

[Unofficial translation of text by J. Jenkinson, 28/9/95]

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

1. **Country:** Spain
2. **Date:** March 1993
3. **Ref:** **7ES012**
4. **Name and address of compiler:**
Xunta de Galicia
Consellaria de Agricultura, Ganderia e Montes
Servicio de Medio Ambiente Natural
C/ Juan Montes, 3-1º, Lugo
5. **Name of wetland:** Rias de Ortigueira y Ladrido
6. **Date of designation:** 28-06-1989
7. **Geographical coordinates:** 43°40'N 07°52'W
8. **General location:** Province of Coruña, closest city is
Ortigueira
9. **Area:** 2920 ha
10. **Wetland type:** A E F G
11. **Altitude:** 0-117 m

12. Overview:

Typical 'elevated' estuarine system with extensive intertidal flats.

13. Physical features:

Geology: ancient pre-Cambrian polymetamorphic zone with evidence of erosion during the Hercynian orogenesis.

Hydrology: The two main watercourses are the Mera and the Baleo.

Climate: According to the Papadakis typology, the climate is maritime-temperate. The average annual rainfall is 1,062 mm. The absolute minimum and maximum temperatures are 7.0°C and 19.5°C respectively.

14. Ecological features:

The main vegetation types are reeds and rushes.

Intermittent communities of *Zostera maritima* are to be found in the submerged muds.

Ammophila arenaria and *Pancratium maritimus* grow on the sandbanks.

The occasional clump of *Pinus pinaster* or *Eucalyptus globulus* is the be found on the estuary margins.

15. Land ownership:

a. of site: Of the total 2920 ha, 1633 ha is formed by water and intertidal areas (and therefore state owned), and the other 1267 ha are private property

b. surrounding area: no information available

16. Conservation measures taken:

Wildlife refuge (closed to hunting). The entire wetland is listed in Galicia's 'Rexistro Xeral de Espacios Naturales' as an Espacio Natural en Régimen de Protección General (nature site to which general protection provisions apply).

17. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

A natural resources development plan is being drafted.

18. Current land use: principal human activities in:

(a) site: Tourism, fishing, taking of shellfish and farming of other marine products.

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

(a) at the site: Urban pollution. Human activities on the dune system.

The avifauna is occasionally disturbed by activity on a local shooting-range.

20. Hydrological and physical values:

The two principal river channels are the Mera and the Baldao. The rest of contributing rivers are formed by small branches

21. Social and cultural values:

A zone with moderate touristic activity.

Not far from the site, the Santuario de San Andrés de Teixido is locates. This is a place with deeply rooted religious tradition.

22. Noteworthy fauna:

Migratory waterfowl are of particular importance. Anatidae: *Anas platyrhynchos*, *Anas crecca*, *Anas penelope* and *Anas clypeata*.
Waders: *Calidris alpina* (more than 1,500 individuals counted).

Noteworthy mammals: *Lutra lutra*.

23. Noteworthy flora:

Intertidal sandy flats: *Zostera marina*, *Zostera nana*, *Juncus maritimus*.

Sandy beaches and dunes: *Ammophila arenaria*, *Pancratium maritimum*.

Rear part of dunes: *Helichrysum picardi*, *Crucianella maritima* and
Linaria polygalifolia.

Dry land: *Ulex europaeus*, *Pinus pilaster*, *Eucalyptus globulus*.

24. Scientific research:

A doctorale thesis is being written on the taxocenosis of Limicoles.

25. Current conservation education:

Observing of birds and information leaflets.

26. Current recreation and tourism:

A zone of moderate touristic activity during the summertime.

27. Management authority:

Servicio de Medio Ambiente Natural
Edificio Administrativo Monelos 5ªPltª, 15008 La Coruña

28. Jurisdiction:

Territorial: Provincia de A Coruña. Municipios de Cariño y Ortigueira.

Functional: Xunta de Galicia. Consellería de Agricultura, Gandería e Montes.

29. Bibliographical references:

Dominguez, J., 1988. Taxocenosis de limicolas (Charadrii) de las rias gallegas, con especial referencia a las de Arosa y Ortigueira. Tesis doctoral. Universidad de Santiago.
Censos de Aves invernantes. Xunta de Galicia.

30. Reasons for inclusion:

1(a), 3(b).