

# 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.

---

### 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)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD MM YY

--	--	--

Designation date

--	--	--	--	--	--

Site Reference Number

---

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

August 2012

---

### 3. Country:

Norway

---

### 4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Harøya Wetlands system: Selvikvågen  
(International No. 806, National No. 19)

---

### 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 ☒

---

### 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

---

**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 Selvikvaagen Nature Reserve.

---

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

62° 46'N 06° 26'E

---

**9. General location:**

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

Selvikvågen is situated on the north of Harøya in Sandøy municipality in the county of Møre og Romsdal, about 38 km north-east of Ålesund and 36 km west of Molde.

---

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

0 – 16 m.a.s.l.

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

47.1 ha of which 30.6 ha is sea

---

**12. Overview:**

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

Selvikvågen is situated on the north of Harøya. In general the area is relatively exposed to the sea, although several small islands afford relatively good protection. The outer part is shallow and graduates into relatively large areas of mudbanks, which are exposed at low tide. There are well developed salt marshes which graduate into walls of seaweed, damp meadows and boggy ground. The area is of major importance for staging and wintering wetland species, and also as a breeding site. In addition the coast is botanically important.

---

### 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

---

### 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 includes well developed salt marshes which are representative for the region.

Criterion 4. The area is important for wintering, migrating and to some extent breeding wetland birds and is an important part of the wetland system in and around Harøya. See also pt. 22.

---

### 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

---

### 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 mainly gneiss and schist containing mica, metamorphosed due to high pressure and or temperature during the Proterozoic and/or Cambrian period. Quartergeologically there is bare rock and some marine deposits.
Geomorphology	Selvikvågen is part of a flat coastal landscape formed by rising landmass. There are some knolls and islands surrounding the site.
Substrate / Soil type	Large parts of the site are covered in peat and some raw humus. Otherwise there are areas with silt, clay, sand, gravel, stone and rocks, and probably some boggy soil around a stream in the inner part.
Water depth / fluctuations	Selvikvågen has large areas of shallow water, exposed at low tide. The difference between high and low water is 123 cm on average, measured at Ålesund.
Climate	The site has a highly oceanic climate with mild winters and relatively cool summers. Annual precipitation is 1000 – 1500 mm.

---

### 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 area is partly undulating and partly flat and is situated on the north side of Harøya. There are scattered buildings and traditional (intensive) farming with grass production and grazing. There is a small stone quarry east of the site.

---

### 18. Hydrological values:

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

The site is important for shoreline stabilization. The peatland also have an effect in CO<sub>2</sub>-accumulation.

---

## 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.

G, A, U, H, D

---

## 20. General ecological features:

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

The littoral zone include areas of salt marshes, brackish water communities, seaweed pile communities and coastal marsh which are important for breeding birds and staging and wintering waders and wildfowl. The moor and marshes are important for gulls throughout the year. The tidal and shallow waters are of value for nesting, staging and wintering waders, gulls, wildfowl, cormorants, divers and grebes.

---

## 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.*

A few regionally rare species are recorded in the area, such as *Aira praecox*, *Luzula campestris*, *Ranunculus sceleratus* as well as the responsibility species *Senecio aquaticus*.

---

## 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 Seal *Phoca vitulina* (VU) are resident in the area.

### Birds:

As far as breeding birds are concerned, the occurrence of the *schinzii* race of Dunlin *Caladris alpina* is of particular interest, although there are no recent confirmed breeding records. Also several waders and duck nest in the area, including Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*.

The area is also important for staging wetland birds, especially waders. Data is lacking, although several hundred can gather in autumn, for example 150 Dunlin. The area is also important as a wintering site for waders, ducks and grebes.

The Norwegian Red List 2010 is used.

---

**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:

None

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:

---

**24. Land tenure/ownership:**

(a) within the Ramsar site: Private

(b) in the surrounding area: Private

---

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

(a) within the Ramsar site:

The bird protection area is used for walking, hobby fishing and birdwatching. It is uncertain as to what degree the area has been grazed in recent years.

(b) in the surroundings/catchment:

The area is relatively screened behind hills although there is a little farming in the east.

---

**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: None known

(b) in the surrounding area:

There is a planted forest area outside the boundary and it is considered desirable to remove this. It is some agricultural run-off into a stream east of the site. There are also several shelter belts along and outside the reserve boundary.

---

**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 received protection on 27th May 1988, with Selvigvågen 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

**d)** Describe any other current management practices:

No

---

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

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

None.

---

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

e.g., details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

None

---

**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.

---

**31. Current recreation and tourism:**

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

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

---

**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)

---

**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)

---

**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. Ressurscenteret i Tingvoll, rapport nr. 12005. 73 s. (In Norwegian – on habitat mapping 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).

---

Please return to: **Ramsar Convention Bureau, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland**  
Telephone: +41 22 999 0170 • Fax: +41 22 999 0169 • e-mail: [ramsar@ramsar.org](mailto:ramsar@ramsar.org)