

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

NOTE: It is important that you read the accompanying *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document before completing this form.

1. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

January 2002

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Country:

Denmark

3. Name of wetland:

Stavns Fjord and adjacent waters.

International No. 153; National No. 14.

4. Geographical coordinates: 55°54'N, 10°40'E.

5. Altitude: (average and/or max. & min.) 0-30 m

6. Area: (in hectares) 15,450 hectares.

7. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)

Sea and fjord areas with shallow shoals and uninhabited islands, salt marshes and on higher areas, pasture. Some islands in the fjord are partially cultivated.

8. Wetland Type (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Annex I of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document.)

marine-coastal: **A** · **B** · C · D · **E** · F · G · **H** · I · J · K

inland: L · M · N · O · P · Q · R · Sp · Ss · Tp · Ts
· U · Va · Vt · W · Xf · Xp · Y · Zg · Zk

man-made: 1 · 2 · 3 · 4 · 5 · 6 · 7 · 8 · 9

Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant:

A, B, H, E.

9. Ramsar Criteria: (please circle the applicable criteria; see point 12, next page.)

1 · **2** · 3 · 4 · 5 · 6 · 7 · 8

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site: 2

10. Map of site included? Please tick *yes* -or- *no* (Please refer to the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document for information regarding desirable map traits).

11. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

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Please provide additional information on each of the following categories by attaching extra pages (please limit extra pages to no more than 10):

12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page. (Please refer to Annex II in the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document).

Criterion 2: The site is a breeding area for aquatic and salt marsh birds including species on the Danish red list e.g. *Calidris alpina*, and *Sterna albifrons*.

13. General location: (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

The site consists of coastal areas and sea territory east of Stavns Fjord, Samsø Island. Nearest town is Kolby Kås. Administrative region is Århus County.

14. Physical features: (e.g. geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth
Water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area; climate)

No specific information.

15. Hydrological values: (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilisation etc)

No specific information.

16. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)

Sea and fjord area with shallow shoals and uninhabited islands, saltmarshes and on higher area, pasture. Some islands in the fjord are partially cultivated.

17. Noteworthy flora: (indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc)

Rich marine flora in the shallow fjord.

18. Noteworthy fauna: (indicating, e.g., which species are unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important; include count data, etc.) **Bold indicates that the area is of international importance for the species concerned.**

The site is one of the most important breeding areas in Denmark for the Eider, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Greater black-backed Gull and Black Guillemot. The site is also an important staging and feeding area for waterbirds and haul-out for Common Seal on the offshore island, Bosserne.

Resting and feeding area for waterbirds including:

Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) 4,800 (1993-94)

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*) 428 (1993-94)

Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*) 76 (1995)

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) 359 (1995)

Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla*) 520 (1993-94)

Eider (*Somateria mollissima*) 2,780

Common Scooter (*Melanitta nigra*) 9,940 (1993-94)

Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) 688 (1993-95)

Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) 1500 (1993-95)

Goosander (*Mergus merganser*) 146 (1993)

Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) 4,500 (1995)

Breeding area for aquatic and salt marsh birds including *Phalacrocorax carbo*, *Anser anser*, *Somateria mollissima*, *Recurvirostra avosetta*, *Calidris alpina*, *Larus marinus*, *Cephus grylle*, *Sterna paradisaea*, *Sandwich Tern* and *Sterna albifrons*.

19. Social and cultural values: (e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site etc.)

The site is an archaeological and geological research area

20. Land tenure/ownership of: (a) site (b) surrounding area

Territorial waters, private, the State represented by the Ministry of Environment.

21. Current land use: (a) site (b) surroundings/catchment

(a) grazing (b) mainly farmland

22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects: (a) at the site (b) around the site

Until 1981, oil pollution caused by spills from ship groundings at Hatter Rev was a serious problem. However, in 1984 this risk was diminished by a physical extension of the shipping lane at Hatter Rev through the Great Belt.

A threat has been the disturbance of waterbirds by the a high-speed ferry between Århus and Kalundborg. The route for this ferry has now been changed to cross outside the Ramsar site.

The water quality is improved after alteration of the discharge of sewage near the south east corner of the area.

Until 1990, raw materials were extracted at Vejrø and contributed to erosion, especially of Vejrø. This industry has now ceased by law.

23. Conservation measures taken: (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which have been made: management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented)

Stavns Fjord and surroundings (approx. 1,525 hectares) were protected as a nature reserve in 1984 with regulations related to diving, windsurfing and the protection of raw materials in the seabed.

Stavns Fjord is (approx. 1,800 hectares) is a wildlife reserve with certain restrictions on public access and hunting. Furthermore, the offshore islands Bosserne and Lindholm (140 hectares) are closed to public access in the breeding season.

An amendment to the Ministerial Order on the wildlife reserve was issued in 1987.

Several islands in Stavns Fjord are grazed by cattle, horses and sheep for the benefit of waterbirds.

Red Fox (*vulpes vulpes*) is regulated on islands in Stavns Fjord in order to protect waterbirds.

The whole area is identical with the EU Bird Protection Area No. 31 and the EU Habitat Protection Site No. 51.

Most of the area is a Wildlife and nature reserve.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: (e.g. management plans in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area etc.)

No specific information.

25. Current scientific research and facilities: (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)

Archaeological and geological research area with a field station at Gammelholm. Ecological and biological studies on Eiders and monitoring of waterbirds and seals.

26. Current conservation education: (e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.)

Information booklet about the protection of the area.

27. Current recreation and tourism: (state if wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type and frequency/intensity)

No specific information

28. Jurisdiction: (territorial e.g. state/region and functional e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment etc.)

Nature Conservation and administration of the Ramsar Convention and EU Bird and Habitat Directives: Ministry of Environment.

The legislation on Agriculture and Fisheries: Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries.

The Nature Conservation Scheme: Århus County.

29. Management authority: (name and address of local body directly responsible for managing the wetland)

Århus Amt

Amtsgården

Lyseng Allé 1

8270 Højbjerg

Tel: 89 44 66 66

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30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

- Miljø- og Energiministeriet, Skov- og Naturstyrelsen 1996: EF-fuglebeskyttelsesområder og Ramsarområder. Kort og områdebeskrivelser, status 1995. [With an English summary]. 273 pp.
 - Miljø- og Energiministeriet, Skov- og Naturstyrelsen 1999: Birds of Danish SPAs – trends in occurrence. 119 pp.
 - Ministry of Environment and Energy, The National Forest and Nature Agency 1996: Danish Report 1996 on the Ramsar Convention, Denmark and Greenland. 105 pp. + 4 appendices.
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