

Ramsar Information Sheet

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Netherlands Zoommeer



Designation date Site number

29 August 2000 1253 Coordinates 51°29'51"N 04°13'04"E Area 1 171,00 ha

https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris/1253 Created by RSIS V.1.6 on - 18 May 2020

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 Zoommeer is a dammed sea arm of the Oosterschelde estuary. The area has changed from a marine tidal system into a more or less stagnant fresh water lake with water level fluctuations between -0,10 in summer and 0,15 NAP in winter. Some 640 ha of salt marshes and 1134 ha of mud flats became permanently emerged. A more natural variation of the water level, like based on rain and evaporation, was introduced in 1996. Due to variations in salinity a substantial variety in vegetation exists. 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

Compiler 1

Name	Ms. A. Pel-Roest
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2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year	2013
To year	2013

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)

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 O No O	
^(Update) The boundary has been delineated more accurately 🗹	
^(Update) The boundary has been extended	
^(Update) The boundary has been restricted	
(Update) B. Changes to Site area the area has decreased	
^(Update) The Site area has been calculated more accurately 🗹	
(Update) The Site has been delineated more accurately 🗹	
^(Update) The Site area has increased because of a boundary extension	
(Update) The Site area has decreased because of a boundary restriction	
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? Yes (likely)	
(Update) Are the changes Positive O Negative O Positive & Negative O	
(Update) Positive % 100	
(Update) Negative % 100	
(^{Update)} No information available	
(^{Update)} Changes resulting from causes operating within the existing boundaries?	
^(Update) Changes resulting from causes operating beyond the site's boundaries?	
^(Update) Changes consequent upon site boundary reduction alone (e.g., the exclusion of some wetland types formerly included within the site)?	
(Update) Changes consequent upon site boundary increase alone (e.g., the inclusion of different wetland types in the site)?	

(Update) Please describe any changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar Site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site.

The site is still in the process to change from a tidal marine into a stagnant fresh water lake, since its existence in 1986. This comes along with changes in flora and fauna as well. The changes apply for the whole site. For some species its negative, while its positive for others. See description in the text box under section 3.3 Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site.

Compared to the period of 1992-98 (previous updated version) Anas clypeata and Recurvirostra avosetta do not meet the 1%-standard anymore. Reason for this is that the Zoommeer is still a very young wetland, which came into existence after it was dammed from the marine Oosterschelde in 1986. From that time the area changed from a marine tidal system into a more or less stagnant freshwater lake, the Zoommeer. The change from a marine to a fresh water system comes along with changes in bird numbers, like Anas clypeata and Recurvirostra avosetta. The site is still important for these species however. Among others they were the reason to designate the wetland as a Natura 2000-site as well, which means that measures will be taken to support the species. Currently their numbers do not meet the 1% anymore, but it may be again in the future.

^(Update) Is the change in ecological character negative, human-induced AND a significant change (above the limit of acceptable change)

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image

Boundaries description (optional)

The Ramsar site Zoommeer has also been designated as the European Natura 2000-site Zoommeer. For this RIS-version, the new Ramsar site boundary has therefore been adjusted to the (to be proposed) Natura 2000- boundary. The area Molenplaat, although it is not included in Natura 2000, has been maintained within the Ramsar Site. Some recreational terrain and a dike has been excluded or exclavated from the Ramsar site.

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?	Provinces of Noord-Brabant and Zeeland
b) What is the nearest town or population centre?	west of Bergen op Zoom (population 66.287 per 1-1-2013; source CBS, Netherlands Statistics)

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries? Yes O No (

b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party?

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha): 1171

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries 1170.69

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 Justification The Zoommeer is designated as a Natura 2000 site 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 BD.

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

- ☑ Criterion 6 : >1% waterbird population
- 3.2 Plant species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

<no data available>

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

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion 2 4 6	9 3	Species ontributes under criterion 5 7 8	Pop. Size Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red / List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
Birds			· · · · · · · · ·									
CHORDATA / AVES	Anas acuta 📲 🔐 💫	Northern Pintail										non-breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	Anas clypeata 📲 🛄 🔌	Northern Shoveler		J								non-breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	Anas crecca	Eurasian Teal; Green-winged Teal		J				LC Strain				non-breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	Anas penelope 🌄 🛀 💫	Eurasian Wigeon		J								non-breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	Anas strepera	Gadwall				663 2006-2010	1.1					non-breeding Biogeographic population: NW-Europe
CHORDATA / AVES	Anser anser 🚅 🚉 💫	Greylag Goose		J								non-breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	Aythya fuligula 🚅 🖳 ⋗	Tufted Duck		J								non-breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	Branta bernicla 🚅 🚉 📀	Brant; Brant Goose; Brent Goose		J								non-breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	Charadrius alexandrinus 🌠 🔍 💫	Kentish Plover; Snowy Plover	200								Annex I of the EU Birds Directive ; National Red List - EN	Breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	Fulica atra 📲 🔍 👂	Eurasian Coot		J								non-breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	Ichthyaetus melanocephalus	Mediterranean Gull	220								Annex I of the EU Birds Directive (National Red List - LC)	Breeding Criterion 4: gather in relatively small areas
CHORDATA / AVES	Podiceps cristatus	Great Crested Grebe										non-breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	Recurvirostra avosetta	Pied Avocet	220					LC			Annex I of the EU Birds Directive (Non-breeding: National Red List - LC)	Breeding and non-breeding Criterion 4: gather in relatively small areas
CHORDATA / AVES	Sterna hirundo ڇ 🖳 🔎	Common Tern	220								Annex I of the EU Birds Directive ; National Red List - VU	Breeding Criterion 4: gather in relatively small areas
CHORDATA / AVES	Tadorna tadorna ڇ 🚉 💫	Common Shelduck						LC Star				non-breeding

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

National Red List (2004)

Criterion 4: The site is of particular importance for many breeding and non-breeding bird species (see criterion 2, 3 and 6), of which several species gather in relatively small areas like breeding colonies of Avocet Recurvirostra avosetta, Mediterranean Gull Larus melanocephalus and Common Tern Sterna hirundo.

Criterion 6: Compared to the period of 1992-98 (previous updated version) the following species do not meet the 1%-standard anymore: Anas clypeata and Recurvirostra avosetta.

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 area consists of permanent freshwater (approx. 82%) and vegetated land area (approx. 18%). The vegetation succession is an ongoing process. The development of breeding and migratory bird communities like geese reflects the vegetation succession. This results in temporary pioneer breeders like terns, Avocet and plovers and grass and seed eating birds like Smew and Pintail. The succession in the water phase strongly depends on increasing nutrient rates.

The feasibility for conservation of the present flora- and fauna communities depends on the decision to restore the salt and fresh water gradient in the Volkerak-Zoommeer. Besides that, the area has a function as resting place for tidal birds which forage in the Oosterschelde at low tide.

The ecosystem services mainly refer to:

- the wetlands potential for recreation both on the water and on land;

- the ability for agriculture to take fresh water in (for irrigation or livestock drinking water) or drain it off;

- flood control;

- easier navigation through a non-tidal system.

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

Inland wetlands				
Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> O: Permanent freshwater lakes		1		

Human-made wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
4: Seasonally flooded agricultural land		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 (MId with no dry season, warm summer)

Schelde catchment : The climate according to Köppen is rainy (Cbf). Meuse catchment: The climate according to Köppen is rainy (Cbf). Rhine catchment: The climates according to Köppen are rainy (Cbf) and montane (EH).

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

) -20	a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres)
) -1	a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres)
Entire river basin	
Upper part of river basin \Box	
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 Zoommeer is connected with the Volkerakmeer through the Rhine/Schelde canal and can be considered to be part of the catchment area of the Schelde, Rhine and Meuse.

- The surface area of the Schelde catchment is 21.900 km². Geologically and geomorphologically it consists mainly of Quarternary and Tertiary sediments.

- The surface area of the Meuse catchment is 33.000 km². Geologically and geomorphologically it consists mainly of Quarternary and Mesozoic sediments and Paleozoic

(eroded) mountains.

- The surface area of the Rhine catchment is 185.000 km². Geologically and geomorphologically it consists mainly of Quarternary, Paleozoic and Mesozoic sediments and Tertiary mountains.

4.4.3 - Soil

Mineral 🗹

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

No available information \Box

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)?

Please provide further information on the soil (optional)

Schelde catchment: The general soil types are Alluvial and Podzol soils. Meuse catchment: The general soil types are: Alluvial, Brown forest soils and montane soils. Rhine catchment: 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
Water inputs from surface water		No change
Water inputs from rainfall		No change

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

The Zoommeer has an average depth of 6 m and a maximum depth of 20 m. Lake Zoommeer forms a hydrological unit with Ramsar site Lake Volkerakmeer through connection by the Rhine/Schelde canal. Due the building of the Oesterdam in 1986 and the Philipsdam in 1987 the Zoommeer no longer had tidal variations. The stagnant water level caused erosion of the sand banks. Large scale protection measures have been carried out to stop the erosion. Since 1996 the water level variations are more natural. The level fluctuates with rain, river discharges and evaporation (summer NAP - 0,10 m, winter NAP + 0,15 m), but is also coming from some small rivers. The influx of water however causes pollution and eutrofication which again threatens the site. Surplus water is sluiced into the Westerschelde via the Schelde-Rhine canal.

4.4.5 - Sediment regime Sediment regime unknown ☑ 4.4.6 - Water pH Unknown ☑ 4.4.7 - Water salinity Fresh (<0.5 g/) ☑ (Update) Changes at RIS update No change ⑨ Increase O Decrease O Unknown O Unknown □

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

Unknown 🛛

site itself:

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 i) broadly similar O ii) significantly different O

Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development \Box

Surrounding area has higher human population density

Surrounding area has more intensive agricultural use

Surrounding area has significantly different land cover or habitat types \Box

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)	High
Fresh water	Water for irrigated agriculture	Medium
Fresh water	Drinking water for humans and/or livestock	Medium

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Hazard reduction	Flood control, flood storage	High

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Water sports and activities	High
Recreation and tourism Picnics, outings, touring L		Low
Scientific and educational	Important knowledge systems, importance for research (scientific reference area or site)	Low

Other ecosystem service(s) not included above:

Within the Ramsar site:

Dairy farming 5%, Boating 70%, Tourism and leisure 10%, Commercial fisheries 70%, Shipping traffic 20%, Conservation and research 24%, Water management 100%.

A bird hide is also located at the Site.

Hydrological value:

Part of the water from the river Rhine and Maas flows into the former sea arms of the hydrological unit Volkerak and Zoommeer. The fresh water is drained of via the Schelde-Rhine canal to the Westerschelde. Discussions are ongoing if and to what extent the former tidal system of all dammed arms of the sea in this part of the Netherlands should be restored. This would have a positive impact on the water quality of both the Ramsar site Zoommeer as well as the Ramsar site Volkerakmeer.

The Volkerakmeer and Zoommeer are intended to have an important (future) function in in flood control.

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site?

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 Duse 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>

RIS for Site no. 1253, Zoommeer, Netherlands

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	×	×.

Private ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Other types of private/individual owner(s)		V

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

Within the Ramsar site:

The site is partly owned by Staatsbosbeheer (187 ha); the remainder is state ownership (Dienst der Domeinen, Ministerie van Financiën).

In the surrounding area:

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

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any	(1) Rijkswaterstaat (Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment)
agency or organization responsible for	(2) Staatsbosbeheer
managing the site:	
	(1) Directie Zeeland, PO Box 5014, 4330 KA Middelburg, the Netherlands, +31 118 672200

Postal address:

(2) P.O. Box 1300, 3970 BH Driebergen, the Netherlands, tel. +31 (0)30-6926111.

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

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

-luman settlements (non agricultural)						
Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Tourism and recreation areas	Low impact			No change	X	No change

Agriculture and aquacultur	e					
Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Livestock farming and ranching	Medium impact		×	No change		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		No change	×	No change

Pollution

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Unspecified	High impact		×	No change		No change

Please describe any other threats (optional):

(A = serious threat covering large part of the area; B = moderate threat or local threat; C = minor threat)

Within the Ramsar site:

Agricultural intensification/ expansion (B - intensive grazing);

Pollution (not Industrial discharge) (A - eutrophication).

In the surrounding area:

- Construction (C - Increase of recreational capacity of harbours in the region and potential increase of boating).

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	Special Protection Area (Birds Directive 79/409/EEC, 2000)		whole

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

la	Strict	Naturo	Posono	
ld	Suici	nature	Reserve	

Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection

Il 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

VProtected 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

Status

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection Measures

Legal protection	Implemented

Habitat

Measures	Status
Hydrology management/restoration	Proposed

Other

The Ramsar site matches 100% with the (proposed) designation for Natura 2000. The process for the Natura 2000-management plan has been started.

Current management practices: Nothing particular

Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

The renewed exchange with marine water from the Oosterschelde and outflow of water to the Westerschelde, has been presented as one of the opportunities to combat the yearly algal bloom. This will however turn the site from a fresh water into a salt water area again.

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? In preparation

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

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

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? Please select a value

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Ongoing biodiversity monitoring is one of the obligatory activities in relation to the designation as a Natura 2000-site. Rijkswaterstaat (www.rws.nl), Deltares (www.Deltares.nl), the 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 are the main research institutes in the Delta, among which the Zoommeer

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

- BirdLife International, 2004. Birds in Europe, population estimates, trends and conservation status. Cambridge, UK: BirdLife International. (BirdLife Conservation Series No. 12).

- Hornman, M., Hustings, F., Koffijberg, K., Kleefstra, R., Klaassen, O., van Winden, E., SOVON Ganzen- en Zwanenwerkgroep & L. Soldaat, 2012. Watervogels in Nederland 2009/2010. SOVON-rapport 2012/02, Waterdienst-rapport 12.06. SOVON Vogelonderzoek Nederland, Nijmegen.

- Janssen, John, A.M. & Joop, H.J. Schaminée, 2009. Europese Natuur in Nederland. Zee en kust Natura 2000-gebieden. KNNV-Uitgeverij. 296p.

- Ministerie van LNV, 2007. Concept gebiedendocument Natura 2000-gebied Zoommeer.

- Van Roomen M.W.J, Boele A., van der Weide M.J.T., van Winden E.A.J, Zoetebier D. 2000. Belangrijke vogelgebieden in Nederland, 1993-97. Actueel overzicht van Europese vogelwaarden in aangewezen en aan te wijzen speciale beschermingszones en andere belangrijke gebieden. SOVON-informatierapport 2000/01. SOVON Vogelonderzoek Nederland, Beek-Ubbergen.

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

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports

<no file available>
v. site management plan

vi. other published literature

<1 file(s) uploaded>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



Ramsar logo (*Ramsar logo*, 02-02-1971)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter <1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation 2000-08-29