

INFORMATION SHEET ON RAMSAR WETLANDS

Country: Germany

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Name of wetland: Krakower Obersee

Date of Ramsar designation: 10 October 1978

Geographical coordinates: 53°38'N 12°18'E

General location: Bundesland Mecklenburg-Vorpommern 60 km E-SE of Schwerin

Area: 870 ha

Wetland type: O

Altitude: The site lies between 47.6 m and 50 m above sea level.

Overview: Meso- to eutrophic lake with very varying water depths and 8 islands, which is an important breeding and resting area. Breeding colonies of *Larus ridibundus* and *Sterna hirundo* and feeding site for *Haliaeetus albicilla* and *Pandion haliaetus*.

Physical features: The lively landscape and the island world of the Krakower Obersee was caused by complicated glacial formations (accurate translation not possible!). A small river, Nebel, a tributary of the Warnow, flows through the Krakower Obersee. Maximum depth of the river is 27 m. There are some fossile terraces, of which the youngest developed through an artificial sinking of the lake as recent as 1830. The water quality today is impaired by agricultural run-off. The climate is influenced by the Atlantic Ocean with an annual precipitation of 620 mm and an average annual temperature of 7.9 °C.

Ecological features: Most islands feature natural woods with *Fagus* ?? (copper beech), *Ulmus montana*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, oak, and both types of lime-tree. The island of Werder consists of grazing pasture. The shore vegetation consists of reeds and tall sedges, alder carr and willow shrubs.

Land tenure/ownership of

a) site: predominantly owned by the Bundesland of Mecklenburg/Vorpommern

b) surrounding area: Bundesland and private ownership

Conservation measures taken: The site is subject to management guidelines drawn up for nature reserves.

Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: none.

Current land use: principal human activities in

a) site: fisheries, agriculture.

b) surroundings/catchment: fisheries, agriculture.

Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects

a) at the site: Deterioration of the water quality as a result of agricultural run-offs; at present declining problem due to retrogressive production.

b) in the surroundings/catchment: as for site.

Hydrological and physical values: no special values

Social and cultural values: fisheries (trout rearing)

Noteworthy fauna:

- Largest colony of *Sterna hirundo* in inland north-eastern Germany (ca. 200 breeding pairs);
- large colony of *Larus ridibundus* (5,000 breeding pairs);
- Breeding site for *Botaurus stellaris*, *Tringa totanus*, *Gallinago gallinago*, *Anser anser*, *Bucephala clangula*, *Aythya fuligula*, *Circus aeruginosus*;
- Resting site for nordic geese, dabbling- and diving ducks.

Noteworthy flora: *Zanichellia palustris* and similar species; some patches with *Potamogeton lucentis*;

Current scientific research and facilities: Ornithological population monitoring has been carried out for years. Research into breeding success, particularly of *Sterna hirundo* is carried out annually.

Current conservation education: Guided tours take place regularly. Many educational nature TV programmes have been produced at the site.

Current recreation and tourism: Tourism is virtually excluded from the site, apart from a sight-seeing boat trip that visits Krakower Obersee during the summer season.

Management authority: Ministerin für Umwelt und Natur Schwerin, regional responsible: Wolfgang Neubauer

Jurisdiction: Ministerium für Umwelt und Natur Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

Bibliographical references:

- H. Weinitzschke (editor) Handbuch der Naturschutzgebiete der DDR; Band 1, Leipzig-Jena-Berlin 1980;

(Handbook of nature reserves in the GDR, Vol. 1)

Reasons for inclusion: 1 (a), 2 (a) (b), 3 (b)

Map of site: not enclosed!