

Ramsar Information Sheet

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1. Date this sheet was completed:

14.12.1995

2. Country:

Iceland

3. Name of wetland:

Grunnaffjörður (previously listed as Leirarvogur).

4. Geographical co-ordinates:

64°23'N 21°55'W

5. Altitude:

0

6. Area:

1470

7. Overview

Borgarfjardarsýsla, 10 km northeast of the town Akranes.

8. Wetland type:

A, B, F, G, H, J

9. Ramsar Criteria:

1b, 2a, 3a, 3b, 3c

10. Map of site included:

yes 1:50,000

11. Name and address of compiler:

Nature Conservation Council, Hlmmur 3, P.O. Box 5324, 125 Reykjavik, Iceland

12. Justification of criteria selected under point 9:

13. General location:

Borgarfjardarsýsla, 10 km northeast of the town Akranes.

14. Physical features:

Geology : Basalt formation

Geomorphology: Estuary, sheltered marine bay

Origin: Natural

Soil type and chemistry : Saline/Brackish mudflats

Hydrology : Tidal variation: 3,8 m, freshwater inflow from rivers Laxa and Leira in Leirarsveit.

Depth, fluctuations and permanence: Shallow (less than 6 m)

Intertidal and partly subtidal

Tidal variation : 3,8 m permanent

Climate: Oceanic, subarctic

15. Hydrological values:

River mouth and estuary in a natural state.

16. Ecological features:

Seabay, estuarine mudflats rich in invertebrates, musselbanks, saltmarsh

17. Noteworthy flora:

none

18. Noteworthy fauna:

Important staging area for *Branta bernicla hrota* (up to 4400 in 1995) and *Calidris canutus* (up to 7000). Large numbers of breeding *Somateria mollissima* and wintering *Calidris maritima* (up to 1000) and *Haematopus ostralegus* (up to 1000).

19. Social and cultural values:

see current land use

20. Land tenure/ownership of:

(a) site : private

(b) surrounding area : private

21. Current land use/principal human activities:

(a) site : recreation. Collection of eider down.

Small scale gravel mining

(b) surroundings/catchment : farming, salmon fishing, recreation

22. Factors adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects:

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23. Conservation measures taken:

Nature reserve; according to regulation B, no. 548/1994.

Regulation protects landscape and bans hunting in the area.

Area boundary defined by high-tide mark.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

nil.

25. Current scientific and research facilities:

none.

26. Current conservation education:

none.

27. Current recreation and tourism:

Only local recreation of low intensity.

28. Jurisdiction:

Two municipalities: Skilamannahreppur, Leirar- og Melahreppur in County of Borgarfjaroarsysla.

29. Management authority:

Nature Conservation Council, Hlemmur 3, P.O. Box 5324, 125 Reykjavik, Iceland.

30. Bibliographical references:

Naturuminjaskra 7th edition, 1995.