

## INFORMATION SHEET ON RAMSAR WETLANDS

**Country:** Germany

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**Name of wetland:** Chiemsee

**Date of Ramsar designation:** 25.02.76

**Geographical coordinates:** 47°52'N 12°29'E

**General location:** Bundesland Bayern, in the pre-alpine area, ca. 14 km W of Traunstein, to the north of the Munich-Salzburg motorway (A 8; E 11).

**Area:** 8,500 ha

**Wetland type:** O

**Altitude:** 518 m above sea level

**Overview:** Natural freshwater lake with extensive natural shore vegetation and hydro-seral areas. Many towns on the lake feature leisure facilities. There is a deltaic rivermouth to the south with wide floodplains [could also be mudflats]. There are large moorlands to the south (mostly cultivated for agriculture).

**Physical features:** The lake lies in a once-glaciated basin. It draws water from many streams and rivers. Most of the water comes from the Alpine "Tiroler Achen". Maximum water depth 74 m, mean depth 26 m. Freshwater, pH 8-8.7. Annual precipitation 1,293 mm; highest precipitation June to August. Average temperature 7-8°C. Mean air temperature May-June 13-15°C.

**Ecological features:** Extensive water areas mainly free of vegetation; extensive hydro-seral areas of various types; natural shore vegetation with reed beds (*Phragmites communis*) dominant, partially surrounded by willow shrubs and adjacent alder-meadow woods.

Surroundings: peatlands, pasture and arable land, woods.

**Land tenure/ownership of**

**a) site:** water body 100% government owned, other areas privately owned.

**b) surrounding area:** government and private ownership

**Conservation measures taken:** Nature Reserve "Mündung der Tiroler

Ache" [=mouth of the Tiroler Ache], 1,250 ha, 01.01.87: drainage prohibited; agriculture and forestry, access and leisure activities restricted; localized fishing and waterfowl hunting. Protected spawning sites for fish.

**Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:** Designation of extensive areas as Nature Reserve. Declaration of 4 protection areas for wintering waterfowl with prohibited hunting and temporal restriction of leisure activities. Management of recreational use. No further development of shore areas worthy of protection.

**Current land use: principal human activities in**

**a) site:** Leisure facilities such as bathing sites, camp sites, boating harbours, shore paths, catering facilities for tourism (hotels, restaurants). Leisure activities like swimming, boating, surfing and mainly sailing. Hunting, fishing.

**b) surroundings/catchment:** agriculture, forestry, hunting, settlements.

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

**a) at the site:** Extension of the leisure activities and tourism. Further development of the area for tourism. Intensification of agriculture (for instance conversion from moor-meadows to arable land).

**b) in the surroundings/catchment:** no information available.

**Hydrological and physical values:** no information supplied.

**Social and cultural values:** recreation and tourism, fishing, agriculture.

**Noteworthy fauna:** Water birds: Internationally important resting- and wintering area.

Examples for maximum day counts in recent years:

Water birds: total 36,108 (16.11.91)

*Aythya fuligula* 13,343 (16.11.91)

*Aythya ferina* 3,401 (15.11.88)

*Netta rufina* 699 (16.11.91)

*Podiceps cristatus* 108 (15.10.88)

*Anas clypeata* 85 (17.11.90)

Important resting area for other groups of birds for example waders, gulls, terns.

Further: a few individuals of *Haliaeetus albicilla*, and *Numenius arquata* with a maximum of 50 birds regularly winter at Chiemsee.

Also: breeding site for many endangered bird species.

**Noteworthy flora:** Diverse vegetation zones on the southern and western shore of the lake feature a large number of rare and endangered plant species. In near-natural wood areas are massive colonies of *Leucojum vernum*. *Iris sibirica* is getting established in larger meadows. Also occurring are the rare species *Liparis loeselii* and *Orchis palustris*.

**Current scientific research and facilities:** International waterfowl counts are carried out. Collection and analysis of data collected by numerous bird watchers.

**Current conservation education:** Nature Conservation centre in the community of Uebersee (exhibition, information material).

**Current recreation and tourism:** recreational and leisure area of local and regional importance (sailing, surfing, swimming etc.).

**Management authority:** no information supplied

**Jurisdiction:** no information supplied

**Bibliographical references:**

- Bönsch, S. (1984): Naturschutzgebiet Mündung Tiroler Achen: Problemanalyse und Verbesserungsvorschläge. Diplomarbeit Universität München.  
(Nature Reserve Mouth of Tiroler Achen: Analysis of problems and proposals for improvements. Thesis, University of Munich.)
- Lohmann, M. & Hohlt G. (1989). Erste Brutnachweise für Gänsesäger *Mergus merganser* und Schellente *Bucephala clangula* am Chiemsee. Anz. orn. Ges. Bayern 28: 66-67.  
(First breeding records for *Mergus merganser* and *Bucephala clangula* on Chiemsee).

**Reasons for inclusion:** 1a); 3a), 3b), 3c).

**Map of site:** 1: 50,000 enclosed.