

## Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

1. Country: Japan

2. Date:

3. Ref: 2JP007

4. Name and address of compiler:

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5. Name of wetlands: *Yatsu-higata*

6. Date of Ramsar designation: 10 June 1993

7. Geographical coordinates: 35° 40'N; 140° 0'E

8. General location: 2km south-west of the centre of Narashino City, Chiba Prefecture

9. Area: 40ha

10. Wetland type: G

11. Altitude: Sea level

12. Overview:

Surroundings are residential areas, school and factories and road which runs at the west corner of mudflat and divides it into two places. This is a very important visiting place for migratory birds. 10% of Plovers and Sandpipers which migrate to Japan are counted in this area.

13. Physical features:

This mudflat is located inside of Tokyo Bay and remain untouched while surrounding areas have been reclaimed by private corporations and the prefectural government since 1965. The circumference is about 3km and the area is 40.1 ha. Two channels connect the mudflat with Tokyo Bay which is 1km away from the mudflat and the tides form the mudflat. It consists of the mixture of the sands and the mudland. Narashino City is in the temperate zone and its average temperature is 15°C. The average precipitation is 1,249.8mm and the annual duration of sunshine is 1805.5h.

14. Ecological features:

At high tide, almost all areas of the tidal-flats are under the surface of water level. So that there are no vegetation on tidal-flats, except a few reed beds exist in the northern and southern part of it.

15. Land tenure/ownership of:

(a) site: National Government owned land 40ha

(b) surrounding area:

16. Conservation measures taken:

The entire wetland has been designated as a special protection zone of National Wildlife Protection Area.

17. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

None

18. Current land use:

(a) site: Wildlife protection area

(b) surroundings/catchment: Residential area, factories, roads, parks

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

(a) at the site: None;

(b) in the surroundings/catchment: None

20. Hydrological and physical values:

Water-level control in the downstream of Takase and Yatsu rivers. Purification functions of the wetland water.

21. Social and cultural values:

Providing of education occasions; providing of recreation spaces

22. Noteworthy fauna:

23. Noteworthy flora:

24. Current scientific research and facilities:

Natural observation centre of the park at Tatsu Tidal Flat (education): under construction.

25. Current conservation education:

Bird researching is carried out by bird specialist groups.

26. Current recreation and tourism:

Bird watching and nature conservation education are carried out.

27. Management authority:

Birds and Beasts Section, Nature Conservation Bureau, Environment Agency of Japan.

28. Jurisdiction:

Territorial conservation jurisdiction, Nature Conservation Division of Environment Department, Chiba Prefectural Government, Functional conservation jurisdiction, Birds and Beasts Section, Nature Conservation Bureau, Environment Agency of Japan.

29. Bibliographical references:

Report on environmental research of Yatsu Tidal Flat (Chiba Construction Office of National Roadways of the Ministry of Construction and Shinnihon-Kishoukaiyou Co., Ltd. 1976)

Secondary report on environmental research of Yatsu Tidal Flat (Chiba Construction Office of National Roadways of the Ministry of Construction and Shinnihon-Kishoukaiyou Co., Ltd. 1978)

Third report on environmental research of Yatsu Tidal Flat (Chiba Construction Office of National Roadways of the Ministry of Construction and Shinnihon-Kishoukaiyou Co., Ltd. 1980)

Report on environmental research of Yatsu Tidal Flat for construction of the Higasi-Kanto Expressway (Ichikawa Construction Office of the first construction division of Tokyo, Japan, Highway public corporation)

Changes in Numbers of Plovers at Yatsu Tidal Flat (Tsutomu Ishikawa/Kazuyuki Kuwabara 1983)

Foods of Lesser Sandplover *Charadrius mongolus* Pallas (*Charadriidae*) at Yatsu Tidal Flat in Chiba Prefecture (Kazuyuki Kuwabara 1991)

Fluctuations in the number of whimbrels *Numerius phaeopus* roosting at Tatsu Tidal Flat

30. Reasons for inclusion:            3(b)