngholman Nature Reserve.

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**8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):**

62° 48'N 06° 29'E

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**9. General location:**

Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s), and the location of the nearest large town.

Lyngholman is situated on the north-west side of the island of Fimnøy in Sandøy municipality in the county of Møre og Romsdal, about 40 km north-east of Ålesund and 34 km west of Molde.

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**10. Elevation:** (average and/or max. & min.)

0 – 12 m.a.s.l.

**11. Area:** (in hectares)

65.9 ha, of which 35.3 ha is sea

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**12. General overview of the site:**

Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland.

Lyngholman has a relatively large flat shore with some smaller crags and islets, and an adjacent area of shallow water and mudbanks exposed at low tide. The area is grazed by cattle. The salt marshes are especially valuable with an interesting flora and well developed seashore communities. In addition the area is important as a breeding and staging site for wetland birds, in particular ducks and waders.

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**13. Ramsar Criteria:**

Circle or underline each Criterion applied to the designation of the Ramsar site. See Annex II of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* for the Criteria and guidelines for their application (adopted by Resolution VII.11).

1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8

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#### 14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13. above:

Provide justification for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of justification).

Criterion 1. The area has a good selection of salt marsh and brackish meadows, which are representative for the region.

Criterion 2. The site is used by some red listed bird species. The most common is Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle* (VU, Annex III Berne Convention) and Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* (EN, Annex III Berne Convention) See also point 20. Red list categories are given according to the national red list 2010.

Criterion 4. Harøya wetland system and Lyngholman is considered important for migrating and wintering birds. During migration there are a few places along the Norwegian coast of great importance for migrating birds, Harøya wetland system is considered to be one of them. Harøya is also important for wintering birds with a connection to the sea. See also point 22.

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#### 15. Biogeography (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):

Name the relevant biogeographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the biogeographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

##### a) biogeographic region:

1. Southern boreal vegetation zone, highly oceanic section (Sb – O3).
2. Atlantic

##### b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

1. Zonal division showing the variation in vegetation from south to north and from the lowlands to the mountains, and sectional graduation showing the variation between the coast and inland (In: Moen, A. 1998. Nasjonalatlas for Norge; vegetasjon. Statens kartverk, Hønefoss).
2. EU Habitat directive 92/43/EEC

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#### 16. Physical features of the site:

Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; downstream area; general climate, etc.

Geology	The bedrock is mostly gneiss and schist containing mica and/or amphibolite-rich gneiss which has metamorphosed due to high pressure and/or temperature during either the Proterozoic or Cambrian period. Quartergeologically one finds marine deposits in the south and bare mountain in the north.
Geomorphology	The area is part of a flat coastal landscape formed by rising landmass, and is partly surrounded by smaller knolls.
Substrate / soil type	Clay, silt, stone and rock dominate in the flatter parts, whereas peat and some raw humus occur on and near the knolls.
Water depth / fluctuations	Large area of shallow water. The variation between high and low tides measured at Ålesund averages annually 123 cm.
Climate	The site has a highly oceanic climate with mild winters and relatively cool summers. Annual precipitation is 1000 – 1500 mm.

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#### 17. Physical features of the catchment area:

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, general land use, and climate (including climate type).

The site lies on the north-west side of the island Finnøya, which is connected to Harøya by a causeway and a bridge. There are scattered dwellings and farmland in the east and the south. Finnøya is a very small island which is a little undulating with some farmland between the knolls.

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### 18. Hydrological values:

Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.

The rocky shore is important for shoreline stabilization. The Harøya wetland system lies on an island at the western parts of Norway. This kind of islets has a large impact on sea streams and local climate.

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### 19. Wetland Types

#### a) presence:

Circle or underline the applicable codes for the wetland types of the Ramsar “Classification System for Wetland Type” present in the Ramsar site. Descriptions of each wetland type code are provided in Annex I of the *Explanatory Notes & Guidelines*.

Marine/coastal: A • B • C • D • E • F • G • H • I • J • K • Zk(a)

Inland: L • M • N • O • P • Q • R • Sp • Ss • Tp • Ts • U • Va •  
Vt • W • Xf • Xp • Y • Zg • Zk(b)

Human-made: 1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9 • Zk(c)

#### b) dominance:

List the wetland types identified in a) above in order of their dominance (by area) in the Ramsar site, starting with the wetland type with the largest area.

A, G, H, B, U

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### 20. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site.

Salt marsh, brackish communities and seaweed communities cover most of the area, which is surrounded by smaller knolls with moor and marsh. The tidal zone is varied and consists of rocks, stone, gravel, sand, clay and silt and is important for breeding, staging and wintering waders, gulls and other species associated with tidal habitats. The shallow waters are vast and important for cormorants, gulls, divers, grebes and wildfowl. Sea mammals include Harbour Seal *Phoca vitulina* (VU, Ann. III Berne Convention) and probably Otter *Lutra lutra* (VU, Ann. II Berne Convention).

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### 21. Noteworthy flora:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

Two nationally red-listed species of fungi are found in grazed pastures, namely *Geoglossum cookeianum* (NT) and *Geoglossum fallax*, both of which are associated with natural pastures with little fertilising. Other noteworthy plant species are *Veronica arvensis*, *Aira praecox*, *Luzula campestris*, and *Senecio aquaticus*.

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### 22. Noteworthy fauna:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc., including count data. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

**Mammals:**

There is reason to believe that both otter *Lutra lutra* (VU) and harbour porpoise *Phoca vitulina* (VU) are present in the area.

**Birds:**

As for breeding birds then the greatest interest is for the *schinzii* subspecies of Dunlin *Caladris alpina*, , even though there are a lack of records in recent years. Several other waders and ducks nest in the area, such as tTurnstone *Arenaria interpres*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* and Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*.

The area is also important for staging wetland birds, not least for waders. The area is also important for wintering waders. Count data is lacking, although several hundred individuals are present both in autumn and during winter.

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**23. Social and cultural values:**

a) Describe if the site has any general social and/or cultural values e.g., fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values:

No

b) Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning?

If Yes, tick the box ☐ and describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

- i) sites which provide a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland:
- ii) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:
- iii) sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples:
- iv) sites where relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland:

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**24. Land tenure/ownership:**

(a) within the Ramsar site: Private

(b) in the surrounding area: Private

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**25. Current land (including water) use:**

(a) within the Ramsar site:

The area is probably used for walking, hobby fishing and some birdwatching. There are some livestock grazing the site.

(b) in the surroundings/catchment:

The town of Steinshamn is a little south of the site, which is on Harøya. There is some scattered buildings and traditional (intensive) farming.

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**26 Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:**

(a) within the Ramsar site:

It is uncertain as to what effects the roads and causeway have on currents and sedimentation within the site. Grazing of the lower salt marsh has resulted in erosion.

(b) in the surrounding area:

There are shelter belts beside, and along the boundary of the site. Industry in Steinshamn represents a potential pollution threat.

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**27. Conservation measures taken:**

a) List national and/or international category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site:

In particular, if the site is partly or wholly a World Heritage Site and/or a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, please give the names of the site under these designations.

Harøya Wetland System was afforded protection on 27th May 1988, with Lyngholman nature reserve as one of four sub-sites.

b) If appropriate, list the IUCN (1994) protected areas category/ies which apply to the site (tick the box or boxes as appropriate):

Ia ☒; Ib ☐; II ☐; III ☐; IV ☐; V ☐; VI ☐

c) Does an officially approved management plan exist; and is it being implemented?:  
Yes (2010)

d) Describe any other current management practices:

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**28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:**

e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

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**29. Current scientific research and facilities:**

e.g., details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.  
None

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**30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:**

e.g. visitors' centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

An information booklet is produced by the management authorities, comprising all the Ramsar sites in Møre and Romsdal county.

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**31. Current recreation and tourism:**

State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

The area is occasionally visited by birdwatchers, in particular members of the Møre og Romsdal branch of the Norwegian Ornithological Society (NOF).

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**32. Jurisdiction:**

Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management (DN), Tungasletta 2, 7485 Trondheim

Ph +47 73580500

Fax +47 73580501

Email: [postmottak@dirnat.no](mailto:postmottak@dirnat.no)

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**33. Management authority:**

Provide the name and address of the local office(s) of the agency(ies) or organisation(s) directly responsible for managing the wetland. Wherever possible provide also the title and/or name of the person or persons in this office with responsibility for the wetland.

The site is managed by the County Governor of Møre og Romsdal, which is under the instruction of DN  
Address: County Governor of Møre og Romsdal, Fylkeshusa, 6404 Molde, Norway. Phone +47  
71258443. E-mail: [postmottak@fmmr.no](mailto:postmottak@fmmr.no)

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### **34. Bibliographical references:**

scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 13 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

#### **Botanical and management plans:**

Holten, J. I., Frisvoll, A. A. & Aune, E. I. 1986. Havstrand i Møre og Romsdal. Lokalitetsbeskrivelser. Økoforsk rapport 1986:3B. . (In Norwegian – descriptions of coastal sites in Møre og Romsdal).

Jordal, J. B. 2005. Kartlegging av naturtyper i Sandøy kommune. Ressurssenteret i Tingvoll, rapport nr. 1 2005. 73 s. (In Norwegian – on mapping of vegetation types in Sandøy municipality).

#### **Birds:**

Folkestad, A. O. 1978. Fylkesvis oversikt over ornitologisk viktige våtmarksområder i Norge. Møre og Romsdal. Miljøverndepartementet juni 1978. (In Norwegian – On important wetlands in Møre og Romsdal).

Fylkesmannen i Møre og Romsdal, Miljøvernavdelinga 1982. Utkast til verneplan for våtmarksområde i Møre og Romsdal. Fylkesmannen i Møre og Romsdal, Miljøvernavdelinga. 224 s. (In Norwegian – Draft management plan for wetlands in Møre og Romsdal).

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