



# Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 1 November 2022

Update version, previously published on : 15 December 2014

## Netherlands

### Veerse Meer



Designation date	29 August 2000
Site number	1251
Coordinates	51°32'52"N 03°43'07"E
Area	2 539,00 ha

## Color codes

Fields back-shaded in light blue relate to data and information required only for RIS updates.

Note that some fields concerning aspects of Part 3, the Ecological Character Description of the RIS (tinted in purple), are not expected to be completed as part of a standard RIS, but are included for completeness so as to provide the requested consistency between the RIS and the format of a 'full' Ecological Character Description, as adopted in Resolution X.15 (2008). If a Contracting Party does have information available that is relevant to these fields (for example from a national format Ecological Character Description) it may, if it wishes to, include information in these additional fields.

## 1 - Summary

### Summary

The Ramsar site Veerse Meer (2539 ha) is a former part of the Oosterschelde estuary. After the construction of the Veerse Dam in 1961, the ebb and flow disappeared from the area. Since then, the Veerse Meer has been a brackish water lake and more than 2000 ha of salt marsh area has become permanently emerged. A passage to the Oosterschelde was taken into use in mid-2004. As a result, the lake has become saltier again and the oxygen content in the deeper parts has increased. Marine species are slowly increasing again. The lake contains sandbanks and small islands. The Veerse Meer is surrounded by moist grasslands and agricultural areas. Swamp vegetation occurs in shallow places along the shores. Elsewhere lie moist grasslands and brushwoods. As a result of saline seepage, salt vegetation is also present in addition to moist grasslands. The site is especially important for the conservation of water birds.

## 2 - Data & location

### 2.1 - Formal data

#### 2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

##### Responsible compiler

Institution/agency	Wageningen Environmental Research
Postal address	PO Box 47 6700 AA Wageningen The Netherlands

##### National Ramsar Administrative Authority

Institution/agency	Ministry of Agriculture Nature and Food Quality
Postal address	Bezuidenhoutseweg 73 P.O. Box 20401 2500 EK The Hague The Netherlands

#### 2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year	2015
To year	2020

#### 2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	Veerse Meer
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#### 2.1.4 - Changes to the boundaries and area of the Site since its designation or earlier update

(Update) A. Changes to Site boundary	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>
(Update) B. Changes to Site area	No change to area
(Update) For secretariat only. This update is an extension	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### 2.1.5 - Changes to the ecological character of the Site

(Update) 6b i. Has the ecological character of the Ramsar Site (including applicable Criteria) changed since the previous RIS?	No
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## 2.2 - Site location

### 2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

#### b) Digital map/image

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps	0
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#### Boundaries description

The boundary of the Ramsar site is equal to the Natura 2000-site with the same name. Site boundary was aligned with the Natura 2000 site in 2014; farmland and the dyke separating the western end of the lake from the North Sea were excluded, reducing the total area by 38 hectares.

### 2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?	Zeeland
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b) What is the nearest town or population centre?	Several villages and cities among which Middelburg with a population of 48.964 in 2021 (Source: CBS, Netherlands Statistics).
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### 2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>
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b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party? Yes  No

### 2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha):

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries

### 2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
EU biogeographic regionalization	Atlantic

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

The bio-geographic regions dataset used, contains the official delineations used in the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and for the EMERALD Network set up under the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention)

### 3 - Why is the Site important?

#### 3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

<no data available>

Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification

The Veerse Meer is designated as a Natura 2000 site (SPA) and can therefore be considered important for maintaining the biodiversity of the Atlantic biogeographic region. Besides the species mentioned under criterion 2, the site has also been designated as a SPA for a number of bird species that are not on Annex I of the Birds Directive.

Criterion 4 : Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions

Optional text box to provide further information

The Ramsar site is also part of the Natura 2000 network in the European Union. It is designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for the functions that it provides to specific breeding and non-breeding bird species (e.g. migratory, hibernating, sleeping, resting, foraging).  
For detailed information please see Natura 2000 data sheet:  
<https://natura2000.eea.europa.eu/Natura2000/SDF.aspx?site=NL9802025>  
<https://www.natura2000.nl/gebieden/zeeland/veerse-meer>

Criterion 5 : >20,000 waterbirds

Overall waterbird numbers

22,373

Start year

2015

End year

2020

Source of data:

Sovon, Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology

Optional text box to provide further information

Start season 2015/2016. End season 2019/2020. Peak numbers for four out of five seasons > 20,000. Average 22,373 individuals.

Criterion 6 : >1% waterbird population

Optional text box to provide further information

The 1% waterbird population thresholds are based on the 7th Edition of the Conservation Status Report (CSR7).

#### 3.2 - Plant species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	Other status	Justification
<b>Plantae</b>								
TRACHEOPHYTA / LILIOPSIDA	<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National red list species	
TRACHEOPHYTA / LILIOPSIDA	<i>Epipactis palustris</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	National red list species	
TRACHEOPHYTA / MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Oenanthe lachenalii</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National red list species	
<b>Fungi</b>								
BASIDIOMYCOTA / AGARICOMYCETES	<i>Clavulinopsis luteo-ochracea</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National red list species	
BASIDIOMYCOTA / AGARICOMYCETES	<i>Tricholoma fulvum</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National red list species	

### 3.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion			Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7								
<b>Others</b>																
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	<i>Microtus oeconomus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National red list species; subspecies 'arenicola' endemic to the Netherlands.	
<b>Birds</b>																
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Anas acuta</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	71	2015/16-2019/20	0.1	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National red list species Reference population: North-west Europe. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	128	2015/16-2019/20	0.2	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National red list species Reference population: North-west & Central Europe (win). The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Anas penelope</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2928	2015/16-2019/20	0.2	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National red list species Reference population: Western Siberia & NE Europe/NW Europe. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2271	2015/16-2019/20	0	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reference population: platyrhynchos, North-west Europe. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Anas strepera</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	253	2015/16-2019/20	0.2		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reference population: strepera, North-west Europe. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	33	2015/16-2019/20	0	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reference population: albifrons, NW Siberia & NE Europe/North-west Europe. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Anser anser</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1763	2015/16-2019/20	0.2	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reference population: anser, NW Europe/South-west Europe. foraging, resting, breeding

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence <sup>1)</sup>	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	437	2015/16-2019/20	0	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: North-west Europe (win). The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1097	2015/16-2019/20	0.5	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: bernicla, Western Siberia/Western Europe. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	737	2015/16-2019/20	0.1	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: Russia/Germany & Netherlands. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	312	2015/16-2019/20	0	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National red list species	Reference population: clangula, North-west & Central Europe (win). The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	670	2015/16-2019/20	0.1	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: alpina, NE Europe & NW Siberia/W Europe & NW Africa. foraging, resting
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	90	2017/18-2019/20	0.2	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National red list species	Reference population: hiaticula, Northern Europe/Europe & North Africa. foraging, resting
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	2015/16-2019/20	0		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: bewickii, Western Siberia & NE Europe/North-west Europe. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	34	2015/16-2019/20	0	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National red list species	Reference population: garzetta, Western Europe, NW Africa. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Fulica atra</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4662	2015/16-2019/20	0.3	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: atra, North-west Europe (win). The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	706	2015/16-2019/20	0.1	NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: ostralegus, Europe/South & West Europe & NW Africa. foraging, resting
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	528	2015/16-2019/20	0.1	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: intermedius, S Scandinavia, Netherlands, Ebro Delta, Spain. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	988	2015/16-2019/20	1.1	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: North-west & Central Europe (win). The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	657	2015/16-2019/20	0.1	NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: arquata, Europe/Europe, North & West Africa. foraging, resting

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	584	2015/16-2019/20	0.1	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: sinensis, Northern & Central Europe. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	54	2015/16-2019/20	0.3	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: leucorodia, West Europe/West Mediterranean & West Africa. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1630	2015/16-2019/20	0.2	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National red list species	Reference population: altifrons, Northern Europe/Western Europe & NW Africa. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	791	2015/16-2019/20	0.1	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: cristatus, North-west & Western Europe. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	352	2015/16-2019/20	0.2	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: nigricollis, Europe/South & West Europe & North Africa. foraging, resting
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	109	2015/16-2019/20	0.1	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: Western Europe & North-west Africa (bre). The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	189	2015/16-2019/20	0	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: ruficollis, Europe & North-west Africa. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	195	2015/16-2019/20	0.1	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: North-west Europe. foraging, resting
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	120	2015/16-2019/20	0.1	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National red list species	Reference population: robusta, Iceland & Faroes/Western Europe. foraging, resting
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5793	2015/16-2019/20	0.1	NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: Europe, W Asia/Europe, N Africa & SW Asia. foraging, resting

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

Bird data are provided by SOVON, Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology.

The 1% waterbird population thresholds are based on the 7th Edition of the Conservation Status Report (CSR7).

### 3.4 - Ecological communities whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

<no data available>

## 4 - What is the Site like? (Ecological character description)

### 4.1 - Ecological character

The lake contains small islands (former sandbanks) and is surrounded with wet grasslands, scrub and agricultural areas. Swampy vegetation grows in shallow waters along the shores. Salty vegetations exist in places due to infiltration of salt water. The site is especially important for the conservation of water birds.

Plant communities of European interest are:

- Charetum hispidae
- Cladietum marisci;

### 4.2 - What wetland type(s) are in the site?

Marine or coastal wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
J: Coastal brackish / saline lagoons		1		

### 4.3 - Biological components

#### 4.3.1 - Plant species

<no data available>

#### 4.3.2 - Animal species

<no data available>

### 4.4 - Physical components

#### 4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
C: Moist Mid-Latitude climate with mild winters	Cfb: Marine west coast (Mild with no dry season, warm summer)

The climate according to Köppen is rainy (Cbf).

#### 4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres)

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres)

- Entire river basin
- Upper part of river basin
- Middle part of river basin
- Lower part of river basin
- More than one river basin
- Not in river basin
- Coastal

Please name the river basin or basins. If the site lies in a sub-basin, please also name the larger river basin. For a coastal/marine site, please name the sea or ocean.

The Veerse meer is connected with the Oosterschelde and can be considered to be part of the catchment area of the Schelde and Meuse

#### 4.4.3 - Soil

Mineral

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change  Increase  Decrease  Unknown

Organic

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change  Increase  Decrease  Unknown

No available information

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)? Yes  No

Please provide further information on the soil (optional)

The general soil types are: Alluvial, Brown forest soils and montane soils.

#### 4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water present	

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update
Marine water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change
Water inputs from precipitation	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Water destination

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
To downstream catchment	No change

Stability of water regime

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Water levels fluctuating (including tidal)	No change

Please add any comments on the water regime and its determinants (if relevant). Use this box to explain sites with complex hydrology:

Lake Veerse Meer became a stagnant brackish lake (mean depth 5 meters; maximal depth 25 m) after the closure in 1961 from the Oosterschelde (building of the Zandkreekdijk at the eastern side and the Veerse Dam at the western side). The water levels were unnatural: high in summer (between NAP 0 m and NAP -0.10m) and low in winter (NAP - 0,70 m until 2008). Starting in 2011 the difference in water level between summer and winter is reduced to less than 0.30 m (summer level NAP -0.05 m, winter level NAP - 0.30 m)

Superfluous water from the surrounding polders is pumped into this lake and subsequently discharged on the Oosterschelde (a sea arm connected to the North Sea).

#### 4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Sediment regime unknown

Please provide further information on sediment (optional):

Probably no significant erosion, accretion, deposition or transportation of sediments occurs on the site, although specific data are not available.

#### 4.4.6 - Water pH

Unknown

Please provide further information on pH (optional):

Probably no change although the pH of the water was not exactly known at the time of completing this database.

#### 4.4.7 - Water salinity

Mixohaline (brackish)/Mixosaline (0.5-30 g/l)

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change  Increase  Decrease  Unknown

Unknown

#### 4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Eutrophic

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change  Increase  Decrease  Unknown

Unknown

Please provide further information on dissolved or suspended nutrients (optional):

The water quality was influenced by nutrient rich water let in from the surrounding polders and pollution from (recreation) boats. This has led to problems with strong growth of macroalgae (Ulva lactuca), plankton blooms and anaerobic water quality in summer in the deeper parts of the lake. Mid 2004 a connection with the Oosterschelde was installed again. The lake became saltier and the oxygen supply in the deeper parts increased. The number of marine species increases again. The first results seem to be positive. Monitoring of effects is ongoing.

#### 4.4.9 - Features of the surrounding area which may affect the Site

Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the site itself: i) broadly similar  ii) significantly different

- Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development
- Surrounding area has higher human population density
- Surrounding area has more intensive agricultural use
- Surrounding area has significantly different land cover or habitat types

### 4.5 - Ecosystem services

#### 4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

##### Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Food for humans	Sustenance for humans (e.g., fish, molluscs, grains)	Medium
Wetland non-food products	Livestock fodder	Medium
Wetland non-food products	Other	Medium

##### Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Maintenance of hydrological regimes	Groundwater recharge and discharge	Medium

##### Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Picnics, outings, touring	Medium
Recreation and tourism	Water sports and activities	Medium
Recreation and tourism	Recreational hunting and fishing	Medium
Scientific and educational	Major scientific study site	Medium
Scientific and educational	Long-term monitoring site	High

##### Supporting Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Biodiversity	Supports a variety of all life forms including plants, animals and microorganisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part	High

Optional text box to provide further information

The ecosystem services mainly refer to:  
 - the wetlands potential for recreation both on the water and on land;  
 - the ability for agriculture to drain off water.

Other ecosystem service(s) not included above:

Boating 74%, Tourism and leisure 10%, Farming 8%, Commercial fisheries 74%, Conservation and research 13%, Water management 100%.

Ongoing biodiversity monitoring is one of the obligatory activities in relation to the designated Natura2000 habitat types and/or species.

Most of the topics studied at in the Wadden Sea (ecology of seals, birds (numbers, distribution, foraging, breeding), fish, invertebrates, sediment) are also studied and monitored in the Delta by Rijkswaterstaat ( www.rws.nl) and Center for Marine and Estuarine Ecology (NIOO/CEMO, www.nioo.nl) and IMARES (part of the Wageningen University and Research Centre; www.imares.wur.nl) in Yerseke.

Rijkswaterstaat monitors the presence of water birds on a regular scale. SOVON, the Dutch Bird Research Organisation, coordinates a continuous national bird monitoring program in which it cooperates with 7000 volunteers, research institutes and organisations in the monitoring of birds throughout the Netherlands

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site? Yes  No  Unknown

#### 4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

i) the site provides a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland

ii) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland

iii) the ecological character of the wetland depends on its interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples

iv) relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland

<no data available>

#### 4.6 - Ecological processes

<no data available>

## 5 - How is the Site managed? (Conservation and management)

### 5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

#### 5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

##### Public ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
National/Federal government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

##### Private ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Provide further information on the land tenure / ownership regime (optional):

##### within the Ramsar site:

The site is managed by Staatsbosbeheer, Natuurmonumenten, Rijkswaterstaat en private owners.

##### in the surrounding area:

The water (North Sea and Oosterschelde) is state owned, on land several private owners.

#### 5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site:

##### Main management authorities:

1. Rijkswaterstaat (Ministerie van Infrastructuur en Milieu)
2. Staatsbosbeheer, see: <https://www.staatsbosbeheer.nl/Natuurgebieden/veerse-meer>
3. Natuurmonumenten, see: <https://www.natuurmonumenten.nl/natuurgebieden/middelplaten>

Provide the name and/or title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland:

See <https://www.staatsbosbeheer.nl/Natuurgebieden/veerse-meer> and <https://www.natuurmonumenten.nl/natuurgebieden/middelplaten>

Postal address:

1. Rijkswaterstaat Dienst Zeeland, P.O. Box 5014, 4330 KA Middelburg, the Netherlands, +31 (0)118 672200.
2. Staatsbosbeheer head office, P.O. Box 2, 3800 AA Amersfoort, the Netherlands, tel. +31 (0)30-6926111
3. Natuurmonumenten head office, P.O. Box 2166, 3800 CD Amersfoort, the Netherlands, tel. +31 (0)33 47 97 000

E-mail address:

[info@staatsbosbeheer.nl](mailto:info@staatsbosbeheer.nl)

## 5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

### 5.2.1 - Factors (actual or likely) adversely affecting the Site's ecological character

#### Human settlements (non agricultural)

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Tourism and recreation areas	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change

#### Transportation and service corridors

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Shipping lanes	Low impact	Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change

#### Biological resource use

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	Low impact	Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change

#### Human intrusions and disturbance

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Recreational and tourism activities	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change

#### Natural system modifications

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Dams and water management/use	High impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change

#### Pollution

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Agricultural and forestry effluents	High impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change

### 5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

#### Regional (international) legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
EU Natura 2000	Veerse Meer	<a href="https://www.natura2000.nl/gebieden/zeeland/veerse-meer">https://www.natura2000.nl/gebieden/zeeland/veerse-meer</a>	whole

#### National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
National Ecological Network (NEN)	Veerse Meer	<a href="https://www.government.nl/topics/nature-and-biodiversity/national-ecological-network-nen">https://www.government.nl/topics/nature-and-biodiversity/national-ecological-network-nen</a>	whole

#### Non-statutory designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Important Bird Area	Veerse Meer	<a href="http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/1209">http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/1209</a>	whole
Other non-statutory designation	KBA Veerse Meer	<a href="http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/site/factsheet/1209">http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/site/factsheet/1209</a>	whole

### 5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

- Ia Strict Nature Reserve
- Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection
- II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation
- III Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features
- IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention
- V Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation
- VI Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems

### 5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

#### Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

#### Habitat

Measures	Status
Improvement of water quality	Implemented
Habitat manipulation/enhancement	Implemented

#### Species

Measures	Status
Threatened/rare species management programmes	Implemented

#### Human Activities

Measures	Status
Regulation/management of recreational activities	Implemented
Communication, education, and participation and awareness activities	Implemented
Research	Implemented
Fisheries management/regulation	Implemented

### 5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? Yes

Has a management effectiveness assessment been undertaken for the site? Yes  No

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning processes with another Contracting Party? Yes  No

Please indicate if a Ramsar centre, other educational or visitor facility, or an educational or visitor programme is associated with the site:

Excursions, information booklet.

URL of site-related webpage (if relevant):

### 5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? Yes, there is a plan

### 5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Birds	Implemented
Water quality	Implemented

Ongoing biodiversity monitoring is one of the obligatory activities in relation to the designated Natura2000 habitat types and/or species.

Most of the topics studied at in the Wadden Sea (ecology of seals, birds (numbers, distribution, foraging, breeding), fish, invertebrates, sediment) are also studied and monitored in the Delta by Rijkswaterstaat ( www.rws.nl) and Center for Marine and Estuarine Ecology (NIOO/CEMO, www.nioo.nl) and IMARES (part of the Wageningen University and Research Centre; www.imares.wur.nl) in Yerseke.

Rijkswaterstaat monitors the presence of water birds on a regular scale. SOVON, the Dutch Bird Research Organisation, coordinates a continuous national bird monitoring program in which it cooperates with 7000 volunteers, research institutes and organisations in the monitoring of birds throughout the Netherlands (among others the Veerse Meer).

## 6 - Additional material

### 6.1 - Additional reports and documents

#### 6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

The site equals the Natura 2000-boundaries. For up-to-date information and references about the site see <https://www.natura2000.nl/index.php/gebieden/zeeland/veerse-meer>.

#### 6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)

<no file available>

ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)

<no file available>

iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory

<no file available>

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports

<no file available>

v. site management plan

<1 file(s) uploaded>

vi. other published literature

<no file available>

#### 6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



- ( Mark van Veen, - )

#### 6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<2 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation 2000-08-29