

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties

Note: It is important that you read the accompanying Explanatory Note and Guidelines document before completing this form.

1. **Date this sheet was completed/updated:**

July 18th, 2002

2. **Country:**

NORWAY

3. **Name of wetland:**

SKOGVOLL

4. **Geographical coordinates:**

68° 58'N - 15° 55'E

5. **Elevation:** (average and/or maximum and minimum)

0-20 m.a.s.l. on the average

1. **Area:** (in hectares)

5500 (ca 55km²)

7. **Overview:** (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)

The mire area is one of the most extensive lowland Atlantic mire complex's in Norway, dotted with numerous ponds and lakes. The other half of the area consists of shallow marine waters, with islets and skerries, tidal zones and a rare lagoon system with brackish- and freshwater. Wet salt influenced meadows fringe the shorelines. The mire-area is a Biogenetic reserve, cf. Council of Europe.

8. **Wetland Type:** (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Annex I of the Explanatory Note and Guidelines document)

marine-coastal:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	Zk(a)
inland:	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	Sp	Ss		Tp	Ts
	U	Va	Vt	W	Xf	Xp	Y	Zg	Zk(b)			
human-made:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Zk(c)		

Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant:

Mire-system: U, O

Marine-system: G, A, E, D

9. Ramsar Criteria: (please circle the applicable criteria; see point 12 below)

1 2 3 **4** 5 **6** 7 8

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to this site: 1

10. Map of site included? YES

(Please refer to the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document for information regarding desirable map traits.)

11. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

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Please provide additional information on each of the following categories by attaching extra pages (please limit extra pages to no more than 10):

12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page. (Please refer to Annex II in the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document).

1. A characteristic unspoilt large Atlantic mire and lake system characteristic for the northern coastal plains. Most of this kind of habitat elsewhere have today been cultivated or damaged by draining.
4. The marine part is important for staging migratory birds. This applies in particular to Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*.
6. The occurrence of most of the Svalbard population of Pink-footed Geese fulfils criterion 6 (up to 15% of the Svalbard/NW Europe population).

13. General location: (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

Nordland county, Andøy municipality, nearest town being Harstad (ca. 30.000 inhab) to the southeast (16km).

14. Physical features: (e.g. geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area; climate)

The entire area is characterised by outcrops of hard bedrock, in the lower elevated areas covered with deposits. Mire area: Moraine and seabed-deposits, overgrown with precipitation-mires and dotted with numerous ponds and lakes. Typical humid coastal climate with annual precipitation ca. 1500mm, with wet and cool summers and mild winters.

Tidal marine zones (ca. 4,5 km wide) with mud- and sandflats, sheltered bays, islets and skerries with shallow marine waters, including a kind of lagoon system with brackish and freshwater.

15. Hydrological values: (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.)

Most of the water in the area originates from precipitation and is characterized by acidic peat colouring the water brownish. The water in the area is no longer used for human consumption. The sheltered form of the shorelines reduce the impact of waves coming from the open ocean and together with rocks no particular erosion problems have been noted. The deposit of piles of seaweed on the contrary helps stabilize the shoreline.

16. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)

Situated in the boreal zone, and characterized by:

- Extensive *Sphagnum* spp mires, usually poor in nutrients, with a number of smaller ponds and lakes
- Marine tidal zones with mud- and sandflats, and shallow marine waters, including communities with *Zostera*, *Najas*, *Potamogeton* and *Salicornia*.
- A unique lagoon system have established in the tidal zones, where brackish or freshwater conditions occur with aquatic vegetation (e.g *Potamogeton*, *Equisetum*).
- Wet salt-influenced meadows, eg typically with *Puccinellia* and *Carex*.
- Since the mire mostly receives water from precipitation the flora is characterised as poor, however, the unspoilt habitat itself is characterised as botanically interesting. In some smaller parts minerogenic waters from the bedrock contributes to a richer flora. Some species have here their northern limit in Norway.
- The mire landscape can be divided into different types: Stringmire, flatmire, blanket mire and in some places minerogenic water reaches the surface (spring sources).
- The western marine part is characterised by battered islets and skerries, and more sheltered bays and tidal zones.

17. **Noteworthy flora:** (indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc.)

The system of brackish lagoons with freshwater flora (*Hippuris*, *Potamogeton*) in the tidal zones are most noteworthy and described by botanists as very rare.

18. **Noteworthy fauna:** (indicating, e.g., which species are unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important; include count data, etc.)

Common bird species: At periods the entire population from Svalbard of *Anser brachyrhynchus* uses the area as a staging area (largest flocks noted >5000). Notable among the common breeding bird species is a population of *Podiceps auritus* (3-4 pairs) and the nationally rare *Limosa limosa* breeds regularly (1-2 pairs).

19. **Social and cultural values:** (e.g., fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site, etc.)

Not known.

20. **Land tenure/ownership of:** (a) site Private (b) surrounding area Private

21. **Current land use:** (a) site Locally used for traditional collecting of seabird eggs. (b) surroundings/catchment Adajacent lying mires are intensively extracted for horticultural use (peat extraction). The main road crosses through the area and a few dwellings occur along the road, however, with little impact on the site.

22. **Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects:** (a) at the site: Low impact at the moment, but used more extensively in the past for hay-cutting. (b) around the site: Generally low today.

23. **Conservation measures taken:** (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which have been made: management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented):

- Established as a Biogenetic reserve (Telma mire) under the Council of Europe.
 - Protected as a Nature reserve December 16th 1983.
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24. **Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:** (e.g, management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area, etc.)

No management plan exist.

25. **Current scientific research and facilities:** (e.g., details of current projects; existence of field station, etc.)

The marine site is included in the national monitoring programme for seabirds and seals, eg the breeding numbers of seabirds and *Phoca vitulina*.

26. **Current conservation education:** (e.g., visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits, etc.)

A leaflet and some posters have been produced.

27. **Current recreation and tourism:** (state if wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type and frequency/intensity)

The area is to a low degree used by tourists and residents, mainly for fishing and berry picking.

28. **Jurisdiction:** (territorial, e.g., state/region and functional, e.g., Dept. of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment etc.)

The Ministry of the Environment.

29. **Management authority:** (name and address of local body directly responsible for managing the wetland)

The site is managed by the County Governor of Nordland, which is a subsidiary body of the Ministry of the Environment. Adresses: County Governor of Nordland, Moloveien 10, N-8002 Bodø.

30. **Bibliographical references:** (scientific/technical only)

Flora:

- Elven, R., Alm, T., Edvardsen, H., Fjelland, M., Fredriksen, K.E. & Johansen, V. 1988. Botaniske verneverdier på havstrender i Nordland. C: Beskrivelser for regionene Ofoten og Lofoten/Vesterålen. Økoforsk Rapport 1988:2C, pages 289-292. (in Norwegian - botanical survey of beaches in Northern parts of Norway).

Birds:

- Lorentsen, S-H. 2000. The national monitoring programme for seabirds. Results including the breeding season 2000. NINA Oppdragsmelding 670:1-30. (last annual report, mostly in Norwegian).